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ensure the secrecy of this document.**WAR CABINET**
—**WEEKLY RÉSUMÉ**

(No. 104)

of the

NAVAL, MILITARY AND AIR SITUATION

from 0700 August 21st, to

0700 August 28th,

1941

[Circulated with the approval of
the Chiefs of Staff.]

NAVAL SITUATION.

General Review.

Shipping losses have been moderate and well below the weekly average for the war.

Successful operations have been carried out by H.M. ships in the Western Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf.

The number of attacks on U-Boats by aircraft in the North-Western Approaches has been exceptionally high.

Home Waters.

2. The Free French Submarine *Rubis* torpedoed a Finnish merchant ship off Norway, on the 21st, at close range. The *Rubis* was damaged by the explosions, and forced to return on the surface escorted by H.M. Ships and our aircraft.

H.M.S. *Southern Prince* (minelayer) was torpedoed 70 miles west of the Faroes, but was able to return to port at reduced speed.

H.M. Netlayer *Tonbridge* was sunk by bombs off Yarmouth. H.M. Sloop *Black Swan*, while escorting a coastal convoy, was damaged by a near miss off Milford Haven, and returned to port with two unexploded bombs on board; these were successfully removed. The lighthouse at Myggenaes, Faroes, was bombed and the wireless station damaged during the afternoon of the 24th.

An enemy aircraft was shot down by H.M. Trawler *Brabant* off the Northumbrian coast.

Approximately 23,900 tons of enemy shipping have been sunk or seriously damaged during the week by aircraft of the Bomber and Coastal Commands.

Northern Waters.

3. H.M. Submarine *Tigris* torpedoed and sank a merchant ship of 3,000 tons off the Norwegian coast.

A laden ammunition ship of 5,000 tons and a 2,000-ton merchant vessel were sunk in Petsamo harbour by a Russian submarine.

North Atlantic.

4. During the night of the 23rd/24th, H.M. Corvette *Zinnia*, while escorting an outward-bound Gibraltar convoy, was torpedoed and sunk to the westward of Oporto. Details of the attack on the convoy are given in Paragraph 11.

H.M. Canadian Armed Merchant Cruiser *Prince David* reported on the 21st that she had sighted and lost touch with an unknown enemy ship, which she believed to be a heavy cruiser, 700 miles E.N.E. of Bermuda.

Mediterranean.

5. The Gibraltar Force, comprising H.M. Ships *Nelson*, *Ark Royal*, *Hermione*, *Manxman* (minelayer) and five destroyers, carried out operations in the Western Mediterranean during the week. Early on the 24th aircraft from H.M.S. *Ark Royal* set on fire the cork forests and successfully attacked factories in the neighbourhood of Tempio, Northern Sardinia. During the day submarine and aircraft reports indicated that Italian forces totalling three battleships, six cruisers and numerous destroyers were at sea between Sardinia and Sicily. The Gibraltar Force proceeded to the southward, but was unable to make contact, as air reconnaissance failed to locate the enemy. A report received about nightfall showed the enemy to be too far to the eastward for air attack, and the Gibraltar Force returned to port. A Cant floatplane, which was shadowing on the afternoon of the 24th, was damaged by naval fighters and a Ju. 52 was shot down. Some of the Italian forces were reported on the 26th entering the Straits of Messina from the northward, and all are believed to have returned to harbour.

H.M. Submarine *Torbay* has reached Alexandria with 130 British and Allied troops on board from Crete. Previous to embarking these troops she sank a large Italian schooner off Cape Matapan. H.M. Submarine *Unbeaten*, on the 19th, attacked a southbound convoy of four fast liners to the south-west of Mazzara, Sicily, and obtained one hit with a torpedo. On the following day H.M. Submarine *Unique*, off Tripoli, also attacked four liners escorted by destroyers, and claimed three hits on the Italian S.S. *Esperia* (11,398 tons). H.M. Submarine *Upholder* sank a laden 2,000-ton merchant ship and obtained two torpedo hits on the Italian Fleet Oiler *Tarvisio* (5,484 tons) off the north-west of Sicily.

H.M. Submarines *P.32* and *P.33* are overdue from patrol, and *P.33* must be considered lost.

H.M.S. *Phæbe* was torpedoed by an aircraft north of Bardia on the 27th and returned to port at reduced speed. Earlier in the week H.M. Destroyer *Nizam* was bombed and stopped by a near miss when returning to base from Tobruk, but was able to proceed.

During the week nine French merchant ships (upwards of 24,400 tons) eastward and four (17,947 tons) westward have passed Gibraltar under escort.

Persian Gulf.

6. A military force was landed on the Persian coast from H.M. Ships on the 25th August. In the course of the operations, two Persian sloops, *Babr* and *Palang* (950 tons, built 1931, three 4-inch) were sunk, and four gunboats, a depot ship, two tugs and a floating dock of 6,000 tons capacity were captured. One merchant ship was sunk and seven were captured, of which the German *Hohenfels* (7,862 tons) and the *Sturmfels* (6,288 tons) were undamaged, and five others, though sabotaged, can be repaired. Admiral Bayender, the Commander-in-Chief of the naval and military forces in South Persia, was killed. British naval casualties were one officer and three ratings wounded.

Anti-Submarine Operations.

