

## THE MARCH OF WAR IN GREATER EAST ASIA THE BURMA CAMPAIGN

After the fall of Rangoon, the Japanese drive on Loikaw split up the Chungking forces stationed near the Thai/Burma border and those in the Mandalay sector. While this column advanced via Loilem and captured Lashio on April 29 and Bhamo on May 3, Mandalay fell on May 1 to an armored division pushing northward on the highway parallel to the railway line. The British troops, who endeavored to escape into Assam, were hotly pursued across the Irrawaddy River, along the railway, and then through dense jungles to Kalewa, where they suffered a major defeat. From Kalewa the Japanese continued their advance to Homalin. Another Japanese column, which had taken Myitkyina during its thrust from Bhamo, swung westward in order to prevent a British retreat towards Fort Hertz.

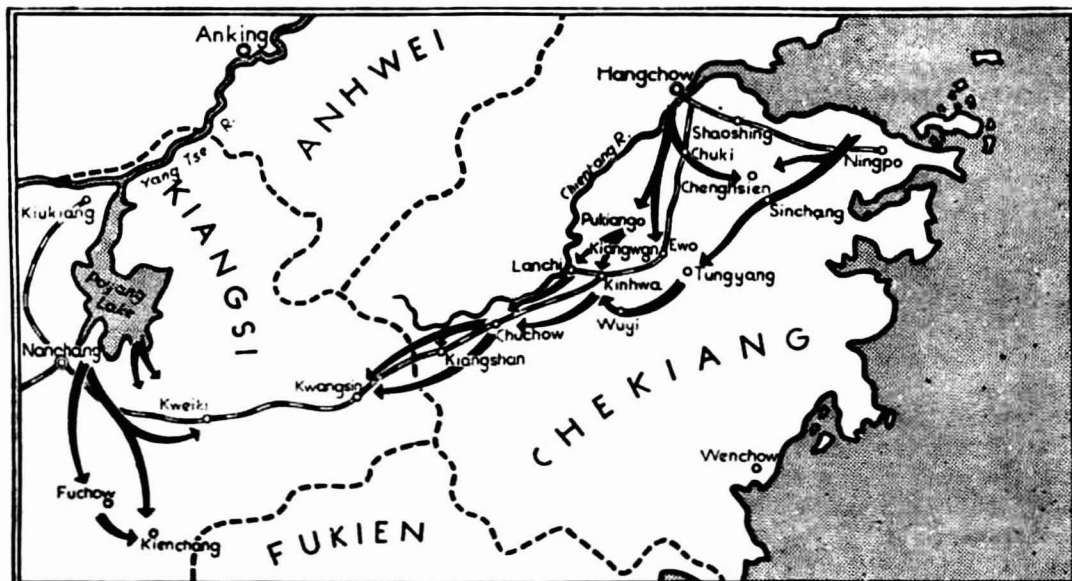
The capture of Akyab and a drive from Rangoon in a northwesterly direction resulted in the annihilation of British forces in the Arakan Mountains.

The Chungking forces in their turn were pursued from Lashio to Lungling and from Bhamo to Tengyueh. Mopping-up operations in that sector culminated in the fall of Paoshan. Isolated enemy remnants on the Thai/Burma border were attacked by Thai troops, who captured Kengtung and continued their advance in an easterly direction.



## THE CHEKIANG-KIANGSI CAMPAIGN

On May 15 a Japanese drive got under way against the Chungking forces in eastern Chekiang Province, aimed at gaining control over the Chekiang-Kiangsi railway. It was complemented by a second attack south of Lake Poyang in Kiangsi Province which started on May 31. At the time of writing, the two columns advancing from the east and west have not yet joined hands but are likely to do so within a short time.



## THE MARCH OF WAR IN GREATER EUROPE

### THE SOVIET FRONT

**D**URING the spring the Red Army had concentrated vast masses of troops on the Kertch Peninsula and in the territory east of Kharkov. This was apparently done with the aim of gripping the German and allied troops in a huge pincer movement through the Crimea and central Ukraine and throwing them out of their easternmost positions in the triangle Kharkov/Taganrog/Crimea, in order to recapture for the Soviets this industrially extremely important area.

#### KERTCH

The battle of Kertch began with a German attack northeast of Feodosiya on May 8. It was characterized by a concentration of *Stukas* which overshadowed anything previously seen. On May 19 the battle was concluded, with the entire peninsula having been swept clear of enemies. Moscow did not admit the loss of the peninsula until May 24. The Germans and Rumanians took 170,000 prisoners and captured 284 tanks and 1,397 guns. Timoshenko's left fist had been crushed.

#### KHARKOV

The battle of Kharkov began with a Soviet offensive. On May 12 Stalin

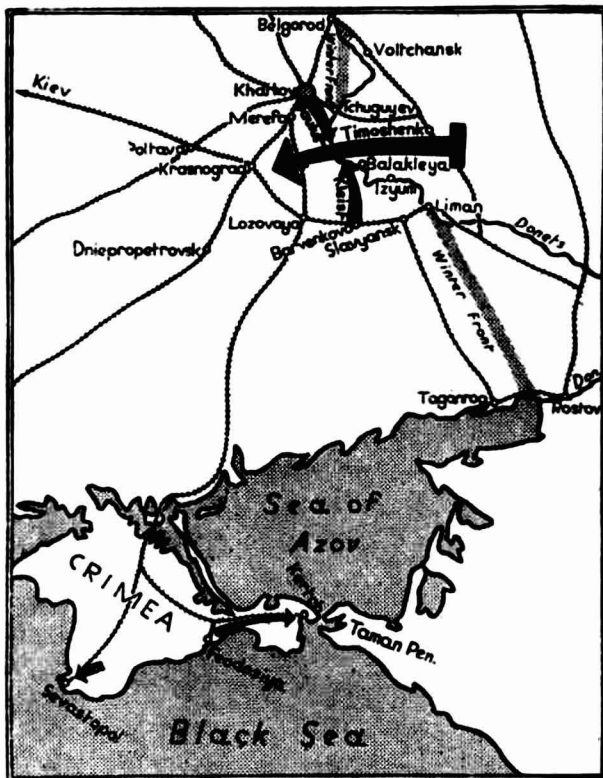
issued the following order of the day: "I hereby issue the order to our troops to start the decisive offensive against our tenacious enemy. We have entered into a new phase of the war, the phase of liberation of the Soviet Union."

