

# Beginning of WWII

# Blitzkrieg (lightning war)

- Use fast moving airplanes and tanks to overwhelm then send in massive infantry forces.
  - Very quick and very effective.



DANZIG  
EAST PRUSSIA

WARSAW  
POLAND

PRAGUE  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

**SOVIET UNION**

Invades Poland,  
17 September 1939

**GERMANY**

Invades Poland,  
September 1939

Poland Annexed to Germany,  
September 1939

Teschen Annexed to Poland,  
September 1938

Slovakia formed,  
September 1938

Ruthenia Annexed to Hungary,  
March 1939

German-Soviet Border  
negotiated under the  
Molotov-Ribbentrop  
Pact.



**KEY**

	German Armies		Front Line 5 September		Cities
	German Attacks		National Borders		Rivers
	Polish Armies		German-Soviet Border		Marsh
	Polish Movements		German Territories		Fortifications
	Soviet Attacks		Soviet Territories		



**SOVIET UNION**  
 Soviet Union Invades Poland  
 17 September 1939.

**GERMANY**  
**CASE WHITE**  
 Germany Invades Poland,  
 6-15am, 1 September 1939.





# BLITZKRIEG

When you only stop for kittens

# Maginot Line

- System of fortification along France and Germany's border.
  - 450 miles long
- Forts at 10 mile intervals, 97 smaller forts and 352 casemates between, with over 65 miles of tunnels.

