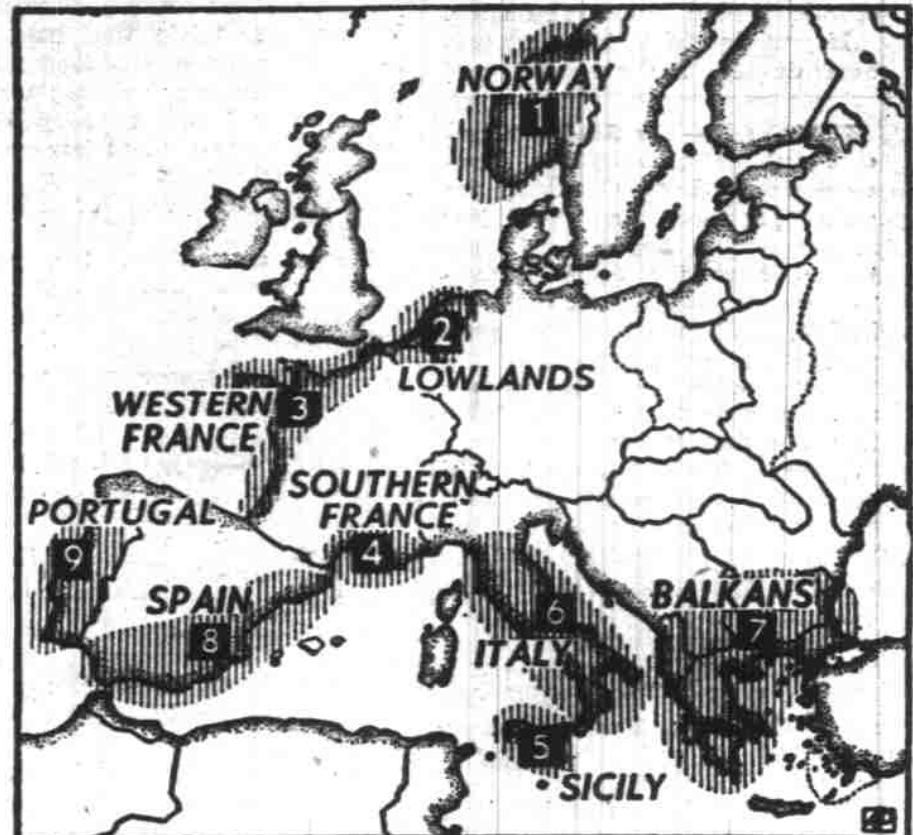


Where Will Invasion Come?

Nine Possible Action Points Described For Allied Thrust at Axis in Europe

By JOHN L. SPRINGER
AP Features Writer

Where the United Nations will invade axis-held Europe is the closely guarded secret of military leaders, but that it will come there is no doubt. Here are thumbnail surveys of the nine continental regions where full-scale action may burgeon this spring:



Allied military leaders are not spinning a wheel to determine which of these numbers will come up for the invasion of Europe, but all are considered possible second fronts.

