

THE WAR STEP BY STEP

(Continued From Last Sunday)

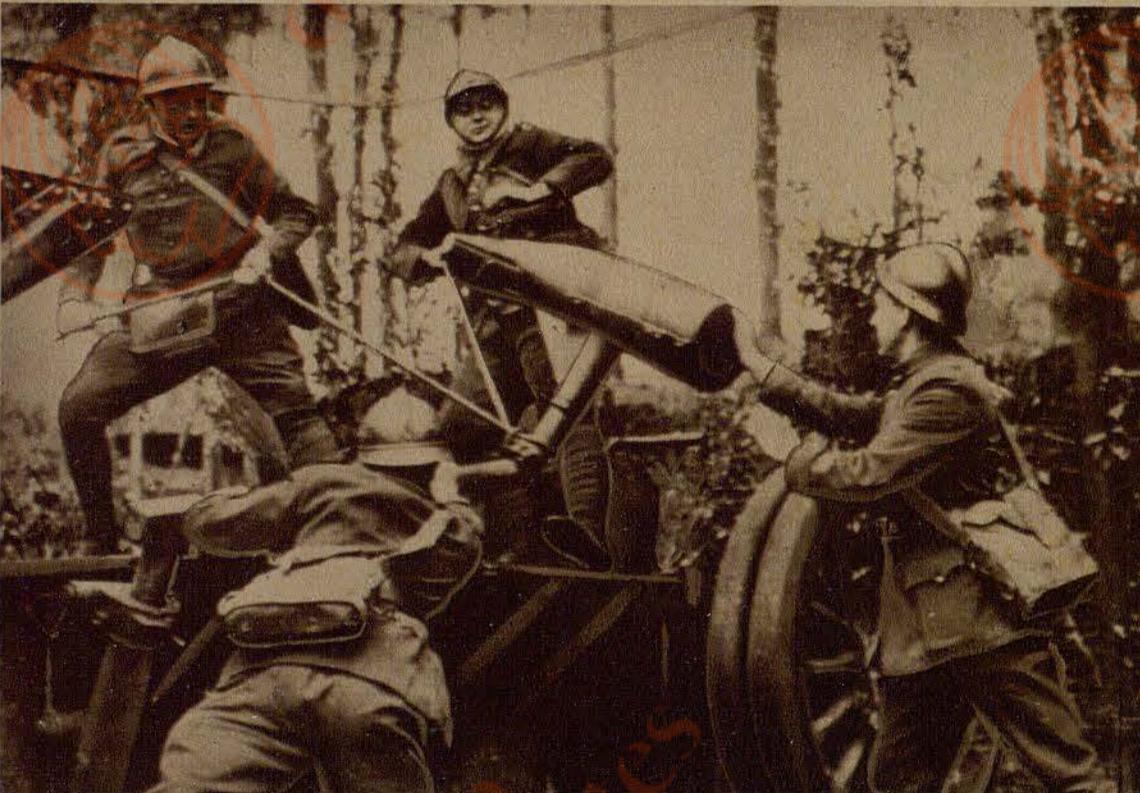
BATTLE OF FRANCE

ON the day the Dutch army surrendered—May 14, 1940—German mechanized troops swept across Belgium into France, captured historic Sedan, 146 miles northeast of Paris, and came to grips with major Allied forces. The French abandoned positional defense tactics for mobile warfare after the Nazis crossed the Meuse river and penetrated the "Little Maginot" line. Another two days and the French high command issued an eleventh-hour order for its soldiers to die

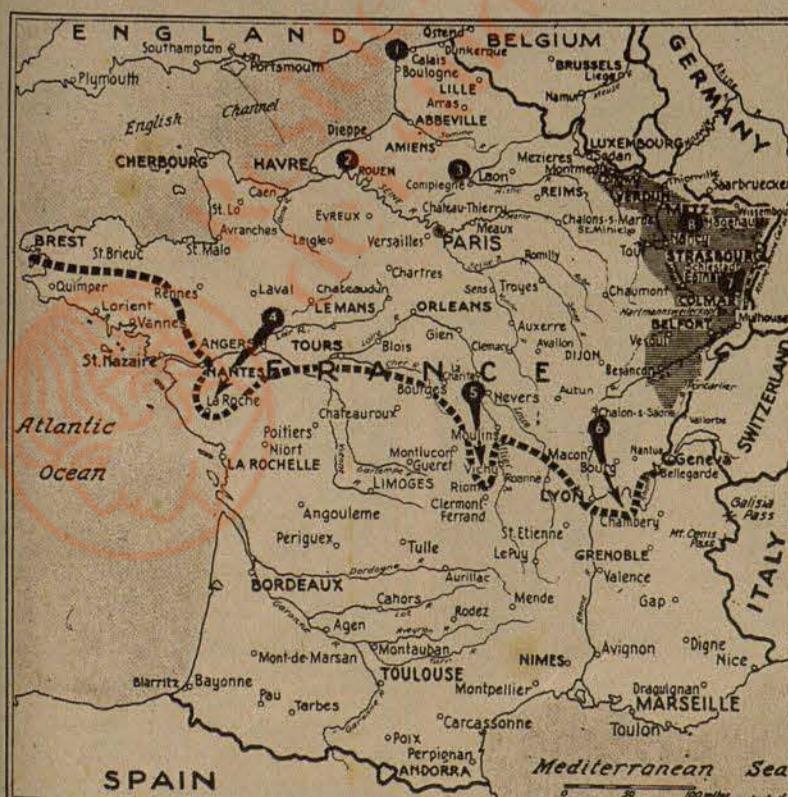
rather than yield another inch. General Maxime Weygand replaced General Maurice Gamelin as army chief, but his aroused army could do no more than check momentarily the Nazi steamroller. On May 20 the Germans split into two hard thrusts—toward Paris and English channel ports. Nazi troops stabbed through to pocket British forces in Flanders, took Abbeville, Arras, Amiens, Boulogne, as the valiant French battled in vain to break through to their trapped allies.



