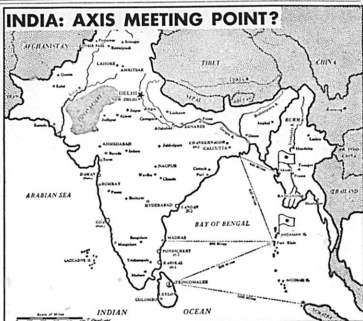




**INDIAN OCEAN**—Two long Allied supply routes skirt the fringes of the Indian ocean. The western, and more secure, route serves to supply Allied forces in the Near East and North Africa from the United States and Great Britain. Along this route, the most much of the Lend Lease equipment into the Persian gulf and thence on by rail and truck to Russia's southern ports. This route was secured by the British victory of Madagascar, a step or two ahead of the Japs. With complete Allied control of the Mediterranean this route will be abandoned in favor of the shorter route through the Suez canal. The second and lesser used route is that from Australia to Bombay and the Persian gulf, handling U. S. warships from Australia. When and if India is invaded by Japan this route will increase in importance.

Unless the Japs can secure and establish further bases on the edge of the Indian ocean, the sea wayward should remain secure in control of Allied naval power. The great British Indian ocean base is at Trincomalee in Ceylon. During the low of British forces in the Far East the Japs tried some attempts to take their base on Ceylon, but the British drove them off. The main Japanese base for action in this area are Port Blair in the Andaman Islands, Alcock and the base headquarters base captured from the British at the outbreak of war in the Pacific. It is unlikely, however, that the Japanese have sufficient strength above that required to hold and press their South Pacific gains to attempt an Indian ocean venture in the near future. In the event that Germany is defeated before Japan—and Prime Minister Churchill has publicly stated of this possibility—the Indian ocean will serve as Britain's push to troop and equipment west into India and China as a huge pioneer movement designed to strangle the Axis.

India is actually the key to the whole Indian ocean situation. Should the Japanese conquer India and establish bases near the entrance to the Persian gulf and Red sea they will constitute a real threat to the Russian supply line. Such a move by Japan might force Russia, in defense of her Indian supply routes, to attack Japan's support base of Manchuria to relieve the danger. This in turn would open up a new front for the Axis in the Pacific. Japan's move into the Indian ocean would be a step toward the East as she could attack the Allied lines from the rear forming with Hitler's armies a gigantic pincer movement designed to strangle the Axis.



**INDIA**—This India should be endangered by a power with its headquarters some 4,000 miles away in one of the wonders and dangers of modern war. But this is the prospect that India faces. The immensity of Japanese invasion has forced the Indians to seek the aid of the United States. The Indians have secured the opportunity to demand independence from the British.

From the Japanese advance bases in Thailand (Siam), Burma and the Andaman Islands, India's southeast coast is in range of Jap medium range bombers. The rest of India can be reached by long range bombers, and the Indian coast will serve as Britain's push to troop and equipment west into India and China as a huge pioneer movement designed to strangle the Axis.

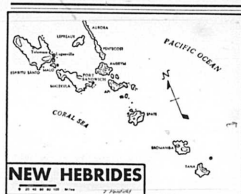
Only by a concept of India can a junction of the two Axis partners be effected, whether it be achieved as a joint offensive with a German breakthrough to the whole of India, or as a result of Japanese subjugation of the whole of India, and possibly Germany even farther westward, or as a result of the Japanese conquest of the Indian ocean. The latter would be the outcome of such a junction would, to say the least, prohibit supply routes to attack Japan's support base of Manchuria to relieve the danger. This in turn would open up a new front for the Axis in the Pacific. Japan's move into the Indian ocean would be a step toward the East as she could attack the Allied lines from the rear forming with Hitler's armies a gigantic pincer movement designed to strangle the Axis.



**CHINA**—For five years the Chinese have been fighting back at the Japanese. Recently they have had to fight on a half-dozen different fronts. China is without any ally in the outside world since the Japs seizure of Indochina. There is no highway route from the north. The 2,500-mile road to Hanoi is all but useless since France needs every gun and shell she can get against the Germans. Material aid from the Allies has been slow—but it is coming. Yet China fights on with undiminished vigor in the defensive warfare of her desert. In any case, China is the nearest and strongest base available to the Allies for the direct attack against Japan. If any arms can be found to arm and equip for 2,000,000 reserves—most of them plain, the guns and shells and the tanks—China may drive the Japs out of the continent and be freed to join the Allies. But in the summer, and Taiwan is overrunning, odds the Chinese have materially added the cause of the United Nations. Their resistance to the Japanese has been all the more amazing because of their lack of the modern tools of war.