- 1. NORWAY** (pop. 3,000,000), facing sea for 1100 miles from the North Cape to Skagerak, has already been invaded many times by British commandos. Mountainous, irregular, fjord-bound, Norway's 12,000 mile coastline and 150,000 islands now shelter nazi U-boats and part of the German fleet. Mountains and forests have hindered inland rail development, and its rugged terrain makes Norway hard to attack, relatively easy to defend.
- 2. THE LOWLANDS**, facing the North sea, are level, probably ripe for revolt. Holland's broad, sandy coast consists largely of delta portions of the rivers Maase and Rhine. One-fourth of the country is below sea-level and inland traffic centers on canals and rivers. Belgium, with its seaboard of 62 miles, boasts of Antwerp, one of Europe's greatest ports. In the west it is low, rising to eastern tablelands. The most densely populated country in Europe with 8 1/2 million natives, Belgium is rich in axis-needed coal, iron and grains.
- 3. WESTERN FRANCE**, with a 1500-mile coastline from the Straits of Dover to the Pyrenees, has been the most heavily bombed of all potential allied invasion points. Low plains and bluffs form its coast, which at its nearest point is only 22 miles from England. Excellent rail and motor roads criss-cross France, but strong fortifications guard the approaches to Germany. Across the channel from England are many seaports, such as Dieppe, where the war's greatest invasion rehearsal has been held.
- 4. SOUTHERN FRANCE**, so-called axis "under-belly," extends along 384 miles of Mediterranean coast and includes Marseilles, France's second largest city, and the naval base at Toulon. Beyond the coast, on the west, stand the rugged Cevennes mountains. Southwest are the sunny plains of Garonne and Languedoc. On the east tower the Maritime Alps.
- 5. SICILY**, 80 miles from Cape Bon, Tunisia, and two miles from Italy's toe across the Straits of Messina, has been used as an advance base for historic attacks on Italy. Sicily's 9860 square miles are mountainous in the north. Highlands in the south. West and south coasts are flat; the eastern, steep and rocky. About 1200 miles of railways serve the 4,000,000 Sicilians who fish and farm. Sicily has rich sulphur deposits.
- 6. ITALY** has loomed as a likely invasion point since the US and British offensives in north Africa. Much of its Mediterranean coast is mountainous, but there are many potential landing spots, including the area from Rome to Leghorn in the center, with flat coastlines. Railroads run along both coasts, from the tip of the toe to the northern Po valley and the Alps. The Italian army is estimated at about 1,500,000. The air force numbers from 1500 to 3000 planes; the navy has 80,000 men.
- 7. THE BALKAN STATES**—Albania, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Rumania—may be thrown open to invasion by the allies if Turkey should join the United Nations. Separated from central Europe by the Transylvanian Alps in the north, and from the Adriatic and Ionian seas on the west by the tall, rocky Dinaric Alps, the Balkan countries support more than 50,000,000 diverse peoples under the axis, which thousands of guerrillas are fiercely resisting. The geographical pattern of the Balkans favors movement from Turkey to central Europe. Natural link is the Danube. Major rail routes also run from the Greek port of Salonika, where allies launched a successful Balkan invasion in World war I, and from Istanbul up through Rumania.
- 8. SPAIN**, possible scene of a nazi thrust, is the European gateway to the British fortress at Gibraltar and the allies' west flank in north Africa. Despite the Pyrenees, good rail routes run from France to Spain—from Bordeaux to Bilbao, from Marseilles to Barcelona. Although seven-eighths of its border touches water, Spain is largely separated from the seas by steep, rocky coastal ranges and has relatively few good harbors. Spain's army is estimated

at 750,000 men. Its navy is poorly equipped and weak.

9. PORTUGAL, extending for 362 miles along the Atlantic face of the Iberian peninsula, might permit allied occupation in the event of a German invasion of Spain. Traditionally a friend of Great Britain, Portugal now profits from its neutrality. It has two good ports, Lisbon and Oporto, and is separated from Spain by no great natural boundaries. In 1940, the Portuguese army totalled only 30,000, its navy 6,500 men. Both have since been strengthened.

Grand Island Sisters Happy-Beat Priorities UNIONVALE—A Grand Island resident and her sister, who

wish to remain anonymous, are the happiest people in their district this week. They pulled off some smart shopping in Salem Monday. For the first time in more than a year, they were able to purchase a paper of pins. Residents of the Grand Island district have forgotten what pins look like since it has been so long since they were obtainable.

Salem Folk Visit at A. R. Barnes Home

LOONEY BUTTE—Visitors at the A. R. Barnes home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Edsall of Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Farnen and children visited relatives in Turner Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Keller and

Karen were Sunday visitors at the G.O. McCurdy home.

The following pupils were on the honor roll at Looney Butte school for last quarter: Raymond Terhune, Sue Mille, Ralph Diercks, LeRoy Farnen, Patricia Barnes, Jean Farnen, Betty Jean Diercks, Richard Miller, Gloria Barnes, Elmer Diercks and Robert Barnes.

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