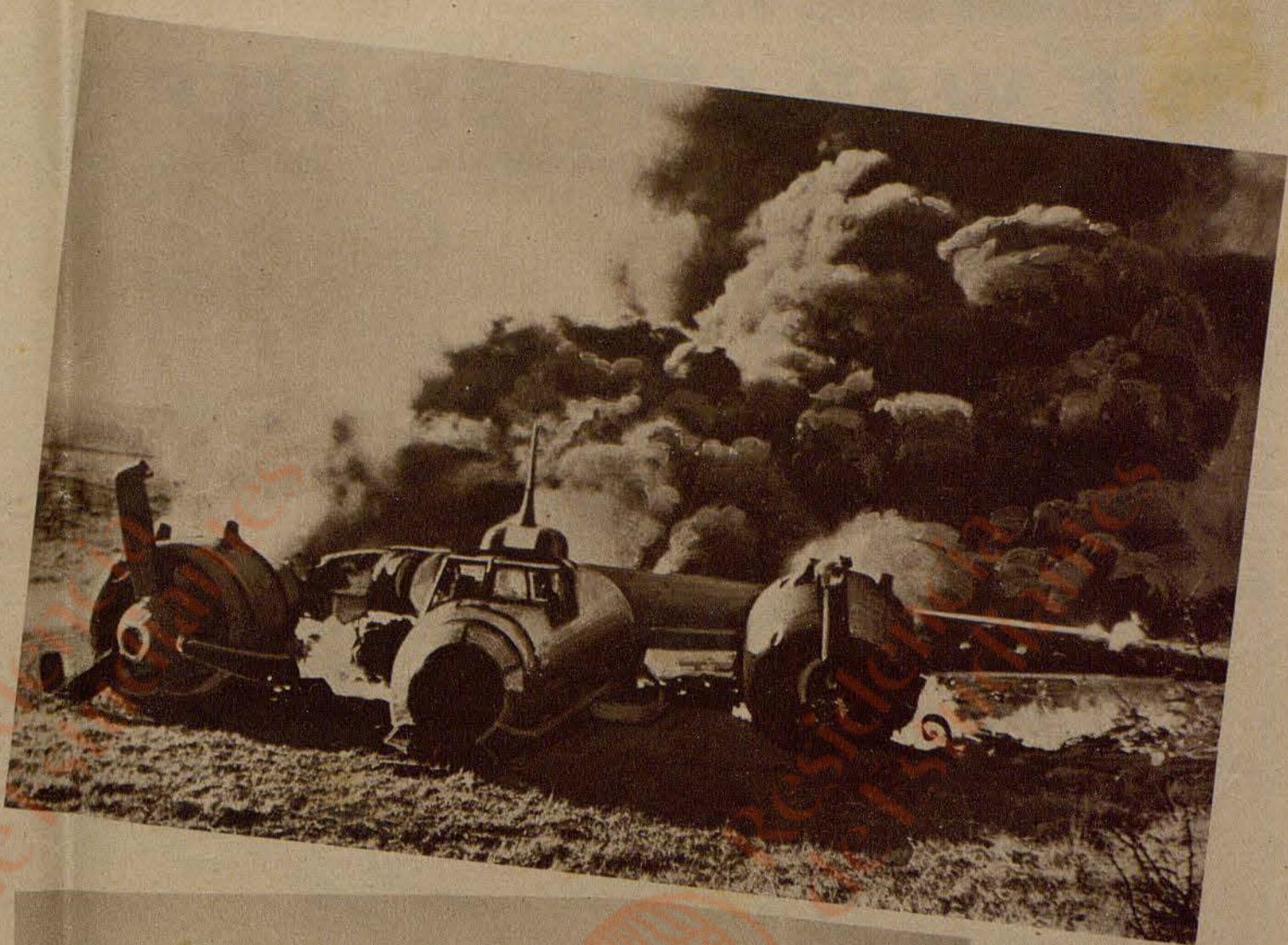
Children and a mailman were early casualties of the Battle of France. They fell victims to German bombs which blasted the city of Nancy early in May, 1940.



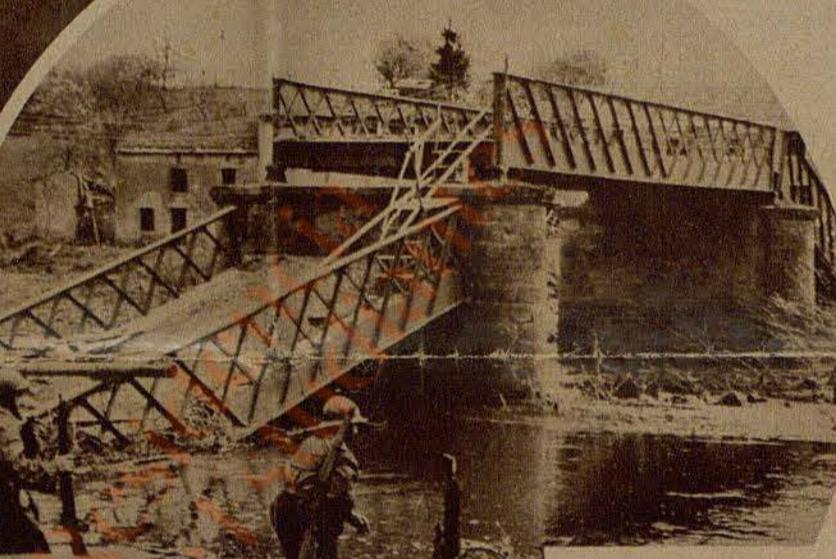
Desperately, these French gunners (above) on the western front load their big gun, fire and reload again at top speed in a grim struggle to halt the German advance. French homes at the right were shattered as the invading Nazis paved the way with bombs.



German infantrymen storm a French village. The map at left shows the situation in June, 1940. British bombers struck at Nazi big guns at Calais (1) and at the airport at Nazi-held Rouen (2). Negotiations for peace were being conducted at Compiegne (3). The Germans pushed down to La Roche (4) and to Riom (5), but French Alpine forces halted the Nazis south and east of Lyon (6). Germans admitted stiff resistance within the Maginot line zone (7) but claimed victories in the Toul, Hagenau and Thionville sectors (8).



This German bombing plane (above)—a Dornier 17—was brought down in flames by anti-aircraft guns in Lorraine during the Nazi blitzkrieg. At left, a Heinkel III bursts into flame in midair, the picture automatically recorded by a camera mounted in the wing of a British combat plane.



French sentries stand guard at a bridge they blew up on the Lorraine front to slow up the Germans.



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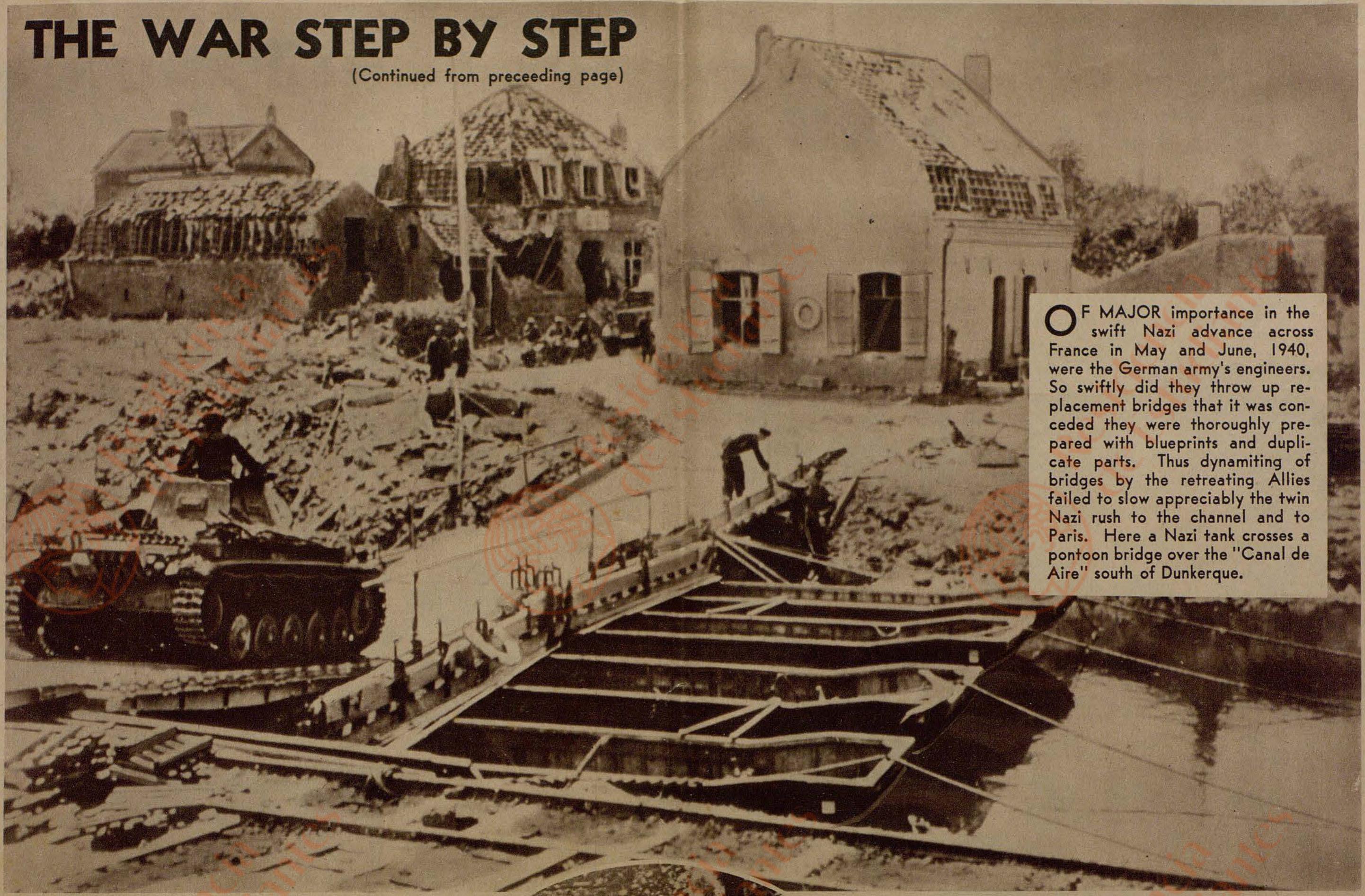