7. There were eighteen attacks on U-boats during the week, fourteen by aircraft and four by surface ships. One attack by a destroyer was made west of Cape Finisterre and one by aircraft to the westward of Lisbon. All the remainder took place in the North-Western Approaches between the latitudes of Galway and the Faroes. One U-boat is believed to have been severely damaged and an attack by H.M. Trawler *Vascama* appeared promising. Hits were claimed on two other occasions, but there was no definite evidence of destruction.

Enemy Intelligence.

German.

8. No changes have been reported in the positions of the main German units. Analysis of air photographs shows that there have been considerable delays in building in some shipyards, particularly in the completion of U-boats.

Raiders.

9. It is estimated that there are four surface raiders at large, one each in the Pacific, Indian and South Atlantic Oceans and the fourth in either the North or South Atlantic.

U-boats.

10. About thirty German U-boats and six or seven Italians have been operating in the Atlantic. Most of the Germans have operated in the area between the north-western coast of Ireland (R) and the south of Iceland (C). Others were to the westward of Portugal and two or three are believed to be in the South Atlantic.

Enemy Attack on Seaborne Trade.

11. Shipping casualties so far reported have again been well below the average, in spite of attacks on two convoys. U-boats continued their concentrated attacks on the outward-bound convoy to Gibraltar mentioned in last week's

Résumé, and it is estimated that at one time there were as many as nine U-boats in the vicinity. They sank three more ships and a tug, making a total of eight vessels, in addition to the Norwegian Destroyer *Bath* and H.M. Corvette *Zinnia*. An outward Atlantic convoy was attacked by U-boats to the westward of Ireland (R) and at least four ships were sunk. One ship, dispersed from an outward convoy, was torpedoed and sunk in the North-Western Approaches. One ship was damaged by a mine off Pantellaria and another was shelled by a U-boat on passage from Malta to Gibraltar. One ship was mined and sunk in the River Orwell. A raider sank a Dutch ship off the Galapagos Islands on the 17th and probably a second vessel two days later.

Protection of Seaborne Trade.

12. During the week ending the 27th August 1,079 ships, including 214 Allied and 32 neutral, were convoyed. Four anti-aircraft ships, nine armed merchant cruisers, sixty destroyers and ninety sloops, corvettes and minesweepers were employed on escort duties.

Imports into Great Britain by ships in convoy during the week ending the 23rd August totalled 1,373,683 tons, compared with 618,817 tons during the previous week and an average of 892,743 tons during the past 10 weeks. Oil imports amounted to 492,962 tons in 45 tankers. Mineral imports were 344,120 tons, of which 218,116 tons were steel, scrap iron, pig iron and iron ore. Wood and pulp imports were 51,121 tons and cereal imports were 216,342 tons, of which 11,140 tons were rice. Twenty-six ships were fully laden with grain. Other food imports totalled 201,816 tons, the principal commodities being: sugar and molasses, 88,619 tons; refrigerated and tinned meat, bacon and hams, 38,869 tons; evaporated and tinned milk, 11,016 tons; lard and fats, 9,914 tons; cheese, 6,116 tons; dried, tinned and fresh fruit, 8,883 tons. Imports of machinery, aircraft, motor-lorries, ammunition and aircraft were satisfactory.

British Minelaying.

13. On the 21st August the Free French submarine *Rubis* laid 18 mines off the Norwegian coast and on the following day M.T.Bs. laid 8 off the Belgian coast and H.M.S. *Agamemnon* laid 624 off North Rona. On the 25th August H.M. Ships *Southern Prince*, *Port Quebec* and *Adventure* laid 1,390 in the Iceland (C)-Faroes Channel. There has been considerable minelaying by aircraft off the French Biscay ports, the German North Sea coast and in the Western Baltic. In the Mediterranean H.M.S. *Manxman* laid 156 mines on the 24th August.

Enemy Minelaying, British Minesweeping.

Home Waters.

14. Minelaying by aircraft was again on a small scale and was carried out only on alternative nights. On four nights during the week minelaying was suspected off the East coast from the North Foreland to the Firth of Forth and off Milford Haven.

Twenty-one ground mines have been destroyed during the week. The mine totals are:—magnetic 1,345, acoustic 949, and contact 1,022.

Foreign Waters.

Two dangerous areas have been declared and a searched channel established at Beyrout. New searched channels have been established at Rangoon and Penang.

Enemy Merchant Shipping.

15. Finnish broadcasts have stated that the Finnish *Hogland* (4,360 tons), with a cargo of iron ore for a German port, was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Norway on the 17th August.

The German Government has offered to sell the *Montevideo* (6,675 tons) and the *Windhuk* (16,662 tons), both in Brazilian ports, to the Brazilian Government.

The Italian *Barbarigo* (5,295 tons) is reliably reported to have been sunk. The purchase by the Argentine Government of the sixteen Italian ships in Argentine ports was completed on the 25th August.

Intelligence.

Russia.

16. Odessa is being supplied from Sebastopol by about one ship per day. It is reported that minesweepers and other small craft have been collected by the enemy in Bessarabian ports.

U.S.A.

17. The two German and twenty-seven Italian merchant ships taken over by the United States Government are being transferred to the Panamanian flag, although they will be kept under the control of the Maritime Commission. The thirty-seven Danish ships in the U.S.A. are to be requisitioned by the Maritime Commission.

MILITARY SITUATION.

(An outline map showing Axis operations against Russia is included in this Résumé as an inset.)

Russo-German Campaign.

