



### ALASKA: U. S. WAR FRONTIER

ALASKA, rising high on the globe, is a place of great potential military importance. Whether it is best fitted for offense or defense is a secret clearly kept by U. S. military leaders. But probably no man can completely forecast the vast possibilities of Alaska as a defense bastion of the future. One glance at the distance lines radiating from Fairbanks, however, will give one a fair idea of Alaska's place in the world of the future. As the range of bombers increases and the accuracy of an attacking power increases and more of the world is drawn into the Alaska orbit, military experts have stated that the area is in eight times three-fifths of the world's land area and most of its metropolitan centers will be within bomber range of this great potential military outpost. Alaska has served America well—may serve day after day.

The Territory is at the top of the world where distances seem strangely drawn to its map. This map shows most of the northern hemisphere, looking down upon the world from a point directly above the North pole. Within this projection will appear strange to most people a high, comparatively good picture of the northern world and will relatively little distance on the map. Compare the size of Greenland and the United States with the same distance on the world map in this state. Alaska's true position in relation to the land area of the world is best seen on this, a polar projection.

The Aleutian route to Japan. From the westernmost island, it has 2,200 miles from Tokyo. By seizing the islands Japan could point the dagger at the heart of America. Congress has belatedly appropriated millions to arm Alaska, but how this money is being spent, where the men, the guns and the planes are being dispersed and the bases are being located is a secret which the Jews would like to know. The record-breaking time is



### ALASKA: STRATEGIC OUTPOST

which army engineers rushed to complete the new Alaska highway—a military road of considerable importance—crosses the value placed upon Alaska by military authorities. It is possible that you may one day drive your car over this road to the shores of Bering sea and cross the border into the vast Russian wilderness of Russia. Only 10 miles of water separates Alaska and Siberia at this point and only 15 miles separate the Russian and the Japanese islands of the United States' (Lyle Stoen's claim). Aside from the military importance of strategic Alaska it is hard to conceive what great industrial empire the Soviets and the United States may some day carve out of their neighboring northlands.

**NORTH AFRICA.**—The North Africa expedition will be written in history as one of the greatest single military overseas expeditions of all times. Carefully timed and planned to meet the whole course of the war. Fighting was engaging; it was blood-drenched. Hitler will not be defeated by the Allied conquest of North Africa, but the act will have given the Allies two tremendous advantages which have been nearly lacking: (1) Protection for Mediterranean shipping, and (2) new bases comprising the amenities of bases around Europe.

Allied air power based on North Africa will in time raise a protective "umbrella" above the Mediterranean shipping lanes and permit safe passage of the stretch of water. When this is realized, the effect upon Japan will be stunning for then a steerable force in India can be maintained to give the Chinese real help in driving the Japs from China. This new route will give both more and safer tonnage of cargo shipping. The Middle East can be supplied and its oil brought back to Britain. The Middle Eastern North Africa will be a great Allied base, and planes based upon them will rain death from the skies upon Southern Europe until it is reduced to rubble by the vastness of the vulnerable part of Europe. The bases in North Africa will unquestionably be used as jumping off points for Italy, Sicily, Greece, Italy, Southern France, Greece, Crete, and perhaps the Balkans, accompanied by invasions from British points.

A great deal has been said about the importance of Dakar. Only 1,830 air miles from Natal, Brazil, it has been a constant threat to the security of our Atlantic position. As an Allied base it will unquestionably strengthen our North Atlantic sea lanes and reduce the submarine menace in this area. There is no evidence that German submarines have used Dakar as an operating base, but a secret Dakar air base is in the equipment of adding many new vessels to his submarine fleet. In Allied hands Dakar will cut thousands of miles from the routes used by German plane destroyers to the fighting fronts. It will serve as a great dispersal point for all kinds of military equipment advanced supply base such as established by the Allies at a secret Red sea point. The harbor is deep, well protected, and with a drydock, gasoline base, vast petroleum storage tanks and all the other amenities of a first-class naval base.