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Continued on Next Page

THE WAR STEP BY STEP

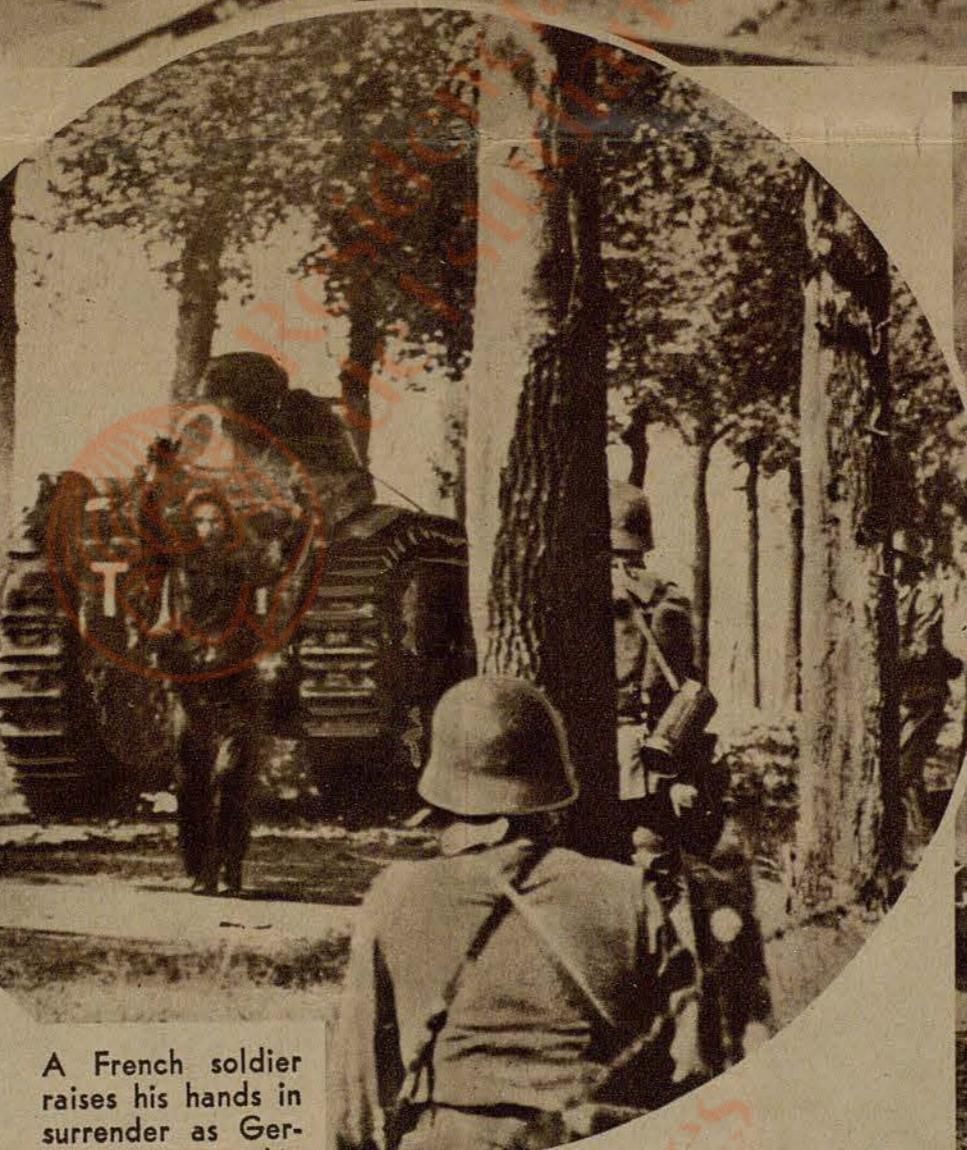
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OF MAJOR importance in the swift Nazi advance across France in May and June, 1940, were the German army's engineers. So swiftly did they throw up replacement bridges that it was conceded they were thoroughly prepared with blueprints and duplicate parts. Thus dynamiting of bridges by the retreating Allies failed to slow appreciably the twin Nazi rush to the channel and to Paris. Here a Nazi tank crosses a pontoon bridge over the "Canal de Aire" south of Dunkerque.



A French soldier raises his hands in surrender as Germans capture his tank.



A German soldier looks through field glasses at the burning city of Rouen, taken by the Nazis in the devastating drive toward Paris.

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German cycle scouts advance cautiously through the ruins of Orleans, French city where Joan of Arc won immortal fame. Below, Nazi soldiers enter Amiens, which bombers left a smouldering ruin.



This French soldier, killed in battle, was carrying his wedding picture. He has been tagged for burial by a busy squad of grave-diggers.

(Continued on next page)

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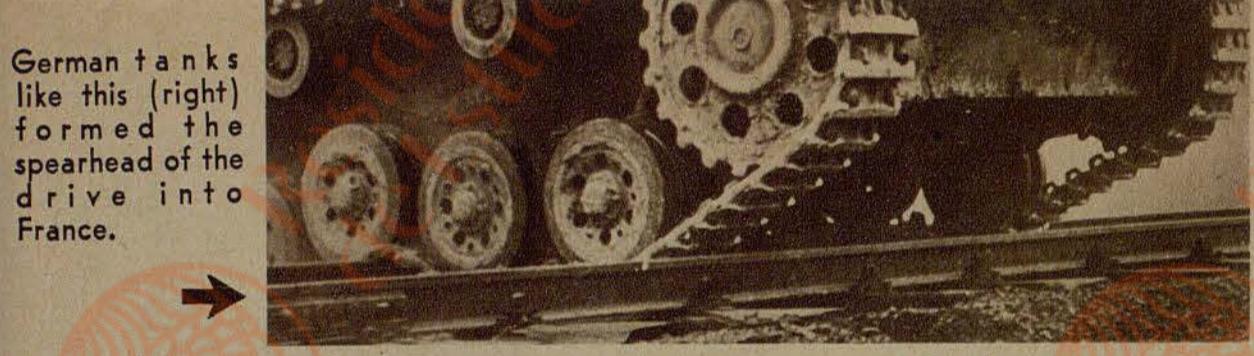
THE WAR STEP BY STEP

(Continued from preceding page)

LIHTNING thrusts across France by German motorized columns crushed the crack Ninth French army and on May 21, 1940, brought capture of its commander, General Henri Giraud. As invasion fears grew in England, parliament on May 22, gave Churchill virtual dictatorship powers over labor, industry and wealth. Four days later Sir John Greer Dill became commander of the imperial staff, replacing Sir Edmund Ironside, who was withdrawn to direct vital home defense. Paris staggered under a bombing by more than 200 German planes June 3—a blasting that left 254 dead, 652 wounded.



General Maxime Weygand, 73, took over command of French forces May 19, 1940. Above, Weygand climbs aboard a tank to confer with an aide.