18. Outstanding events of the week were an advance by the Finns to within a few miles of Viipuri, a German advance in the Baltic area threatening the Moscow-Leningrad railway and Leningrad itself, and a serious drive south-eastwards near Gomel combined with an attempt to outflank Kiev from the north by an advance north-eastward from the Korosten-Kiev railway.

Except for Odessa and a few bridgeheads held by Soviet forces west of the Dnieper, the area of the Ukraine within the bend of this river, from just below Kiev southwards, is in German hands.

Finland.

19. The Finns now claim to be holding the eastern bank of the River Vuoksi from Enso to Kivinniemi. This implies that the Russians in the east of the Isthmus have retired south of the water defences of the former Mannerheim Line.

A big-scale attack on Viipuri has developed from the west and north. The River Vuoksi has been forded at Autrea and Finnish forces claim to be within a few miles of Viipuri.

The Baltic Front.

20. The German effort during the past week has been concentrated on the drive eastwards north of Lake Ilmen which has resulted in a further advance east of the River Luga and the fall of Novgorod. These constitute a very serious threat to the Moscow-Leningrad railway and Leningrad itself.

South of Lake Ilmen there has been little appreciable change.

White Russia.

21. There has been no eastward advance on this front.

Ukraine.

22. During the past week the most serious development on this front has been the south-easterly advance of strong German armoured and motorised forces through Gomel. This drive is believed already to have penetrated into the extreme northern districts of the Ukraine.

23. Simultaneously with this drive from the north, German forces have advanced north-eastwards north of Kiev, and there are indications that the crossing of the River Dnieper, near the confluence of the River Pripet, has been effected. Thus, both Kiev itself and the Soviet forces between Gomel and Kiev are threatened simultaneously with envelopment from the north and from the

south, and the continued advance from the north would turn the line of the Dnieper.

24. Operations within the bend of the Dnieper, aimed at eliminating all bridgeheads held by Soviet forces on the right bank, are believed to have been very largely successful. At the same time there is no confirmation of the Germans having secured bridgeheads on the left bank, though a strong effort is being made to do so near Dniepropetrovsk, which the Germans claimed on the 26th August to have taken.

Odessa remains in Russian hands.

Operations.

Libya and Egypt.

25. During the earlier part of the week patrolling activity in the Western Desert was curtailed by a heavy sandstorm. The usual minor activity on both sides, including daily and nightly bombing of Tobruk, has been maintained.

Abyssinia.

26. A serious explosion took place on the 22nd August in the Naval barracks at Assab, causing the death of four Europeans and wounding several others. There was some suspicion of a delayed-action mine, and a court of enquiry is being held.

East Africa.

27. It has been decided to form a new command in East Africa, to come into effect on the 15th September. This command will comprise all territories south of the Sudan border and north of the Southern Rhodesian border, and will be commanded by Lieut.-General Sir W. Platt.

Persia.

28. Successful military operations, combined with a Russian invasion from the north, culminated in an order from the Shah that all resistance should cease.

29. In the early morning of the 25th August our forces crossed the Persian frontier. The attack was carried out by two columns:—

(a) *The Southern Column* operating from Basra in co-operation with the Royal Navy, consisted of:—

8 Indian Division.
13 D.C.O. Lancers.

(b) *The Northern Column* operating from Khanaquin, consisted of:—

9 Armd. Bde.
14/20 Hussars.
1/5 Gurkha Rifles.
2/7 Gurkha Rifles.
21 Indian Inf. Bde. (less one bn.) and supporting arms.

By the end of the first day the Southern Column had captured the oil refinery at Abadan, which was undamaged, and the town of Khurramshahr. The port of Bandar Shahpur surrendered to two companies of 3/10 Baluch Regt. co-operating with the Royal Navy.

One company of 3/10 Baluch Regt. was landed by air in the oilfields area for the protection of British employees.

The Northern Column had captured the oilfield at Naft-i-Shah and the town of Qasr-i-Shirin, after meeting some opposition. Our casualties were not severe.

30. By the end of the second day the 24th Indian Infantry Brigade, in the South, had advanced forty miles towards Ahwaz. In the North, our forces had occupied Gilan (South of the Pai-Tak pass) and were continuing the advance in the direction of Shanabad.

Intelligence.*Germany.*

31. It is believed that there are still 26 German divisions in France and an analysis of the identified divisions has led to the following deductions:—

32. This garrison consists of Reserve, Landwehr, Ersatz and Landes-schutzen divisions which are composed generally of elderly reservists, men of low medical category and raw recruits. These formations are not of high fighting value and probably lack modern equipment.

It appears, therefore, that the total of 26 divisions includes a considerable number which are of value only for internal security purposes, and that the effective field force seems unlikely to exceed 10-15 divisions.

33. There are probably now four tank battalions in France, recently formed and still completing training; two each in the areas Bordeaux-Bayonne and Paris; those in the Paris area are certainly equipped with French tanks.

Spain.

34. The Germans are still improving communications and establishing dumps near the Franco-Spanish frontier. In addition to these long-term preparations, it is reported that the French coast from Biarritz southwards to the Spanish frontier has been declared a forbidden zone and is to be completely evacuated of its civilian population. The marked increase in heavy coast defence artillery along that coast revealed by air reconnaissance suggests that this measure may be due to fear of an attempted British landing, rather than an indication of early German action against Spain.

Far East.