**JAPAN**—This is the Japanese empire. It is the largest island empire in the world. It is the only one that has a continuous land mass from Seattle to San Diego. Its population is 70,000,000, with 170,000,000 in Manchuria and Korea. It is the only country in the world with an area smaller than India, China, and the United States, and with an area smaller than India, China, and the United States. It is the only country in the world with an area smaller than India, China, and the United States. It is the only country in the world with an area smaller than India, China, and the United States.



**NEW HEBRIDES**—The New Hebrides, a French and British condominium, are directly in the path of the U. S. supply line to Australia. When stopped at Guadalcanal the Japs were moving toward the New Hebrides and in their possession they would have a base and the same one would be used to supply routes and control Australia. With the fall of France the New Hebrides joined the Free French and eventually remained the property of U. S. forces and the establishment of a base at an undisturbed point on the island of Espiritu Santo. From the forward base U. S. forces strike deep at the heart of the Japs lurking in their rapidly prepared bases in the Solomons.



**GUADALCANAL**—The focal point in a major struggle for control of the southwest Pacific. The only artificial Henderson Field, has been the worst of the struggle since its capture by U. S. Marines August 7, 1942. The island, 100 miles long and topped by 4,000-foot peaks, is about 90 miles from the tip of the eastern extremity of New Guinea. Its capture is a vital step in the southern hemisphere. It can act as a springboard for either the Allies or the Japs. Its possession by Japan makes it a constant threat to the security of Australia and its vital supply lines from the United States.



**NEW GUINEA**—In all military history water and mountains have proven to be man's greatest natural barriers against invasion. The Japs have found no exception to this rule in New Guinea where the difficulties of movement along the jungle-ringed trails of the Owen Stanley Range were more than even their suicidal determination to win could overcome. From Buna the Japs tried to drive across Papua to the Australian-held base at Milne Bay. It failed and the Japs were driven back to their base at Buna. The terrible jungle gorges and hostile Australian best him back.



**SOLOMON ISLANDS**—The Solomons were discovered by a Spaniard, completely forgotten, and not seen by a white man until 1568. In 1863 they were divided between Germany and Great Britain, and in 1914 they were taken over by Australia as a mandate until they were all but swallowed up in the Japanese empire. The main Jap base at Kiriwina, Buin and Skerata Bay, with their primary air bases at Honiara and has equipped of the three Allied aircraft. If the Japs are driven out of Guadalcanal their strategy will probably be to shift back to their nearest base and carry on the war from that point. Stop the way, island by island, they will force the Allies to repeat their vicious conquests at the greatest possible cost. Thus the Japs consider the Solomons of great importance is evidenced in the fiercest fight to hold them.



**NEW CALEDONIA**—New Caledonia serves as an Allied outpost and protective base along the U. S.-Australian island. It was captured first by the British and later by American forces. With specific bases, the Filip and American bases it forms a huge defensive triangle through which all troops and materials for the Pacific struggle pass. Any capture of these bases by Japanese control would immediately increase our Pacific problem and reduce the security of New Caledonia. New Caledonia's strategic value is not realized and the land is hilly and thickly wooded. Noumea is the chief port and a good port available to the Allies dangerously close to Japan's southern flank.



**SOUTH PACIFIC BATTLE SCENE**—In this vast corner of the world's greatest ocean four great naval battles have already been fought. There have been: (1) Battle of Java on February 27-March 1; an Allied defeat that gave the Japs control of the East Indies; (2) Battle of the Coral Sea, May 4-8, an Allied victory that halted the Japs threat at Australia and our supply line to the South Pacific; (3) Battle of Midway, June 4-6, which prevented a possible Jap invasion of the Hawaiian Islands; (4) Battle of the Solomon, August 2-November 14, a series of engagements which prevented the capture of the U. S. supply line and so upset the balance of Pacific naval power as materially weakens Japan's position in the South Pacific sea.