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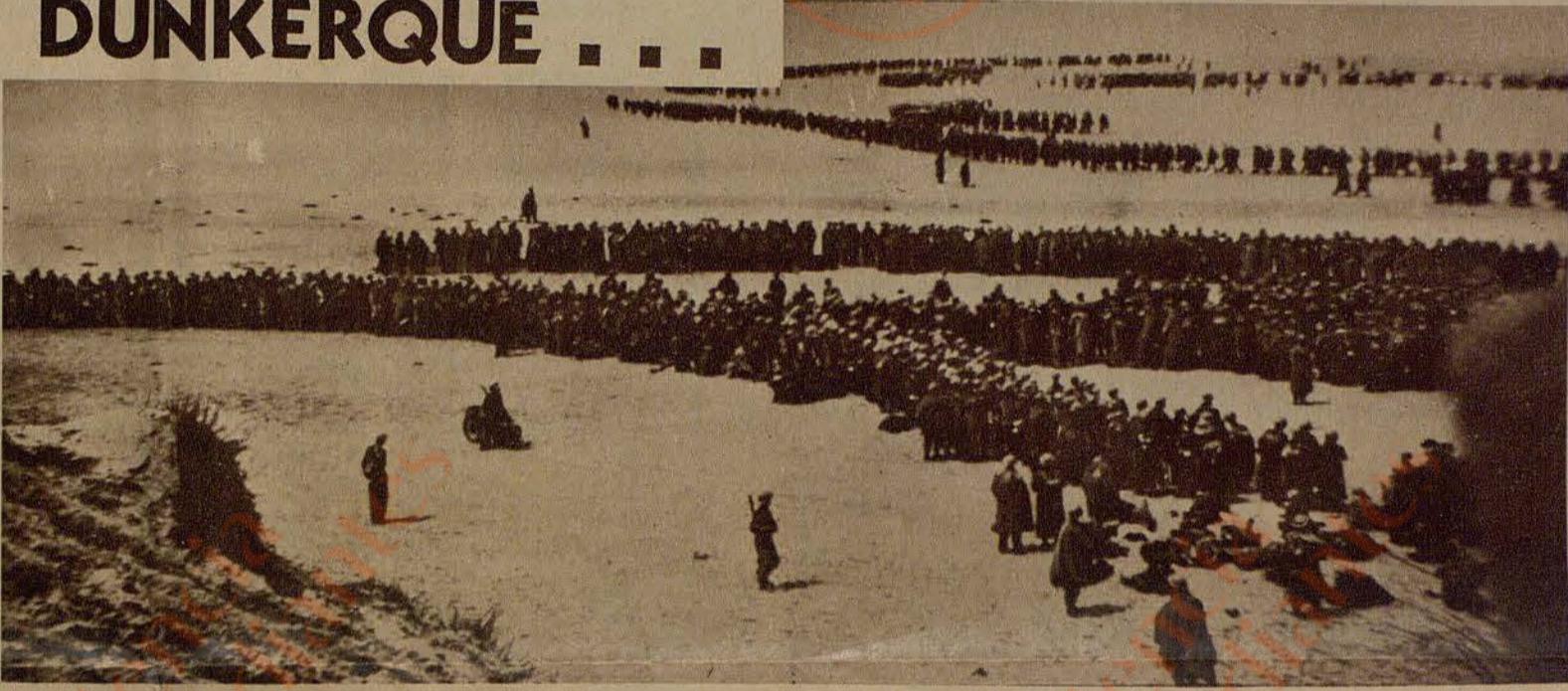
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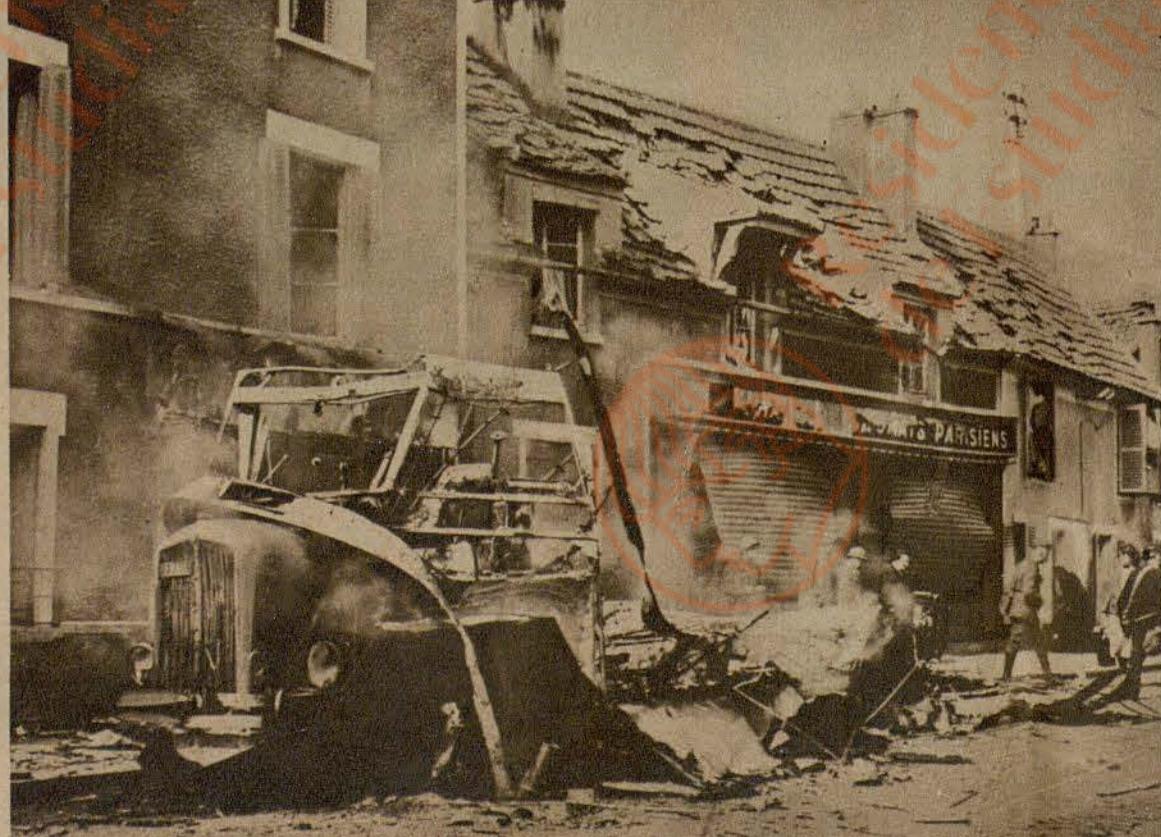
This is what happens (above) when modern artillery gets the range. These ruins are in Compiegne, France.

DUNKERQUE . . .



On the barren sands of Dunkerque (above), long lines of soldiers wind down to the channel for evacuation to England in a defeat miraculously turned into a virtual victory. Not all the Allied troops trapped in Flanders escaped. At left is an aftermath scene of the British retreat—English soldiers lying dead beside their motor lorries.

Only twisted junk remained of this auto (left) after the June 3 bombing raid on Paris. Below is a bomb-torn Paris street with the wreckage of a bus.