35. The present distribution of Japanese Divisions is believed to be as follows:—

	<i>Divisions.</i>
Manchukuo	21
Korea	2
Sakhalin	2
Japan	14
N. China	3
C. China	10
S. China (Canton Area)	2
Formosa	3
Hainan	2
French Indo-China (South)	2
Total	61

36. No confirmation has been received that the Japanese troops in Southern Indo-China exceed the two divisions which it is known have been sent there, and their strength is probably approximately 50,000.

AIR SITUATION.**General Review.**

37. The results of our night operations against Germany were difficult to observe owing to poor visibility, and there is little of importance to record from the Home Front.

German activity over this country was again on a small scale.

Our aircraft co-operated with other forces in the operations in Persia.

Germany and Occupied Territory.*Day.*

38. Bomber Command despatched 110 sorties, compared with 157 last week, and dropped 23 tons of H.E. bombs and 86 incendiaries by day. Fighter Command flew 1,071 aircraft sorties in the course of offensive operations over Northern France and the Netherlands and against shipping.

Twelve Blenheims, escorted by long-range fighters, successfully attacked IJmuiden Iron and Steel Works; all bombs hit the target and bursts were seen on the rolling mill, warehouse, cooling tower and other buildings.

39. An attack by Whirlwind fighters on aerodromes at Maupertus and Lannion resulted in the destruction on the ground of 13 enemy bombers. A further four bombers were damaged and six fighters, also on the ground, were attacked with cannon fire.

40. Aircraft of Fighter Command, in addition to providing escorts, carried out a number of offensive sweeps over enemy territory, involving a total of 89 squadron sorties. In most cases, German fighter formations seemed unwilling to give combat except under very favourable circumstances. On the occasions when combats took place, our fighters destroyed 14 of them, probably destroyed 15 and damaged 15. Considerable A.A. fire was encountered and, during the week, we lost 31 fighters, four pilots being rescued. (These casualties include those incurred during attacks on shipping, see Coastal Operations.)

Night.

41. Bomber Command despatched 554 sorties, compared with 878 in the previous week. Operations were considerably hampered throughout the week by persistent bad weather and on two nights had to be cancelled. The main weight of our offensive was again concentrated on industrial and railway centres in Germany. The total of 525 tons of H.E. bombs and 44,545 incendiaries released during the period under review shows a considerable reduction, due to the prevailing weather, below the previous week. A number of the heaviest type bombs were employed and in all the major attacks numerous large fires were left burning.

42. Mannheim was raided on three occasions, during which a total of 187 tons of H.E. bombs and 13,650 incendiaries were dropped; two 4,000 lb. bombs which fell near the industrial district created huge explosions followed by enormous fires. A series of continued explosions elsewhere in the same area was also reported. Cologne was heavily attacked on one night (90 tons of H.E. bombs and 6,500 incendiaries). Lighter scale attacks were carried out against Düsseldorf, Karlsruhe and on the docks at Havre.

United Kingdom.

43. Fighter Command flew a total of 2,534 sorties (719 patrols) by day and 476 sorties (313 patrols) by night; the latter totals include dusk and dawn operations. Cross-Channel offensive operations and shipping patrols account for the bulk of our effort.

44. The operations carried out by the German Air Force units based on the Western Front were on a small scale and without any special feature. The bombing of land targets at night was very ineffective. Most of the incidents occurred in the Eastern Counties and were mainly the work of long-range night fighters.

Coastal Operations.

45. Coastal Command flew 204 patrols (382 sorties) and provided escorts for 49 convoys (219 additional sorties). Shipping protection patrols carried out by Fighter Command totalled 529 (1,176 sorties).

46. Aircraft of Bomber Command, sometimes with fighter protection, searched for and attacked enemy shipping. Off IJmuiden, Blenheims sank a 7,500-ton merchant vessel in convoy and a 500-ton reporting vessel, and scored hits on five other vessels of a total tonnage of about 14,500 tons. A 3,500-ton merchant vessel in convoy off Norderney and two 700-ton trawlers near Calais were also hit.

47. Forty-two aircraft were engaged in laying sea-mines off Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire and the Frisian Islands and in the Western Baltic.

48. German operations during daylight were almost wholly confined to oversea reconnaissance. The Condor unit operating from Bordeaux was active over the Atlantic west of Eire, due west from Bordeaux and to the south-west, off the coast of Portugal. Few shipping attacks were carried out during the week, although most of the offensive effort was directed to this phase of operations. One daylight attack was made off the Faroes, and five were made at dusk off East Anglia, St. David's Head, Holy Island, the Smalls and East Scotland.

Central Mediterranean.

49. Attacks were made on Tripoli (L) on five nights; Wellingtons operating from Malta made a total of 52 sorties and dropped over 86 tons of H.E. and incendiary bombs. These attacks, which were most successful, were concentrated on the harbour area, and on military stores and supply dumps. Direct hits were made on quay warehouses, which were probably destroyed, and some very extensive fires were reported in the harbour and in military supply dump area; damage was also caused to shipping and harbour installations, and one merchant vessel was subsequently revealed to have a broken back and to be sunk alongside the Spanish Quay.

50. Some successful attacks were again carried out against shipping plying between Sicily and the African Coast. Two Blenheims made three hits on a 4,000-ton merchant vessel north-east of Kerkena, which was claimed to be sunk; unfortunately, one of these aircraft hit the mast and crashed in flames. Two schooners with an escort vessel were attacked and destroyed by four Blenheims in the Gulf of Sidra. On another occasion a bomb exploded on the deck of a merchant vessel of 1,000 tons, and a schooner was machine-gunned and left sinking. Other Blenheims, unable to locate any enemy shipping, made an attack on lorries travelling on the Tripoli (L)-Benghazi road. A night attack on the 27th/28th August by naval Swordfish resulted in one hit on a vessel of 8,000 tons; this was followed by flashes and a red glow.