# Casemate



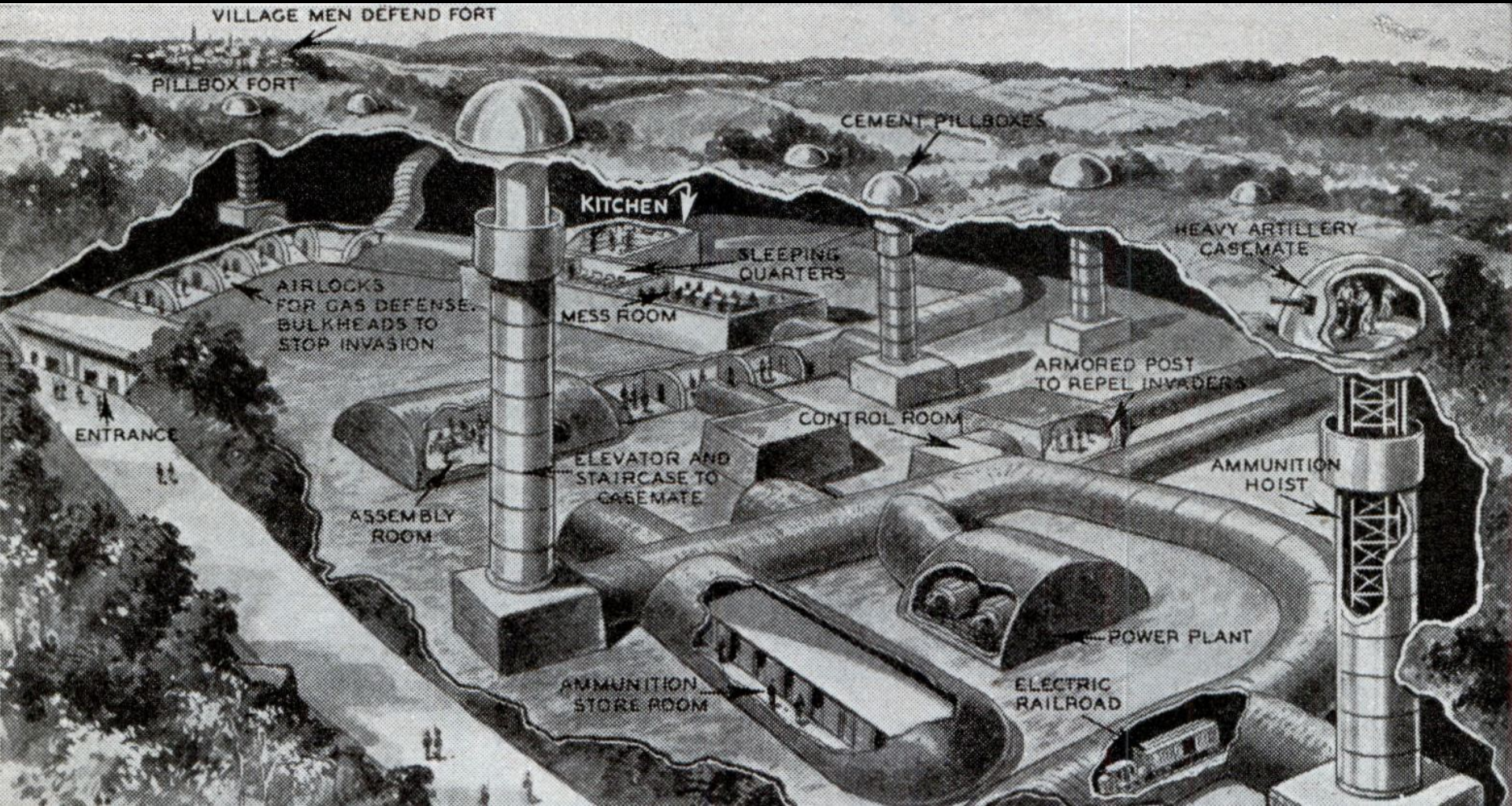












VILLAGE MEN DEFEND FORT

PILLBOX FORT

CEMENT PILLBOXES

HEAVY ARTILLERY CASEMATE

KITCHEN

SLEEPING QUARTERS