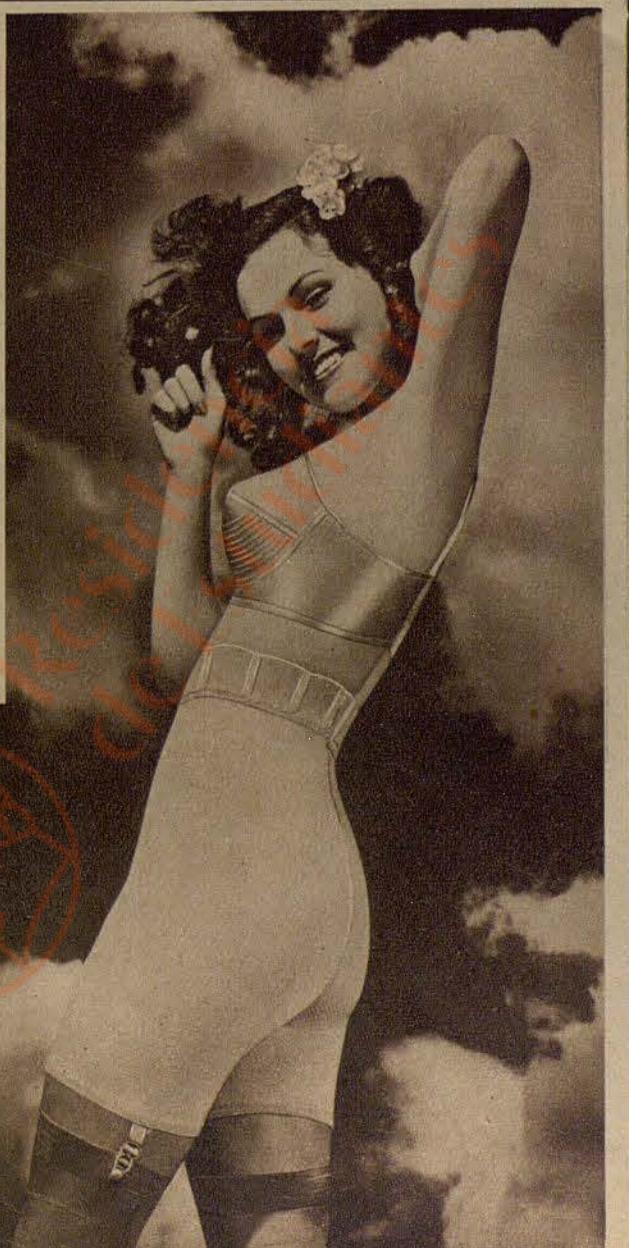
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The Minneapolis Sunday Tribune
THE WAR STEP BY STEP
DUNKERQUE Continued From
 Preceding Page

ALLIED fleets and warplanes battled day and night to keep open the port of Dunkerque as battered Allied forces backed toward the channel coast, shelled, bombed and charged by waves of German troops. Last Flanders stand was made May 31 to June 2, 1940. Lowlands around Dunkerque were flooded to slow the Germans while the British, curtailed by a barrage from warships, were ferried across the channel to England. British claim four-fifths of their expeditionary force were saved. Dunkerque fell to the Nazis June 4, giving Hitler control of the coast from Abbeville, France, to the Arctic circle in Norway.



A British soldier gives a comrade a drink of water as the wounded man arrives at an English port with a contingent of Tommies evacuated from Flanders.



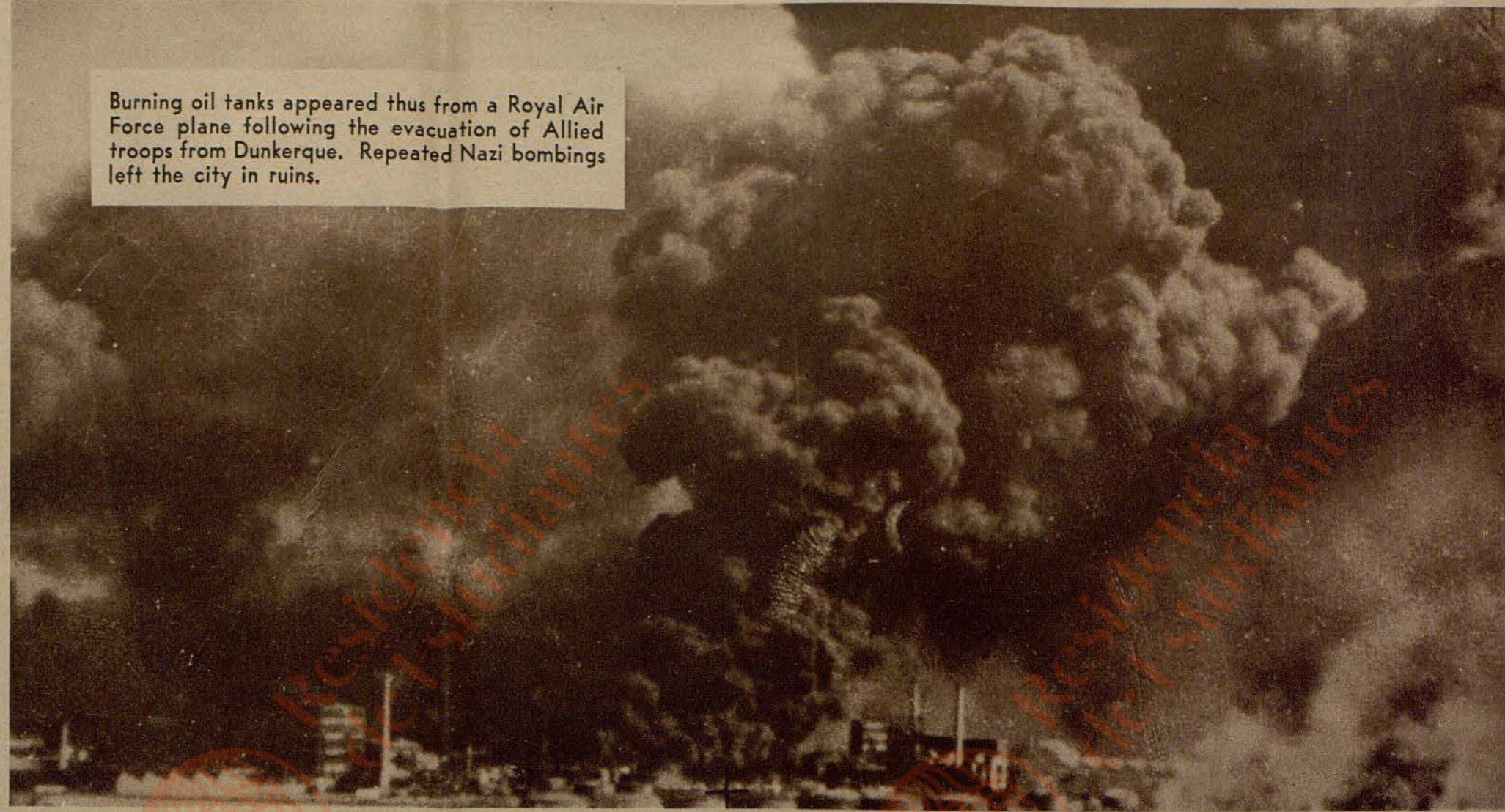
This was a scene in Dunkerque during the final days of the Allied evacuation when Germany was concentrating the full force of its blitzkrieg on the channel port.



Abandoned children of Dunkerque were cared for by French sailors before they, too, were ferried across to England.

Next Week: Fall of France—
 Italy Enters the War

Burning oil tanks appeared thus from a Royal Air Force plane following the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkerque. Repeated Nazi bombings left the city in ruins.



