



War in Europe and the Battle of Britain

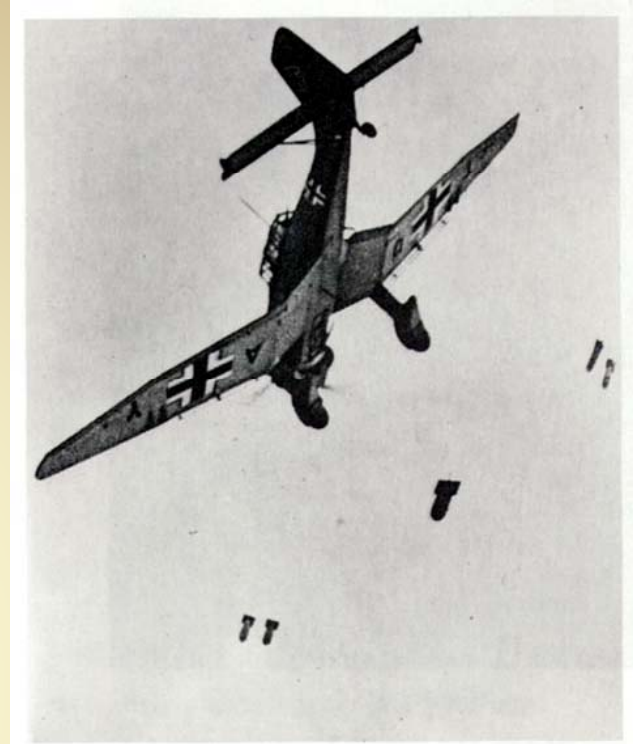


Who's Who

- Allies:
 - Britain, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, other commonwealth colonies.
 - USA (1941)
- Axis:
 - Germany, Italy, Japan.
 - Also known as the Tripartite-Pact: each would have its own sphere of influence.
 - Mutual cooperation.

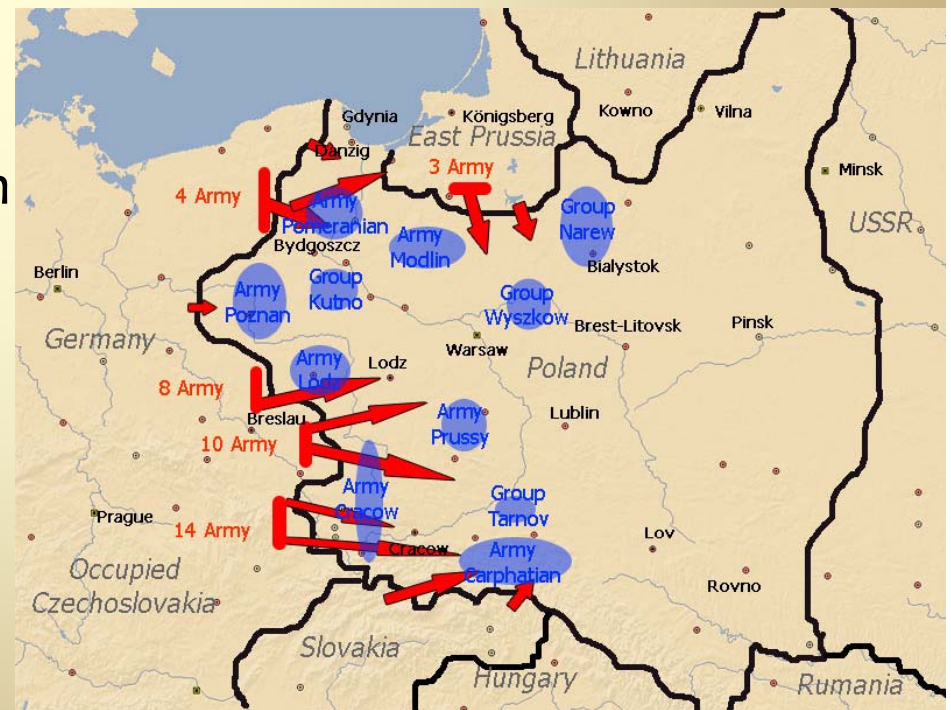
Blitzkrieg

- “Lightening War”
- Use of Air force and land forces to strike and take land quickly.
- Use of dive bombers and tanks.
 - Drive in and dominate enemy positions as fast as possible.
 - Planes and tanks advance, troops behind take hold of captured areas.