51. The enemy made two minor attacks on Malta by night. On the second of these two aircraft believed to be Ju. 88s were seriously damaged by Hurricanes. During daylight on the 26th August, nine Macchi 200s were intercepted by Hurricanes 50 miles from the island; three were shot down, one falling on to a village in Sicily, and two others were probably destroyed, for the loss of one of our aircraft.

Egypt and Cyrenaica.

52. Four night attacks were made on Benghazi; these were effective, although they were on a small scale. During daylight on the 21st August, 12 Marylands accompanied by fighters bombed Gambut and Menastir; on the return journey they were intercepted over Sidi Barrani and two Marylands were shot down. Two raids by a total of 11 Marylands were carried out on a concentration of A.F.V.s near Ras Uenna (46 miles East of Tobruk) and many direct hits were made on the target. Another good attack was made by nine Marylands on a large enemy dump near Bardia.

53. Fighters continued to provide shipping protection patrols. On the 21st August a series of attacks were attempted by a total of 50 to 60 German aircraft, including fighters. These were intercepted by Tomahawks and Hurricanes, who destroyed two Me. 110s, probably destroyed four Me. 110s and damaged eight others; two Hurricanes are missing and one Tomahawk was shot down. On other occasions, whilst patrolling over naval units off Sidi Barrani, Tomahawks destroyed two Ju. 88s, three Me. 109s, and probably destroyed a third Ju. 88.

54. The enemy carried out one night attack against Alexandria and some slight damage was caused in the native quarter south of the harbour, but most of the bombs fell in the sea. Small and unsuccessful raids were also made on Port Said, Ismailia and Mersa Matruh. The aerodrome at Ismailia was bombed on the 26th/27th August, and one aircraft was destroyed on the ground, and damage was caused to air force property.

55. The enemy daylight activity was varied and more extensive than of late. Machine-gunning attacks were made by single aircraft on our forward positions, and high-level attacks by Ju. 88s. and dive-bombing attacks by Ju. 87s were made on Tobruk and on shipping in the harbour; seven long-range bombers attacked Alexandria, and to the north of Port Said a hit was made on a tanker with a torpedo. A trawler and a tanker were sunk in Tobruk harbour, and a tanker was damaged, but the aggregate amount of damage during these attacks was not serious.

56. Experience has shown that periods of activity by the German Air Force such as that under review are invariably preceded and followed by spells of comparative quiet, and it is considered that difficulties of supply and the maintenance of serviceability of aircraft make it impossible for intensive operations to be carried out by the Mediterranean force for more than a short time. While the work of the Italian Air Force continues to be rather unenterprising, it is of considerable value to the German Air Force in the Mediterranean and would be a big factor in event of major operations in the Mediterranean.

Persia.

57. On the 25th August, Hurricanes and Gladiators covered the advance of our troops, and attacked Ahwaz aerodrome; this target was also bombed by six Blenheims. At least five enemy aircraft were destroyed and two others damaged, and hangars were hit with bombs and set on fire. On the following day a further machine-gun attack was made by fighters and six other enemy aircraft were damaged.

58. Blenheims operating from Iraq released pamphlets on Teheran, Kaswin and other localities. Airborne troops were successfully landed for the protection of British families of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. On the 26th August 11 Blenheims attacked enemy gun positions on the Pai-Tak Pass, where all bombs fell in the target area. Vincents carried out tactical reconnaissances.

East Africa.

59. Aircraft of the Royal Air Force and South African Air Force continued to attack military targets in the Wolchefit and Debarech areas, and many direct hits were observed. Bombs were also dropped on buildings and M.T. vehicles at Azozo aerodrome.

Russia.

Russian Air Operations.

60. The Russian Air Force continues to offer strong opposition to the Germans in all sectors.

61. The Head of the British Military Mission to Moscow visited the battle area around Smolensk on the 20th August. Several German dive-bombers were seen operating against advanced elements, and a number of sorties of Russian bombers in flights of about six were seen operating against objectives in the rear of the enemy. A considerable amount of air activity was taking place, although no actual combats were witnessed, and there appeared to be as many Russian aircraft operating in the area as German.

62. The Russian air attack on the railway bridge at Cernovoda, in Roumania, on the 11th August was very successful. Not only was the bridge hit, but also the pipe-line supplying oil to the port of Constanza. Reports of the serviceability of the damaged bridge vary, but the most optimistic one received states that only one train per day can cross it in each direction. All traffic from Bucharest and the rest of Roumania to the important Black Sea port of Constanza must pass over this bridge.

63. Test pilots working at the Central Aero Hydro Dynamical Institute are employed at night on night fighter defence duties flying M.I.G. aircraft. They operate in special night fighter sectors. The aircraft are not controlled from the ground, but find their way back to their own aerodromes by observation of the searchlight layout, of which they are previously informed. These pilots have accounted for a considerable proportion of the German aircraft brought down in night raids over Moscow.

German Air Operations.

64. On the southern Sector of the front, following the occupation of most of the area west of the Dnieper bend with the exception of Odessa and limited areas at certain bridgeheads, it is thought that the German Air Force is now mainly engaged in establishing itself at new forward bases preparatory to the next phase of operations. These are likely to be either the attempted crossing of the Dnieper or possibly an attack on the Crimea, which, if left intact, would provide a powerful Russian base in the flank of any further progress across the river.