AIRLOCKS FOR GAS DEFENSE, BULKHEADS TO STOP INVASION

MESS ROOM

ARMORED POST TO REPEL INVADERS

ENTRANCE

CONTROL ROOM

ELEVATOR AND STAIRCASE TO CASEMATE

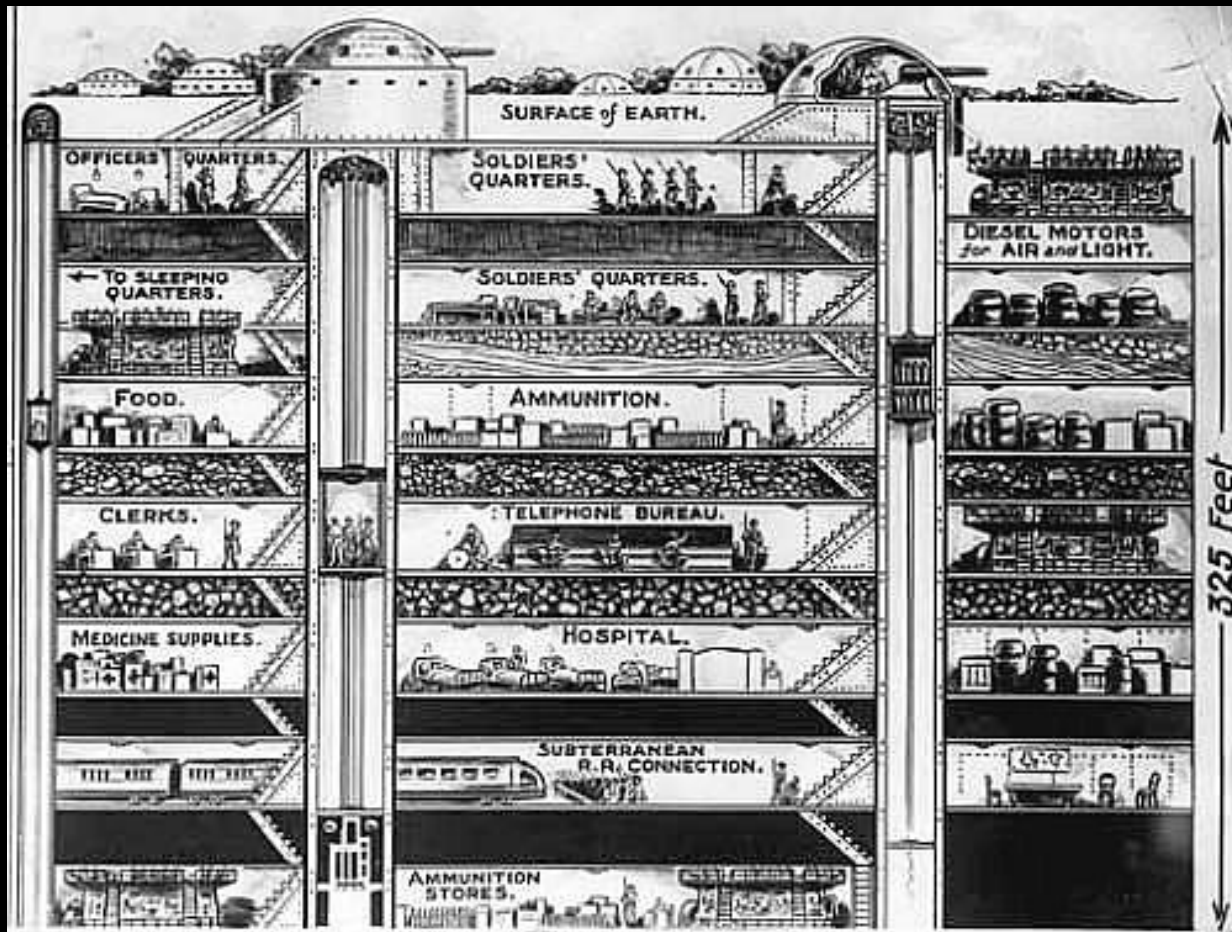