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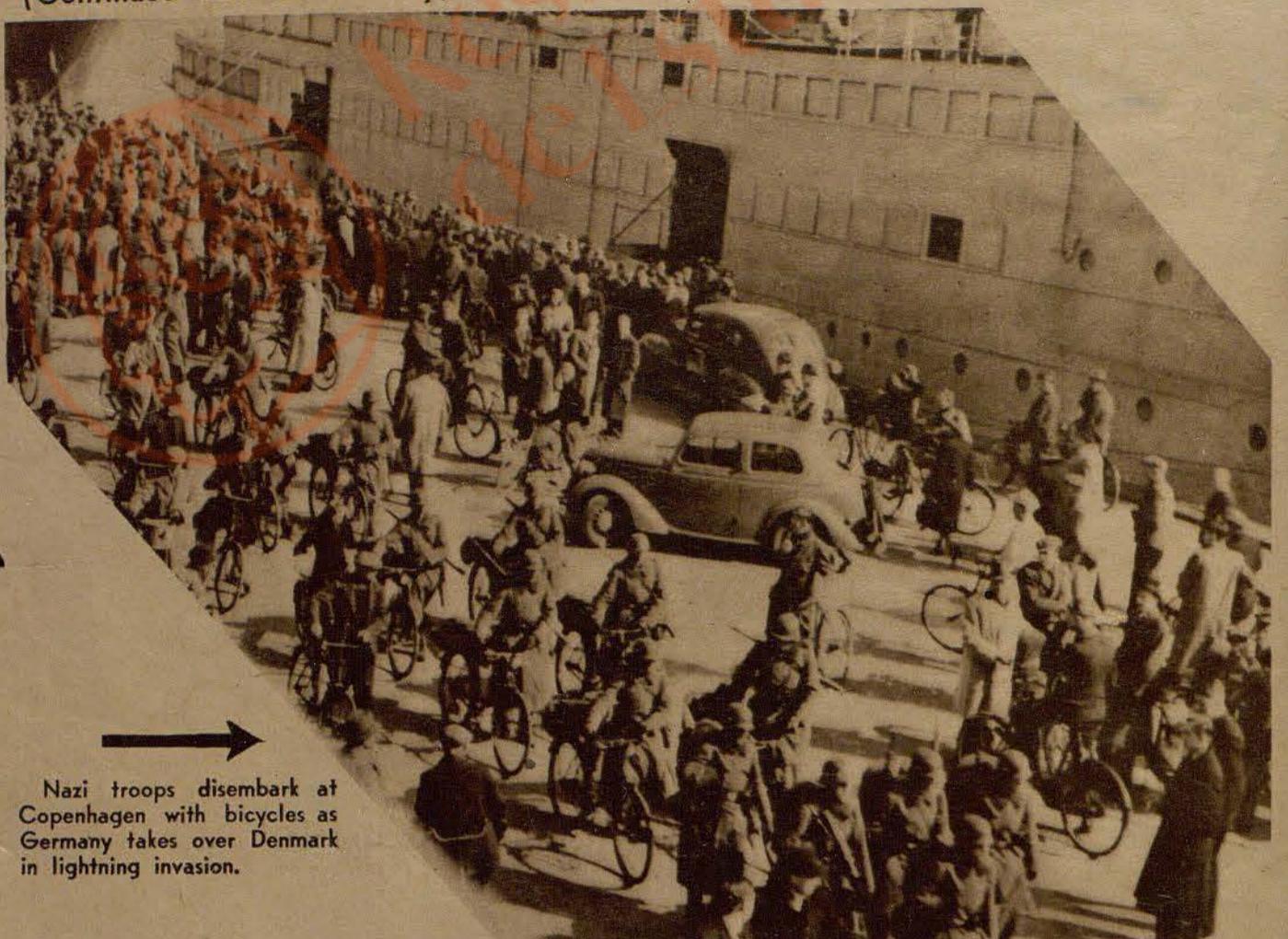
MERCURY

EIGHT

PICTURE STORY OF THE WAR STEP BY STEP

Invasion of Norway and Denmark

(Continued from last Sunday)



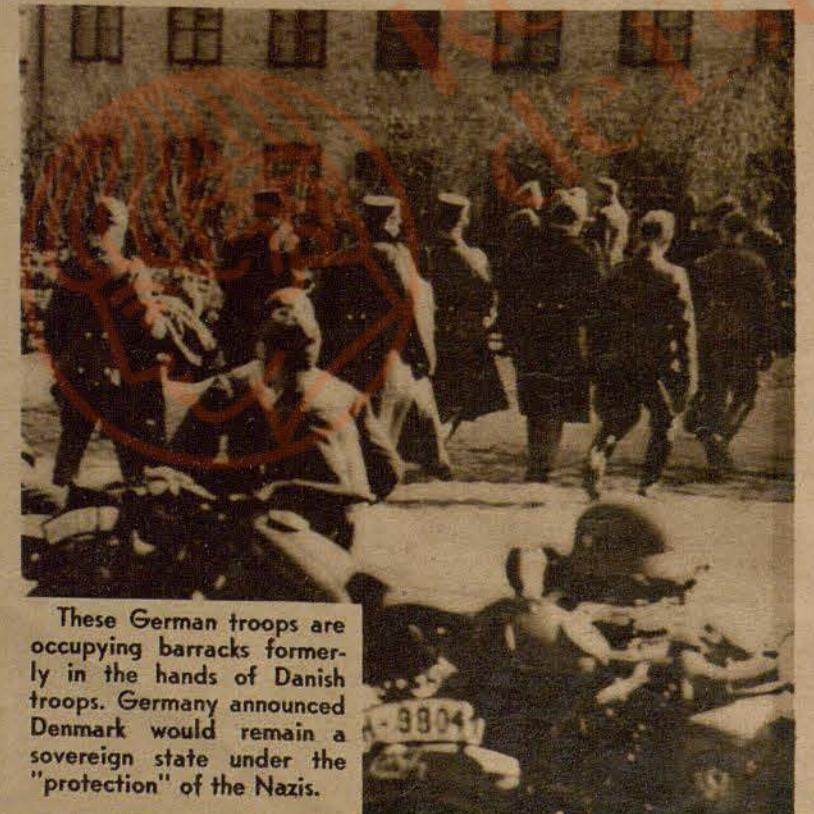
Nazi troops disembark at Copenhagen with bicycles as Germany takes over Denmark in lightning invasion.

FOR the first three months of 1940 the war dragged on without spectacular action but early in April Germany started moving with lightning speed, right after the Allies laid three mine fields off the Norwegian coast. On April 8 the Nazis moved in on Denmark in "protective occupation." Resistance was useless and there was no fighting. Then the Germans moved on Norway, taking Oslo and other key Norwegian points after sharp naval and land fighting. Britain, Germany and Norway all lost fighting ships in the battles of invasion. King Haakon of Norway fled to Elverum under fire of German machine guns hunting him down. Oslo, Narvik, Stavanger, Trondheim, Lillehammer, Namsos and other Norwegian cities were the scenes of bitter fighting but the Allies finally pulled out and Germany remains in control of the country.

Tired Nazi troopers go to sleep in a public square in Copenhagen after their long trek into Denmark. Motorized units covered 186 miles in a single day. (right)



German troops marched to all important points in Denmark the first day. Here is one detachment taking over part of the country while the helpless people submitted to the occupation.



These German troops are occupying barracks formerly in the hands of Danish troops. Germany announced Denmark would remain a sovereign state under the "protection" of the Nazis.



The Germans first crossed the Danish border at Sonderburg, on April 8, taking over the garrison at that point; landed troops at Middelfart at the head of the "Little Belt" and occupied Copenhagen the same day.