65. In the Kiev area little progress has been made and the strength of the Russian Air Force has been effective in harassing the German troops. The advance in the Gomel sector, on the other hand, has been strongly supported by dive-bomber and fighter units; the latter are known to be acting also as fighter-bombers carrying bombs up to 50 Kg.

66. Leningrad has become the immediate objective on the northern part of the front and it is estimated that in this Sector the German Air Force has a strength of approximately 1,000 aircraft, half of which consist of bomber and bomber-reconnaissance types.

Visit to Aircraft Factory at Moscow.

67. Members of the British Air and Economic Mission paid a visit to No. 1 Aeroplane Factory at Moscow on the 5th August, 1941. When the Mission inspected the factory it was working at full output, despite the fact that the Germans claim that it has been severely bombed in recent air raids.

One member of the Mission who had previously visited this factory in 1933, 1935 and 1936, was greatly impressed with the vastly improved organisation which was evident. There was an air of orderliness and efficiency which had been lacking on previous visits. It is in this factory that the M.I.G. 3, the fastest Russian single-seater fighter, is built.

HOME SECURITY SITUATION.**General.***By Day.*

68. On only two days during the week were any bombs dropped on land in daylight.

On the 24th August bombs were dropped at Caister in Norfolk and on a R.A.F. site at Great Bromley in Essex, but damage was negligible.

On the 25th August some slight damage was done when bombs fell at Ashington, in the Tyne area, at Whitley Bay, at Hornsea and at Cleethorpes.

By Night.

69. Bombing has again been on a very small scale, and only slight damage has been done. Twelve R.A.F. Stations were attacked during the week without any appreciable damage being caused.

On the 22nd/23rd August the railway track and some trucks at Roudham Junction in Norfolk and private property at Spalding were damaged.

Slight damage was done to houses at Retford on the 24th/25th and near Pembroke and at Hayle in Cornwall on the 25th/26th.

On the 26th/27th August slight damage was caused to property at Milford Haven and in the surrounding districts, and shops, houses and mains were damaged at Margate. The railway station at Westgate was hit and both lines blocked by debris. At St. Mary's in the Scilly Isles several houses were damaged and two people were killed, the only fatal casualties reported during the week.

Casualties.

70. The casualties for the week ending 0600 on the 27th August are estimated at 2 killed and 9 seriously injured. There were no casualties in London.

APPENDICES I, II and III
will be published monthly.

APPENDIX IV.

Merchant Ships (all sizes) lost by the enemy up to 25th August, 1941.

	German.		Italian.		Finnish.		Together.	
	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.
Captured or seized ...	67	307,000	46	218,000	12	34,000	125	559,000
Scuttled or sunk ...	134	720,000	140	586,000	1	4,000	275	1,310,000
Unidentified ships reported as sunk or destroyed by S/M, A/C, &c. (tonnage estimated) ...	326	1,304,000	144	792,000	...	...	470	2,096,000
	527	2,331,000	330	1,596,000	13	38,000	870	3,965,000

In addition, 65 ships of 135,000 gross tons under enemy control or useful to the enemy have been sunk.

Also some 54 ships, totalling 324,000 gross tons, have been placed under protective custody in United States and South American ports to prevent sabotage by their crews. Some of this tonnage has been taken over and put into service by the United States and some by South American Republics.

The losses of unidentified German ships include a number claimed by the Russians.

APPENDIX V.

Casualties to H.M. Auxiliary Vessels and to Naval Personnel.

The following casualties have occurred to H.M. auxiliary vessels during the period under review:—

August 22.—*M.G.B. 70* slightly damaged by air attack off Lowestoft. One officer and 3 ratings wounded.

August 23.—Norwegian M/S Trawler *Kos XVI* sunk after collision with H.M. Destroyer *Wolsey* off the Yorkshire coast.

August 23.—A/P Trawler *Morgan Jones* slightly damaged by near-misses and machine-gun fire in air attack off the Tyne.

August 25.—*M.L. 195* damaged by mine in entrance to Humber.

The following casualties to naval officers and men have been reported:—

Officers: Killed 9. Wounded 2. Missing 8.

Ratings: Killed 79. Wounded 10. Missing 1.

These include 5 officers and 62 ratings lost in H.M. Canadian Corvette *Picottee*.

APPENDIX VI.

Operational Aircraft Battle Casualties.

0600 hours, Thursday, 21st August, 1941, to 0600 hours, Thursday, 28th August, 1941.

Metropolitan Area.

Royal Air Force.		In the Air.	On the Ground.
Bombers ...	...	19	...
Fighters ...	...	81	...
Coastal ...	...	5	...
Total ...	...	55	Nil

4 fighter pilots are safe.

German.	Destroyed.	Probably Destroyed.	Damaged.
Bombers ...	5	...	...
Fighters ...	13	13	11
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...
Total ...	18	13	11

No account is taken of aircraft destroyed on the ground.

Middle East.

Royal Air Force.		In the Air.	On the Ground.
Bombers...	...	2	...
Fighters...	...	3	...
Coastal ...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	5	Nil

German.	Destroyed.	Probably Destroyed.	Damaged.
Bombers ...	3	1	2
Fighters ...	2	4	8
Miscellaneous ...	1	2	2
Total ...	6	7	12

Of the above totals, 1 bomber and 1 "miscellaneous" aircraft were destroyed, 2 "miscellaneous" aircraft were probably destroyed, and 1 "miscellaneous" aircraft was damaged by A.A. fire.