AMMUNITION HOIST

ASSEMBLY ROOM

POWER PLANT

AMMUNITION STORE ROOM

ELECTRIC RAILROAD





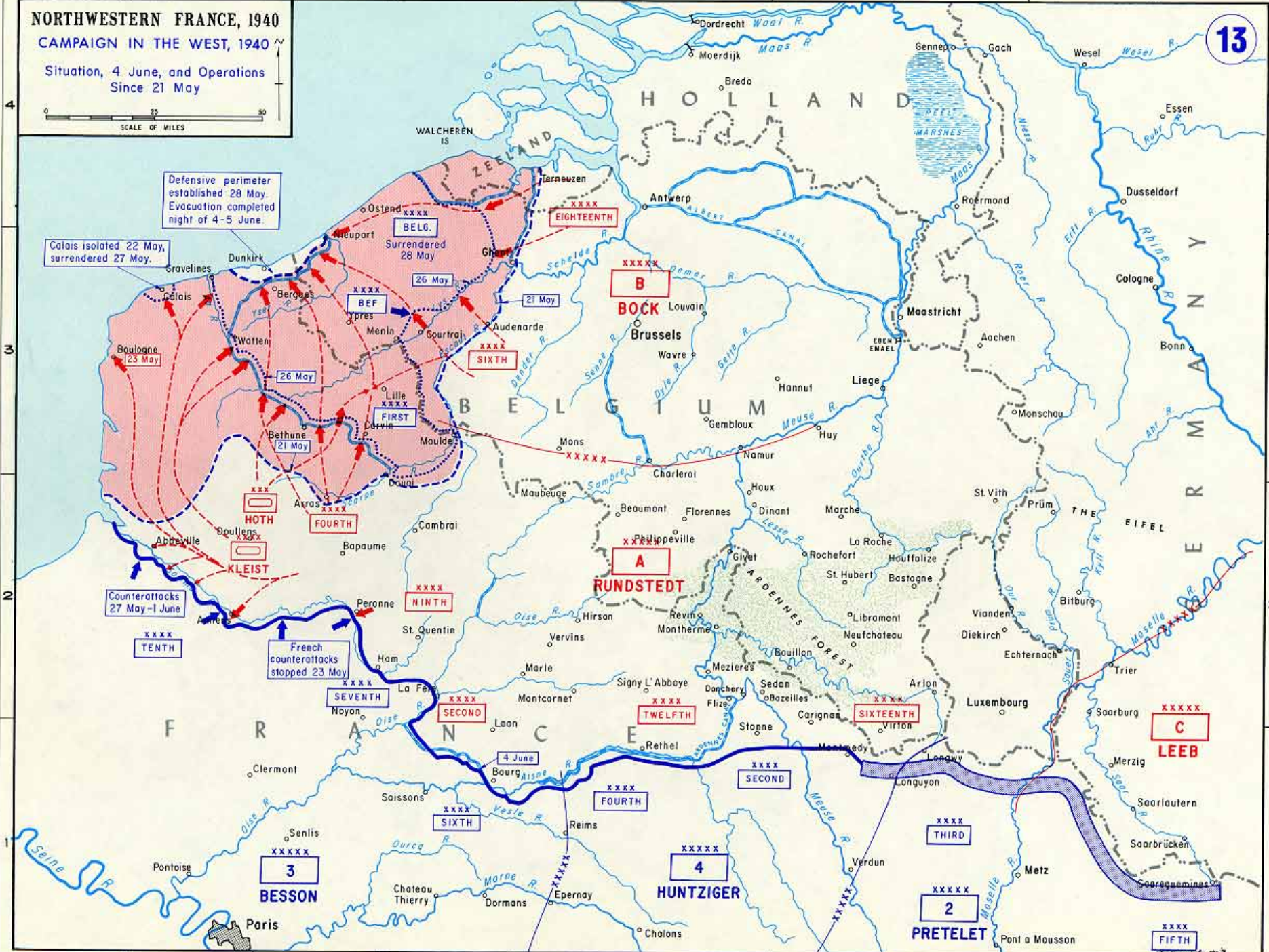
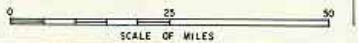
# Rescue at Dunkirk