THE DICTATORS

(They Agree to Divide Europe and Africa)

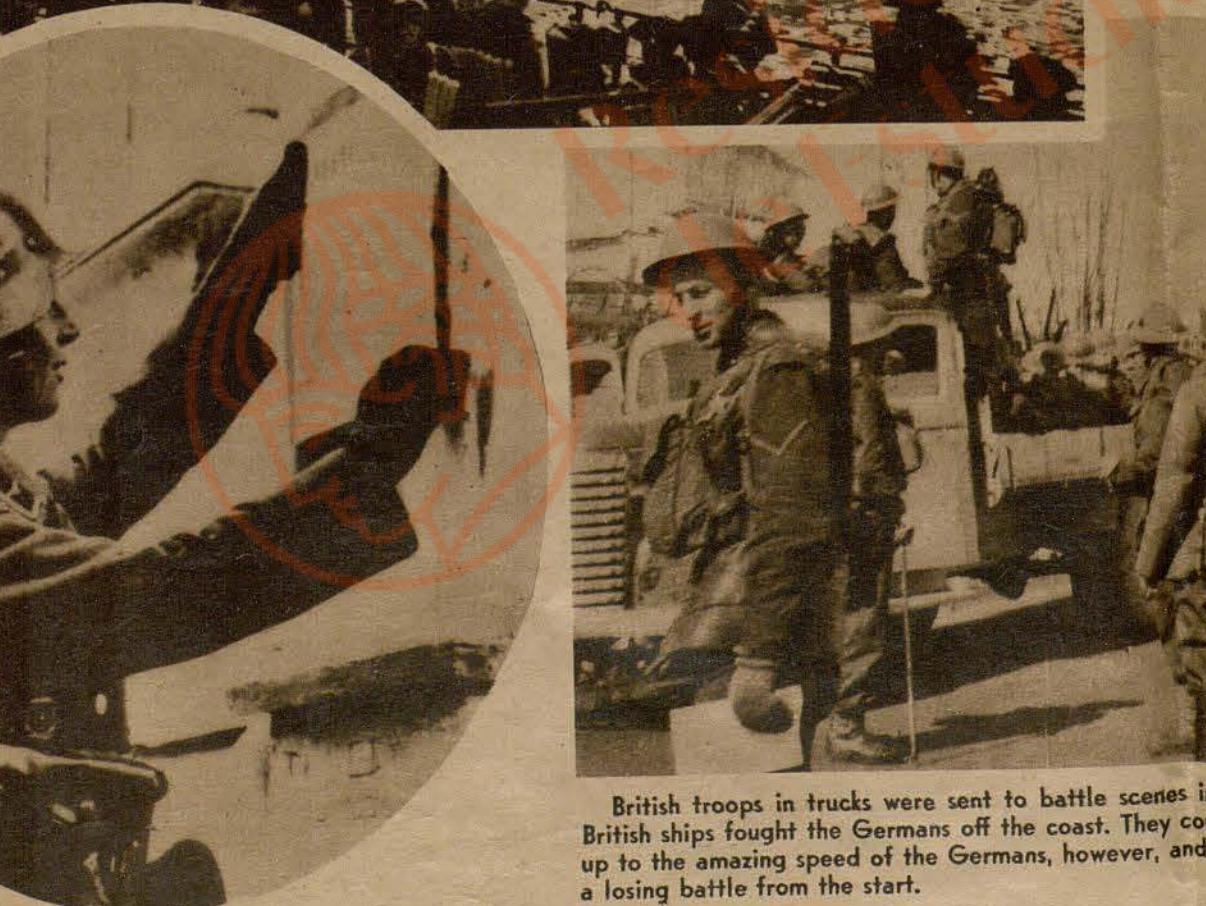
NORWAY...



This striking picture shows three helmeted German infantrymen charging with fixed bayonets on a flaming Norwegian village in one of the occupation assaults that subdued the country.



German heavy tanks in Oslo get ready to move further into Norway to complete the occupation. The tanks followed the landing parties and air troops into the occupied capital.

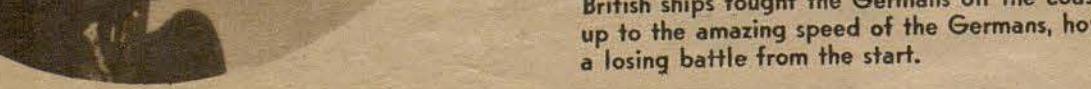
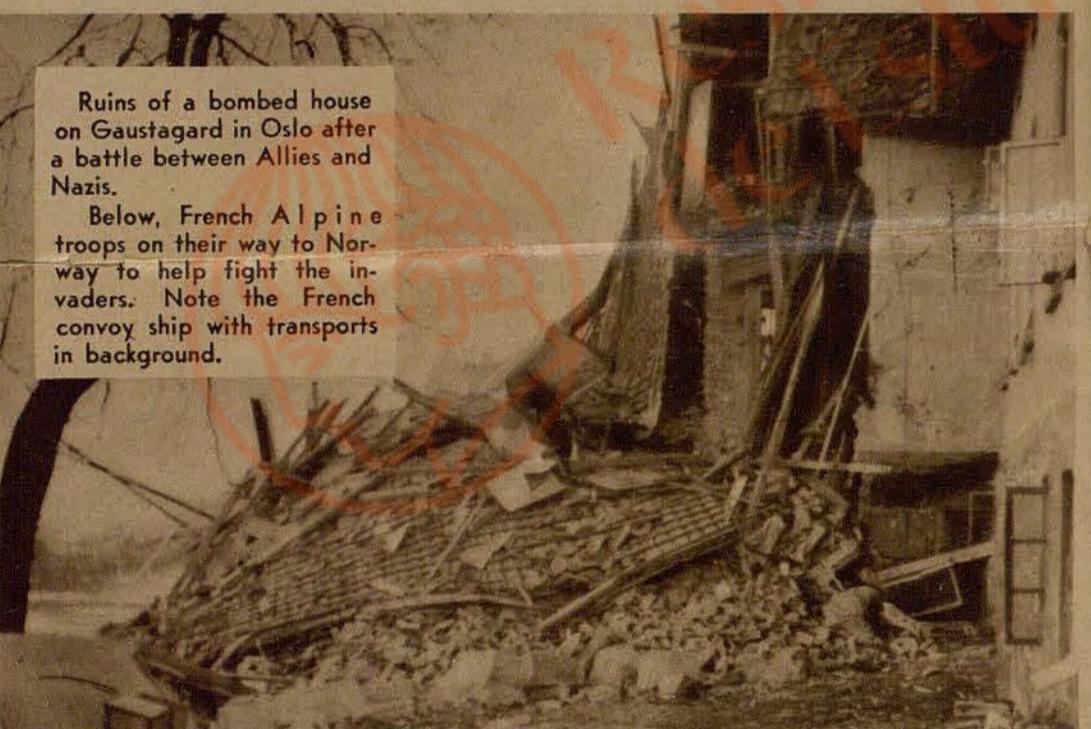


British troops in trucks were sent to battle scenes in Norway as British ships fought the Germans off the coast. They could not keep up to the amazing speed of the Germans, however, and they fought a losing battle from the start.



Narvik, scene of much fighting, occupation by the British and later by the Germans, was so badly battered that its value as an ore port for the Germans became almost nil. Here are some of the buildings of the port in flames.

At right, the Narvik ore docks where Germany was getting iron ore from Sweden for its munitions. The docks were the cause of the fighting at Narvik but were put out of commission in the various bombings. Early in May the Allies pulled out of Norway and the Norwegian commander sued for peace.



This desolate scene shows the old church of Namsos in ruins after Nazi bombardment during the last week in April. Namsos was the center of fierce fighting, as was Steinkjer, nearby.

At left, refugees from Namsos find shelter in the woods as the Germans bombard the town.

(Continued on following page)

The War Step-By-Step

(Continued from preceding page)

NORWAY...ICELAND...FRANCE



JUST BEFORE THE BIG DRIVE ON FRANCE



After the occupation of Norway this Nazi gun crew was stationed at Trondheim to guard the harbor against Allied attack. The occupation was the first indication of the strength of the German air force. At left, German troops cross a reconstructed bridge in Norway as they advanced to consolidate their position. The retreating Norwegians and Allies blew up the bridges as they went.



The end of the road for some of the British troops in Norway. This is a detachment of prisoners captured near Trondheim being led to a prison camp by Nazi troopers.

BRITISH OCCUPY ICELAND



Right after the invasion of Norway, Germany started to extend its operations around the end of the French Maginot line. Above is a scene in Nancy after a German air raid on May 10, first of a devastating series of raids that set off the battle of France.