Italian.		In the Air.	On the Ground.
Bombers ...	...	1	...
Fighters ...	...	3	...
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	4	Nil

APPENDIX VII.

Air Attacks on Enemy Territory in Europe.

Extracts from Recent Raid Assessment Reports.

The following reports of damage have been received during the past week from air reconnaissance and Intelligence sources:—

Germany.

Hanover.—As a result of the attack on the 3rd/4th August, railway communication to Wunstorf and Bremen was severely dislocated for two days and in the Hainholz Goods Station 140 loaded wagons were destroyed and damage was severe.

Karlsruhe.—In the raid on the 5th/6th August the main station and the goods station were damaged and several blocks of houses near the main station were destroyed. The largest brewery suffered heavily, the town barracks was hit and fires were caused in the industrial part of the town.

Hamburg.—In the raid on the 2nd/3rd August considerable damage was caused in the Reeperbahn Strasse, one of the main streets in the St. Pauli district. An informant who has recently visited the city confirms previous reports of damage in the heart thereof. He states that the inhabitants had been most impressed by the amount of destruction caused to the Deutscheverft by a single bomb.

Cologne.—In photographs taken on the 21st August considerable parts of the city are obliterated by cloud. It is not possible therefore to obtain any idea of the real success of recent attacks. The photographs show, however, a severely damaged area in the Dom Strasse (to the north of the main station), believed to have been caused by a 4,000-lb. bomb, a heavily damaged area to the south of the city library caused in the main by fire, and a further such area in the Hertzog Strasse near by.

Mannheim.—In the raid on the 22nd/23rd July, Brown Boveri (electrical engineers), the Lanz Works (agricultural equipment) and two rayon fibre factories were all hit.

Industrial.—Coal production in Germany is said to have declined by a third, and a considerable part of this decline is attributable to R.A.F. activity.

General.—The German press, speaking of the summer holiday traffic in 1940, states that a shifting to districts in the east of Germany which are far removed from the front line and not endangered by air raids has become very noticeable. A comparison of the number of nights spent by tourists in various districts with the summer of 1939 reveals the following changes:—

	<i>Per cent.</i>
N.E. Germany	+17
Sudetenland	+22
Central Germany	- 5
Western Germany	- 8
North Germany	-25
South Germany	-25

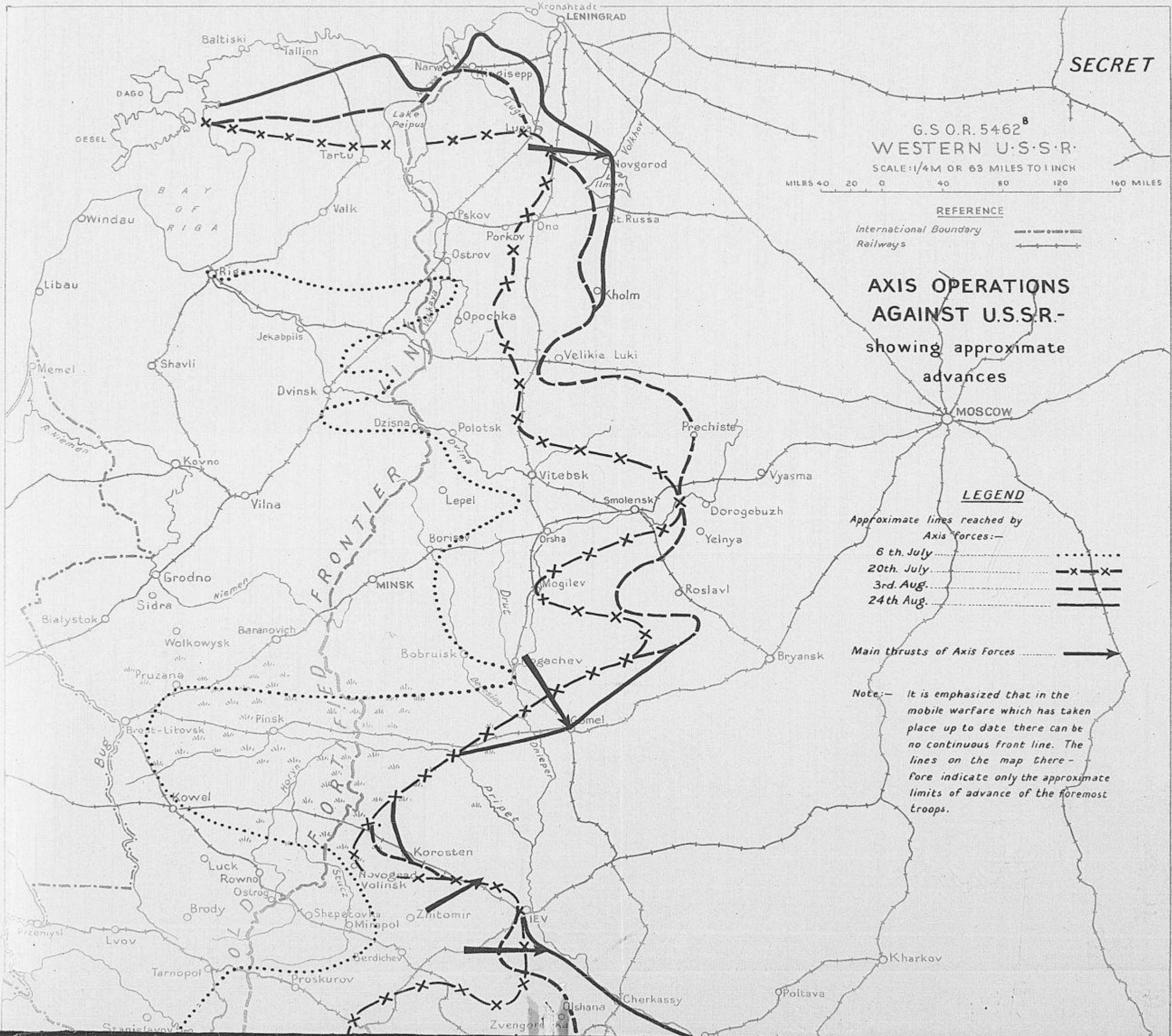
On several occasions recently the German press has specifically drawn attention to the increase in casualties caused in air raids by persons not having gone to shelter, and these articles end with an exhortation to all people to go to shelter as soon as the warning sounds.