- After Hitler's Panzer tank groups stormed through the Ardennes, British troops in retreat were cornd on the English channel in Dunkirk.
  - Completely stranded until the famous "little ships of Dunkirk", a flotilla of hundreds of merchant marine boats, fishing boats, pleasure craft, and lifeboats were called into service for the emergency.
- 345,000 French, Belgian, and British troops are saved.

# NORTHWESTERN FRANCE, 1940

## CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST, 1940

Situation, 4 June, and Operations Since 21 May



Defensive perimeter established 28 May. Evacuation completed night of 4-5 June.

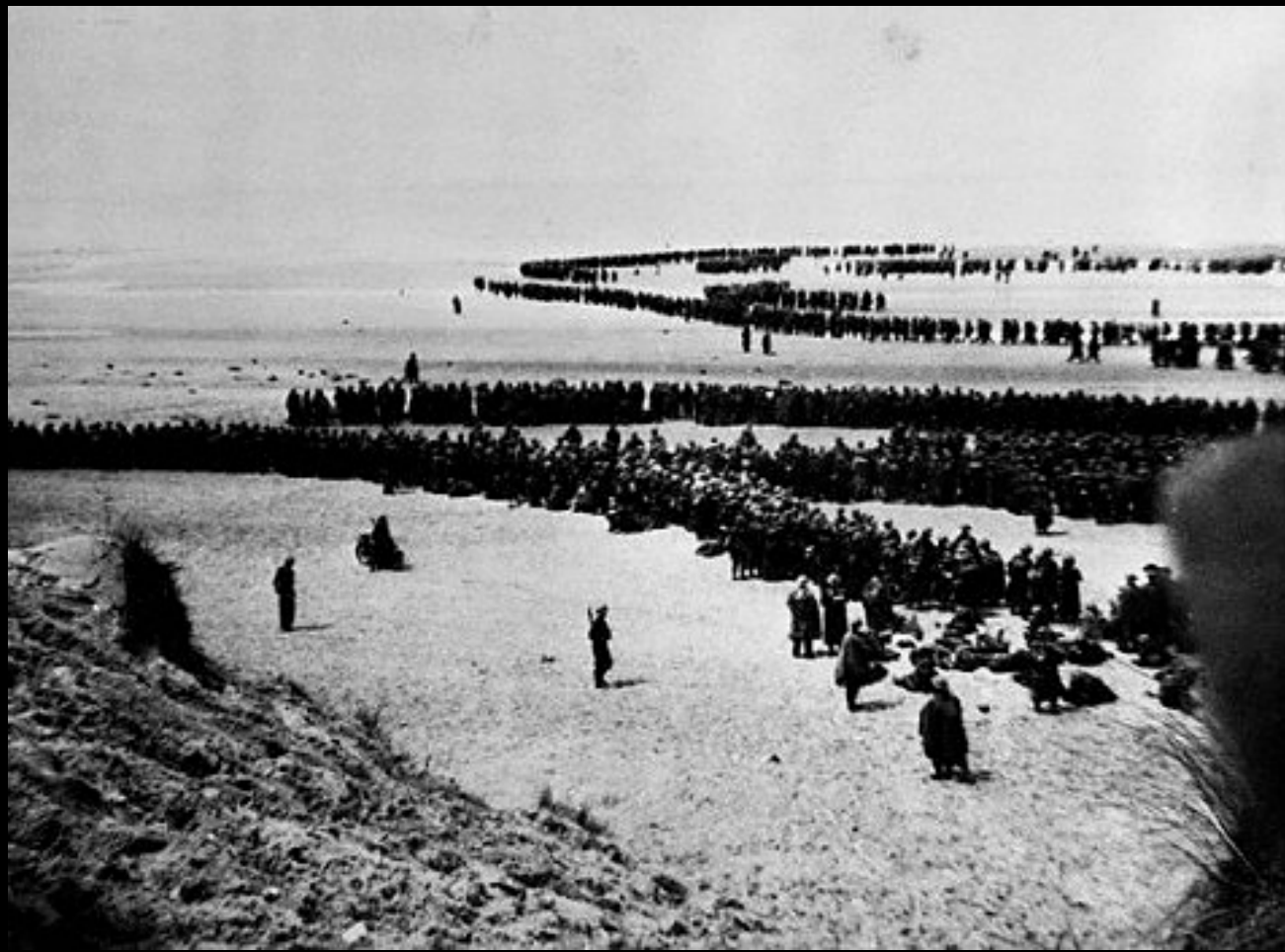
Calais isolated 22 May, surrendered 27 May.