Poland

- Germans invade Poland September 1st 1939.
- Use Blitzkrieg against weak polish forces
 - Surrounded on three sides.
 - Surrenders
 - Attack leads France and Britain to declare war.
 - Poland key to Hitler's idea of Lebensraum (living space)



France

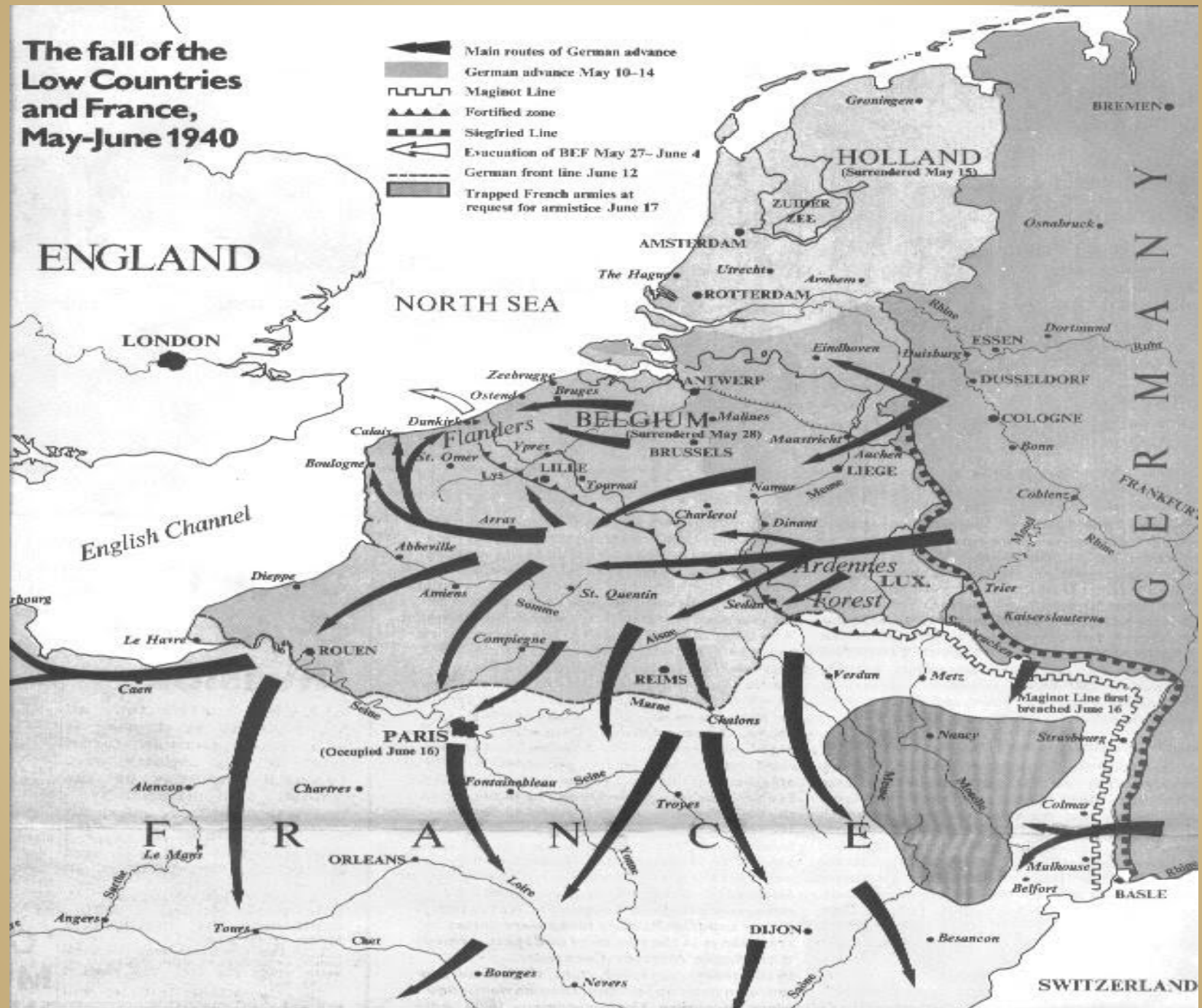
- After months of “phony War”, Germans attack the Netherlands and Belgium. (May 5 1940)
- The British Expeditionary Force trapped against the sea at Dunkirk
 - Troops have to evacuate: Royal navy use every ship and boat available. To bring troops back home.
 - 340,000 evacuated