On the same day huge quantities of men and material were set in motion toward the west. The line Belgorod/Slavyansk, held by German, Italian, and

Hungarian troops during the winter, was broken southeast of Kharkov, and a flood of half a million men rolled through the breach as far as the important railroad Kharkov/Krassnograd. Those were the days in which Moscow, London, and Washington triumphantly spoke of a great victory of Timoshenko.

Field Marshal von Bock let the Red armies thrust eighty miles behind the German lines for five days. On May 17

two German Panzer armies received orders to march, one under General Paulus from Kharkov southward, the other under General von Kleist from Barvenkovo northward. With an irresistible pressure they cut into the right and left flanks of Timoshenko's army. On May 22 they made contact with each



other, and the trap closed behind the Red armies.

The next few days were a hell for the surrounded Red troops. Forced into a constantly decreasing space by the iron ring around them, they were exposed to an incessant rain of German shells and bombs and cut off from any effective support by their reserve armies. The center of destruction was the little town of Alekseyevskoye, marked with a cross in our map.

On May 28 the German Supreme Command announced the conclusion of the battle. 240,000 Red soldiers had been taken prisoner, and 1,249 tanks, 2,026 guns, and 538 planes were captured or destroyed. Timoshenko's right fist had been smashed.

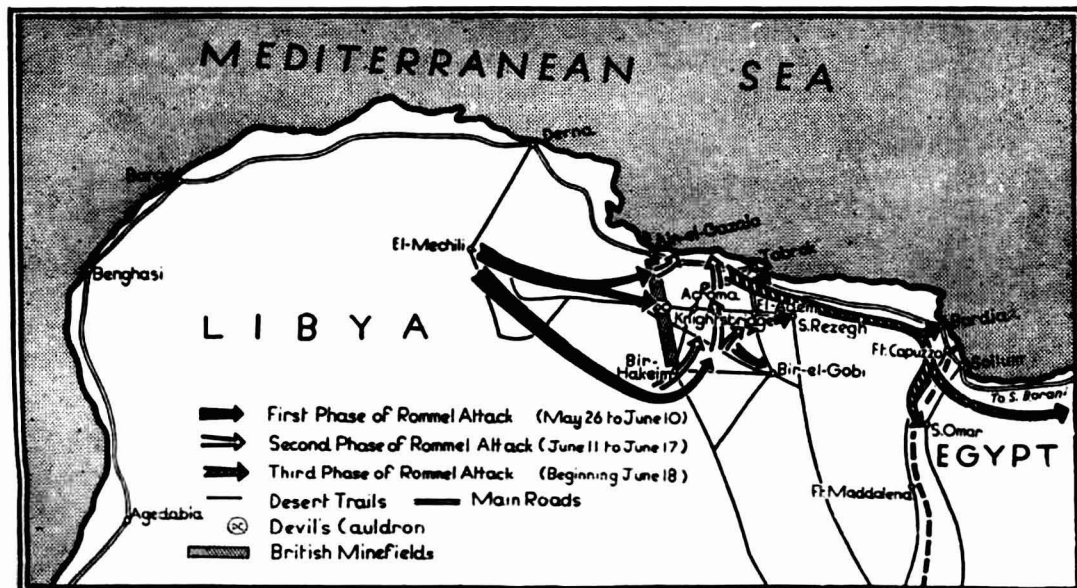
#### SEVASTOPOL

This port, once a flourishing colony of ancient Greece, was later named by the Romans in honor of Emperor Augustus

(in Greek *sebasios* means august and *polis* means city). After the conquest of the Crimean Peninsula by Russia's Catherine the Great in 1783, Potemkin, the favorite of the Empress and notorious for his faked villages, turned Sevastopol into a naval port. In the Crimean War, troops from England, France, Turkey, and Sardinia landed on September 14, 1854, on the peninsula and shortly afterwards commenced the siege of the fortress. After almost a year of stubborn resistance, immortalized by Leo Tolstoy in his *Sevastopol*, the Russians abandoned the fortress on September 11, 1855, sinking their ships and blowing up the forts.

The present battle of Sevastopol began on June 4 with powerful thrusts of German and Rumanian troops against the strong fortifications of the city. On June 11 a large breach was effected; on June 14 Fort Stalin, one of the strongest forts, and on June 17 Fort Siberia surrendered; on July 1 Sevastopol fell.

#### THE NORTH AFRICAN FRONT



This map was redrawn twice in order to keep up with the rush of events in North Africa. In spite of this, Field Marshal Rommel's campaign has now moved far beyond the edge of our latest map.

Undaunted by the terrific summer heat in the desert, he set out from El-Mechili on May 26. In less than five weeks his advance carried him almost 400 miles across Cyrenaica and into Egypt. At the time of going to press his advance units have reached a point 60 miles from Alexandria.