Counterattacks 27 May-1 June

French counterattacks stopped 23 May

















*Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the House of Commons*

*"... the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin."*



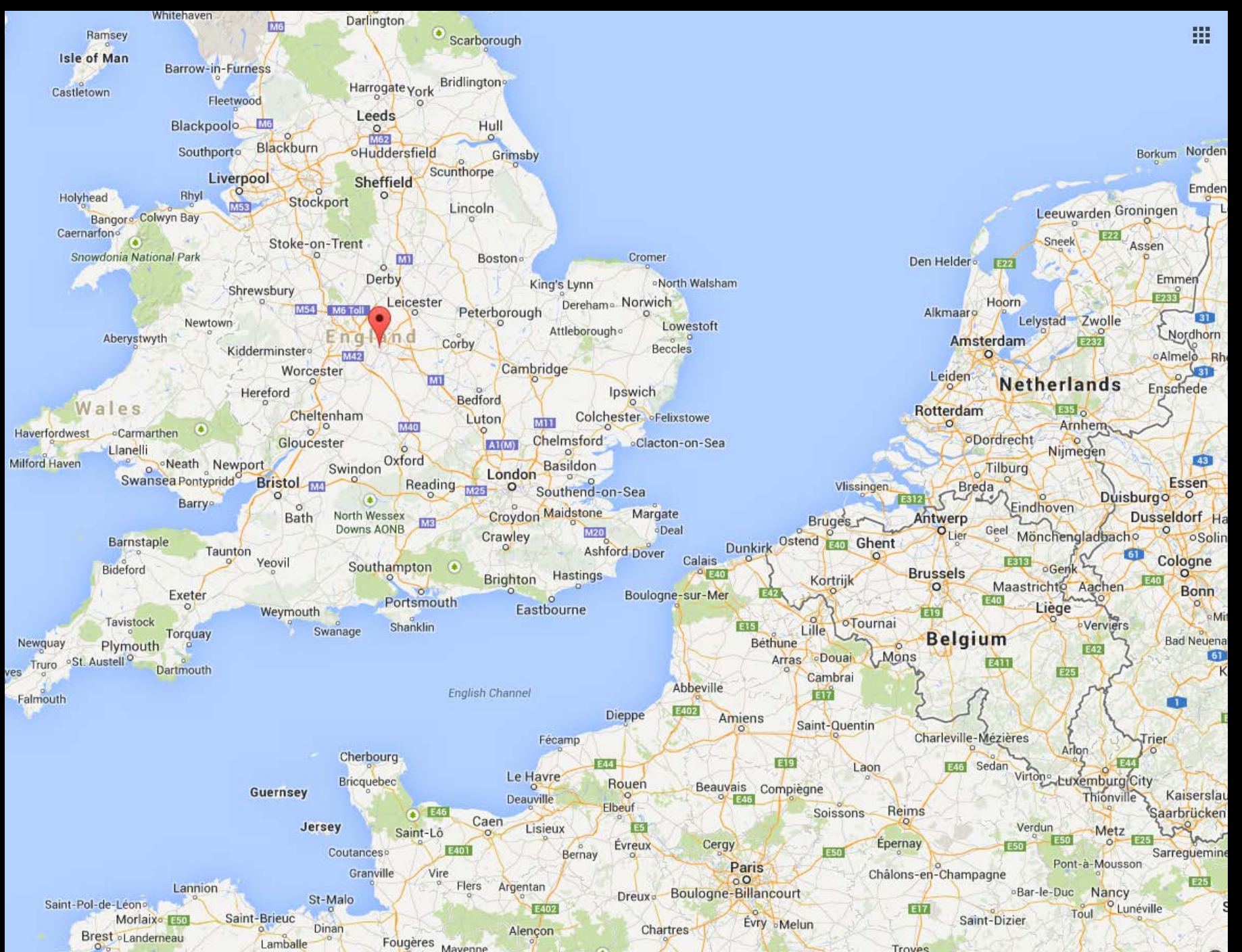


# Battle of Britain

- With the fall of France, Great Britain was the lone country against the Nazis.

# Coventry Bombing

- Night of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1940
- Industrial center in rural England
- 60,000 buildings destroyed, city flattened
- 600 year old Coventry cathedral destroyed
- Thereafter in Germany, "Koventriert" or "Coventry-ed" was the word the Germans used for annihilating a city with sheer firepower.











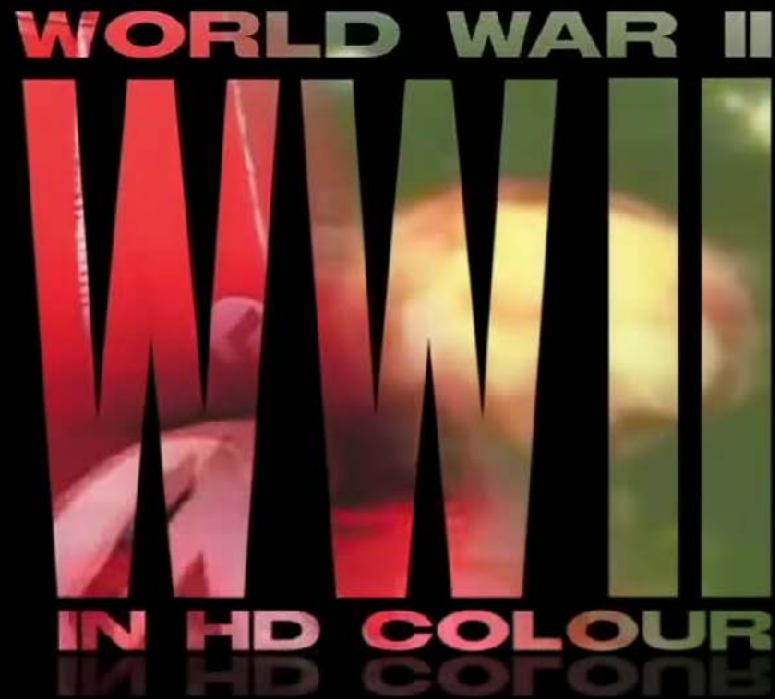




- It has been told that Winston Churchill knew that Coventry was going to be attacked because British Intelligence has cracked the German code.
  - Instead of evacuating the city which would have shown the Germans they had cracked the code, he chose instead to withhold that information and allow the city “to face their fate.”

*Is the overall importance of finally cracking the German coding system more important than a city of people?*

# North Africa



# Timeline of Events

- Blitzkrieg on Poland → September 1, 1939
- Soviet Invasion of Poland → September 17, 1939
- Fall of France → May-June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1940
- Battle of Britain → Summer 1940- May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1941
- North Africa → September 1940- June 1942
- Hitler invades Soviet Union → June 22, 1941-March 1943