- June 5 1940
- Germany attacks France
 - From North Belgium
 - Go around the Maginot Line
 - Trap French Troops



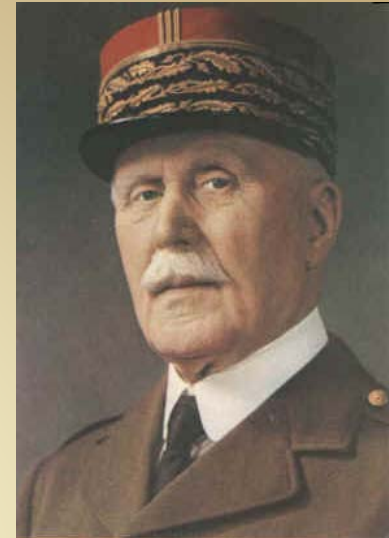
The fall of the Low Countries and France, May-June 1940



France

- France Surrenders: June 22nd 1940

- France Split in 3
 - North – Occupied by German Wehrmacht
 - South-East – Small Italian State
 - South – “Vichy France”
 - Government set up under Field Marshall Petain
 - French government ruled in line with Germans
 - Not occupied by German troops – “Free Zone”



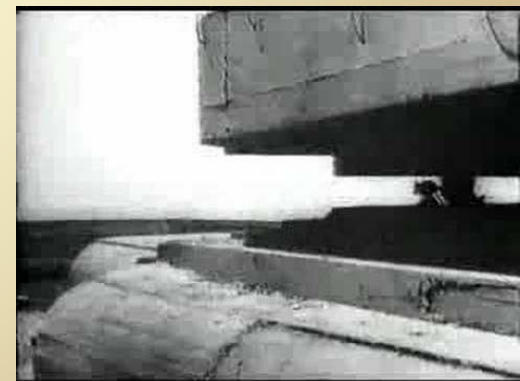


BLITZKRIEG

When you only stop for kittens



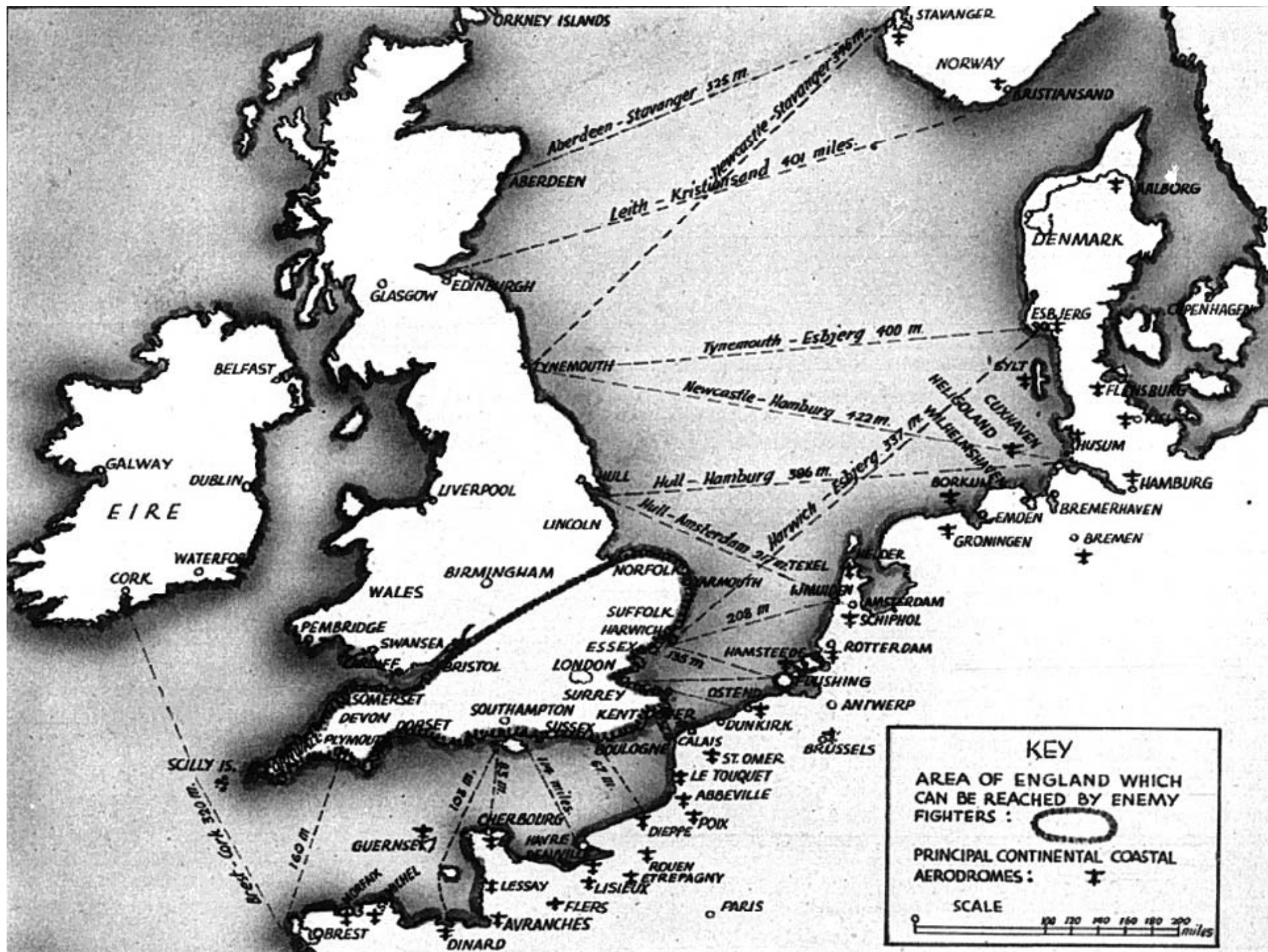
Germans dig in
Set up defenses along the French coast
to counter invasion



Battle of Britain

- After France falls, Britain stood alone against the Nazis.
- Hitler ordered Operation Sea Lion
 - Invasion of England: Battle of Britain Begins
 - Germans needed to control the skies by destroying the Royal Air Force
- The Blitz
 - Bombers attack airfields, industry, ports, and factories
 - Civilian targets such as London bombed later
 - 55 nights of continuous bombing,
- Failure:
 - Unable to take out the RAF, Hitler focuses attention elsewhere and calls off the invasion by May 1941





Battle of Britain

- Why did the Germans not succeed?
 - Germans had more planes(~2500 vs ~600)
 - British planes were superior defensive fighters.
 - British fought over home land.
 - British had radar.
 - unable to cut off Britain's supply of resources from N.A.

