

THE *CONQUEST* and *LIBERATION* of FRANCE



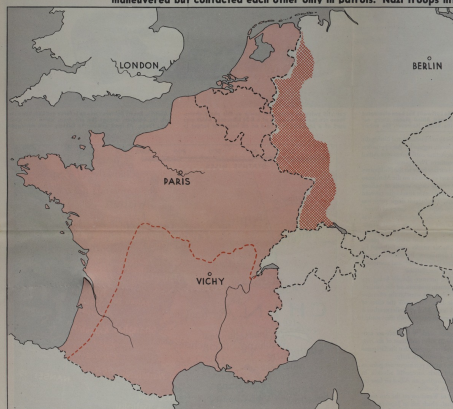
SEPT. 1939 France built her Maginot Line in the ten years before 1939 with the idea that she should never again be invaded by the Germans. Opposite it the Germans threw up the Westwall or Siegfried Line. In the months between September, 1939, and May, 1940, troops in both fortifications maneuvered but contacted each other only in patrols. Nazi troops hit



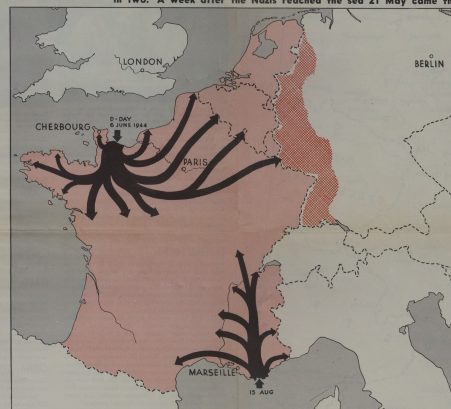
MAY 1940 France at the northwest border after overrunning Poland, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and Belgium and struck where the Maginot Line ended and its weaker extension at the boundary of Belgium began. Fast motor columns drove for the Channel and split the Allied forces in two. A week after the Nazis reached the sea 21 May came the



JUNE 1940 miraculous withdrawal from Dunkerque in which 325,000 Allied troops escaped the German trap. At this helpless moment France was attacked from the south by Italy on 10 June. The Germans entered Paris four days later and while some units pressed southward others swung around behind the Maginot Line. By 24 June the fighting was over. The armistice



NOV. 1942 split France into occupied and unoccupied areas, put more than half the French population under German rule, placed the cost of supporting the occupying forces on the French people and gave Germany the best industrial and agricultural areas. In November, 1942, when the Allies invaded North Africa the last pretext of a French government was



SEPT. 1944 swept away as the Germans moved into Southern France. The freeing of French soil was begun 6 June and the plan that was opened with the Channel crossing is still unfolding. The invasion of Normandy, the drive through Brittany, the new landings on the south coast of France, the invasion of Germany are only continuations of what started long before.



The road back through Paris was begun in many parts of the world, at Guadalcanal, Stalingrad, El Alamein, North Africa, Gela, Salerno, the Ledo Road, and Port Moresby. ... It will be cleared after the march has taken us through the shattered streets of Berlin and the smoking ruins of Tokyo.

Accession Number M1772-01

Description

An American map titled "The Conquest and Liberation of France." The five maps, accompanied by printed text and a photograph, detail Germany's advance and control over Western Europe and the beginning of the Allied assault across northern and southern France. These maps, spanning from September 1939 to September 1944, identify international boundaries, the Westwall (Siegfried Line), the Maginot Line, the points of German advance through the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, the line of farthest German advance as of June 24, 1940, the points of the Italian attack on southeastern France beginning on June 10, 1940, and the points of the Allied landings and advance across northern and southern France. This map is located on the back of M1772.

Date(s)

September 18, 1944

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