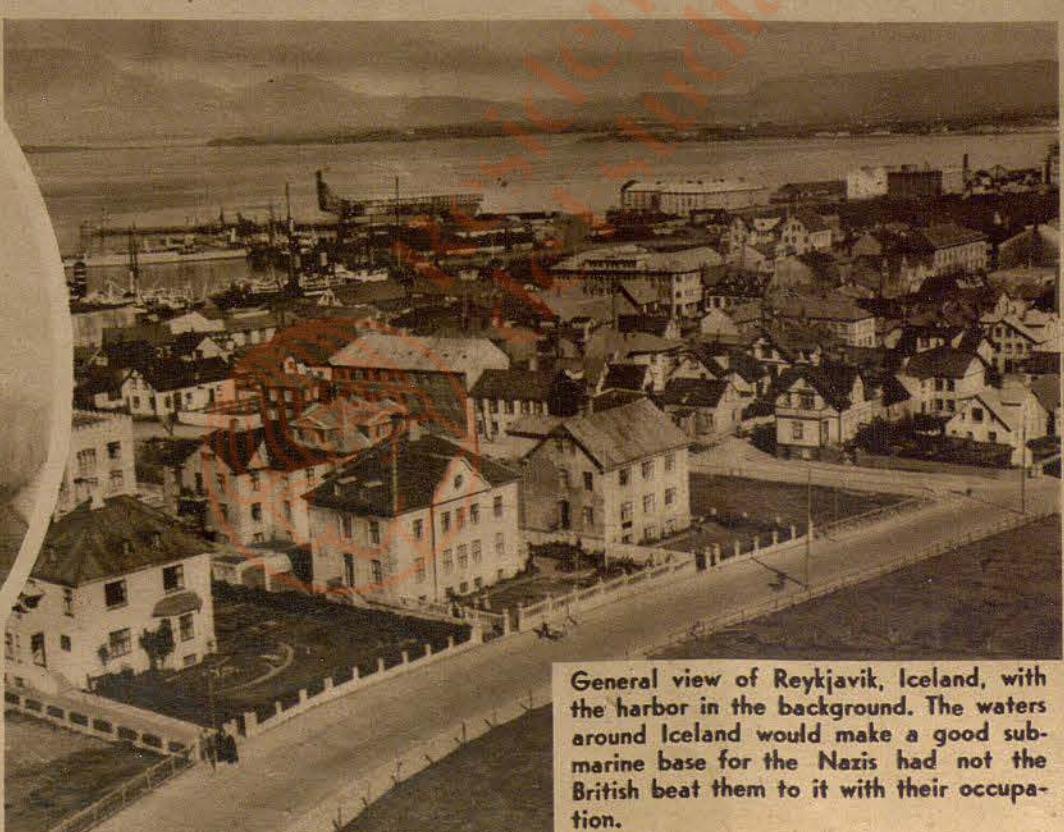
Icelandic children get a ride as British and Canadian troops unload a ship at Reykjavik. The British occupied Iceland as a protective measure early in the war to prevent its being used as a Nazi air base.



A Nazi long range gun mounted on the famous West Wall of Germany just on the eve of the thrust into France and the Low Countries.



A member of the famous Grenadier Guards of the British army on the Maginot line pulling the pin from a grenade. Something of the Allied determination is reflected in his expression.



General view of Reykjavik, Iceland, with the harbor in the background. The waters around Iceland would make a good submarine base for the Nazis had not the British beat them to it with their occupation.

NEXT WEEK: INVASION OF LUXEMBOURG, HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

Picture Story of THE WAR STEP BY STEP

CONTINUED FROM LAST SUNDAY



COVENTRY



LIVERPOOL

One of the most destructive raids of the war came on the night of Nov. 14, 1940, when wave after wave of Nazi bombers rained tons of heavy bombs on the little city of Coventry. There were more than 1,000 casualties. Next morning survivors, above, went to work as usual—where their offices still existed—through a street which had been a shopping center.

The lord mayor of Liverpool (left, in top hat) watches rescue workers laboring to release victims trapped in debris after a Nazi raid (right).

This map shows how Nazi bombers "covered" England fanwise in an attempt to soften the islands for a cross-channel invasion attempt.



0 50 100 MILES



Carrying a gasmask and steel helmet, Prime Minister Winston Churchill leads a group of officials on an inspection of naval units stationed at the great Portsmouth base.

BLITZKRIEG ON ENGLAND!



GERMANS



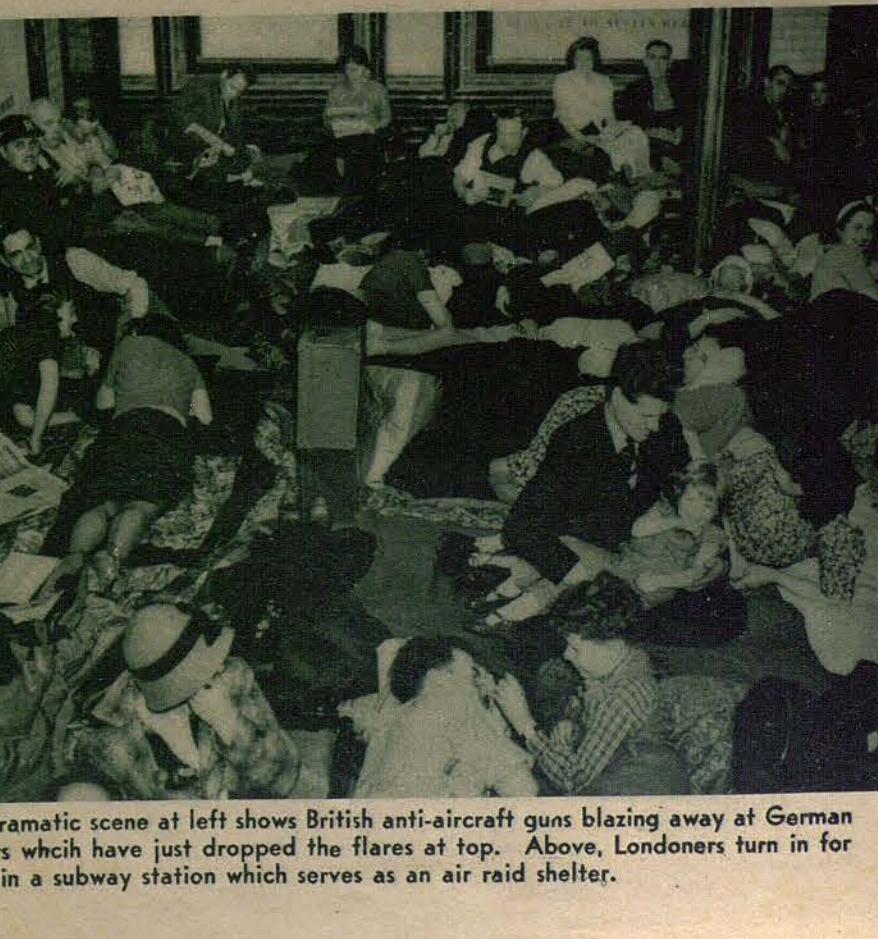
Nazi mosquito boats, above, criss-cross the English channel, harassing the British fleet, raiding merchant convoys.



An English youngster, above, sits in the rubble that only the day before was a familiar London building.



Rescue workers bring a teacher safely from ruins of an air raid shelter under a bomb-struck London school. Hours of digging preceded the rescue. At right, an RAF bomber flies over an enemy tanker which it has just hit.



The dramatic scene at left shows British anti-aircraft guns blazing away at German raiders which have just dropped the flares at top. Above, Londoners turn in for night in a subway station which serves as an air raid shelter.



NEXT WEEK: THE BATTLE OF NORTH AFRICA