The Trans-Saharan railway has been a French dream since 1879. The section between Colomb-Béchar and Fez, Algeria, was completed in 1942. By 1945 it is scheduled for completion to the major port of Lagos and Gao, tapping the vast Niger valley. The gap between Bamako and Fez is 1,500 miles. The route is largely over desert lands of rolling sands where few bridges and tunnels are required. Hitler may have dreamed of using this road in his plan to conquer South Africa from Dakar, and thence move northward to the United States. Now the Allies may reverse the plan.

**RUSSIA.**—From the icy shores of Barents sea to the snow-covered crags and peaks of the Caucasian Russia fight on a 2,500-mile long, front—the longest continuous land front of World War II, and one which offers little chance of a quick Russian victory. The rich Ukraine and the iron, coal and manganese districts of the Crimea and Donets Basin have been lost to the Germans, but the Russians fight on with the resources developed in the sparsely rich Manchurian region. It is not that Russia has lost all of the rich wheat lands of the Ukraine, but the Russians have demonstrated before that hunger does not rapidly weaken their will to resist. The loss of the Ukraine was serious, but not fatal.

Unless the Red army can be annihilated it is difficult to see how Russia can be defeated by a Germany which must guard strict neutrality from the North Cape to the Mediterranean. Russia's great wall is the Ural moun- tains, and Russia has a far from that wall. Russia can retire hundreds of miles. Can Hitler extend his already thin line that connects the North Cape to the Mediterranean? The Russians are peculiar in the way people Barry Hillyard has undertaken. They can stand, he said a year ago, "why don't they quit?"

Roughly Germany has conquered and holds but 10% of Russian land. Germany to public opinion the 90% still held by the Russians is a risk to control conventional military equipment. From all reports Russia was never nearer. The invasion of North Africa has given her relief to some measure—perhaps not as much as the Russian desire, but at least the definite assurance that greater things are on the way.



### RUSSIA'S 2500-MILE FRONT



**SICILY.**—For many months both Germans and Italians have been battling Britain's Hitler through the Mediterranean with planes based upon strategically located Sicily. From the Sicilian fields bombers have abandoned areas for the sake of retreat to leave the British base in Malta. An air-borne army has undoubtedly long been held here in anticipation of dropping in an effort to capture the island. But the will of the islanders of Sicily have never weakened. Instead they have exacted a terrible toll of Nazi planes and pilots.

The Germans, realizing that any Allied hope of breaching the soft under-side of the Axis through Italy must include capture of Sicily first, have probably heavily fortified the island and garrisoned it well. Tripoli, Benghazi, Catania, Messina and Palermo are all bases with good airfields. One of them operate Axis submarines and small surface craft. Scattered over the island, which is only 115 miles long, are innumerable concealed air bases.

The geography of Sicily forces her to be ready to defend herself from any direction, but she gives her more geographical advantage. Sicily, Messina has given the task of preventing an invasion of Italy from the sea. Sicily and Malta will be the ultimate objectives of the Allies which Mussolini had outlined for his country previous to the collapse of Italian empire in Egypt and the subsequent Italian invasion of German troops.

In World War I Italy waited until 1915 to see how events would fall. Counted that of Allied victory, and under promise of territorial gains, Italy entered the war and received a terrific pounding from American and German, culminating in a disastrous defeat on the Piave river. In World War II Italy was equally cautious and did not enter the war as Germany's ally against England and France until it was apparent to her military leaders that France was already shaking on her heels from German assaults. There are good reasons for the Italian caution. Italy is a poor nation with many people and few resources. She has millions of soldiers, but little coal and iron to make weapons for them, and little will to fight to the finish. Her own line is long and not laid ready to support upon mountainous terrain. Italy's chief ambitions were to build a new Roman empire around the Mediterranean sea, to open the English-held door to the Atlantic at Gibraltar and by conquering Egypt and the Sudan to link up Ethiopia with Italy.