France.

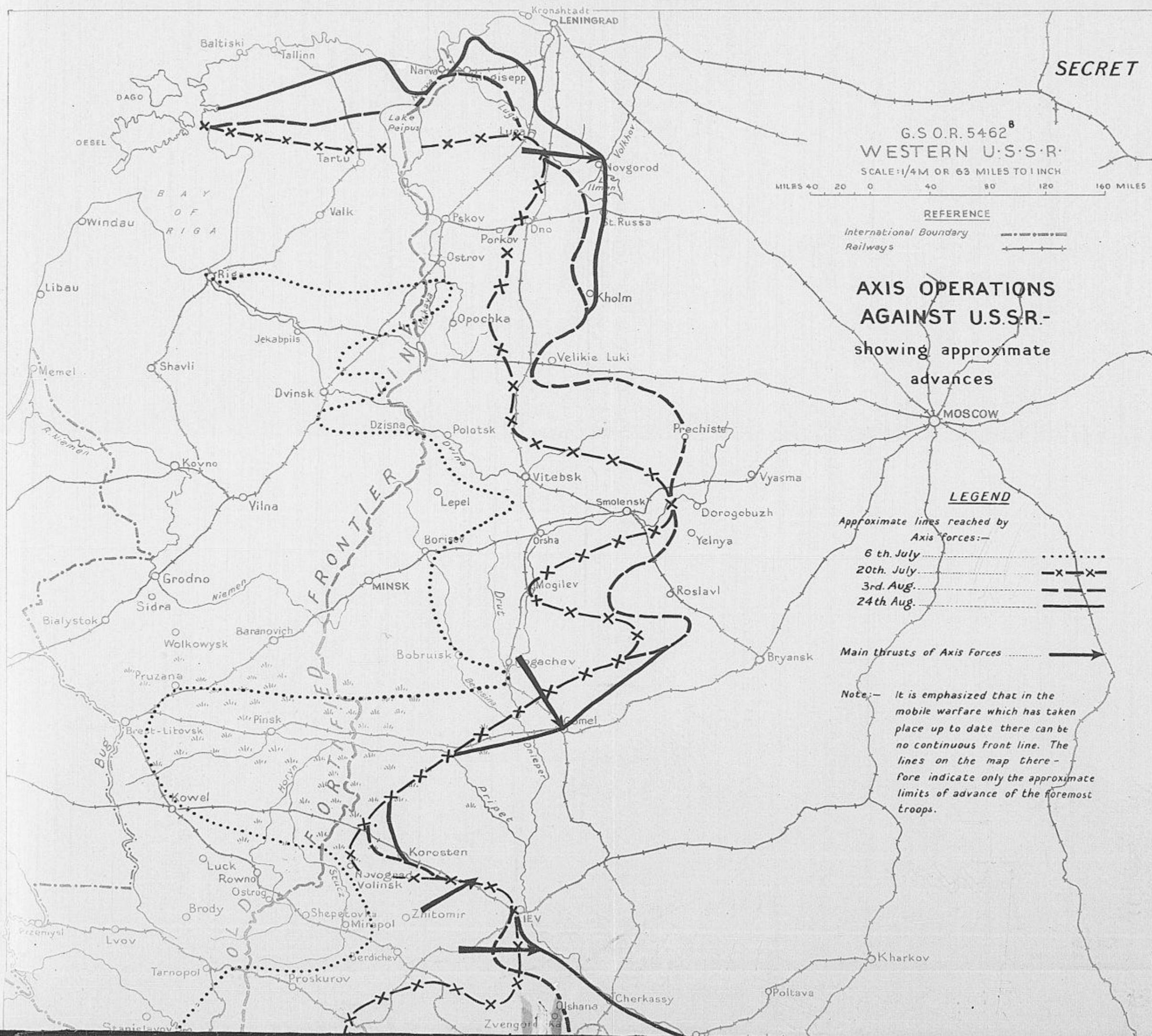
Lille Area.—Several reports tell of the damage and effect of our raids in North France. Owing to lack of power only half of the pit-heads at Lens were working in the first week of August, those at Moules were stopped on the 27th July for twelve days and factories in the Lille district are stated to be operating at about 50 per cent. capacity. The Germans have appreciated this stoppage to industry caused by our successful attacks on power stations, and are erecting high tension cables to enable the power resources of Central France to be brought into play.

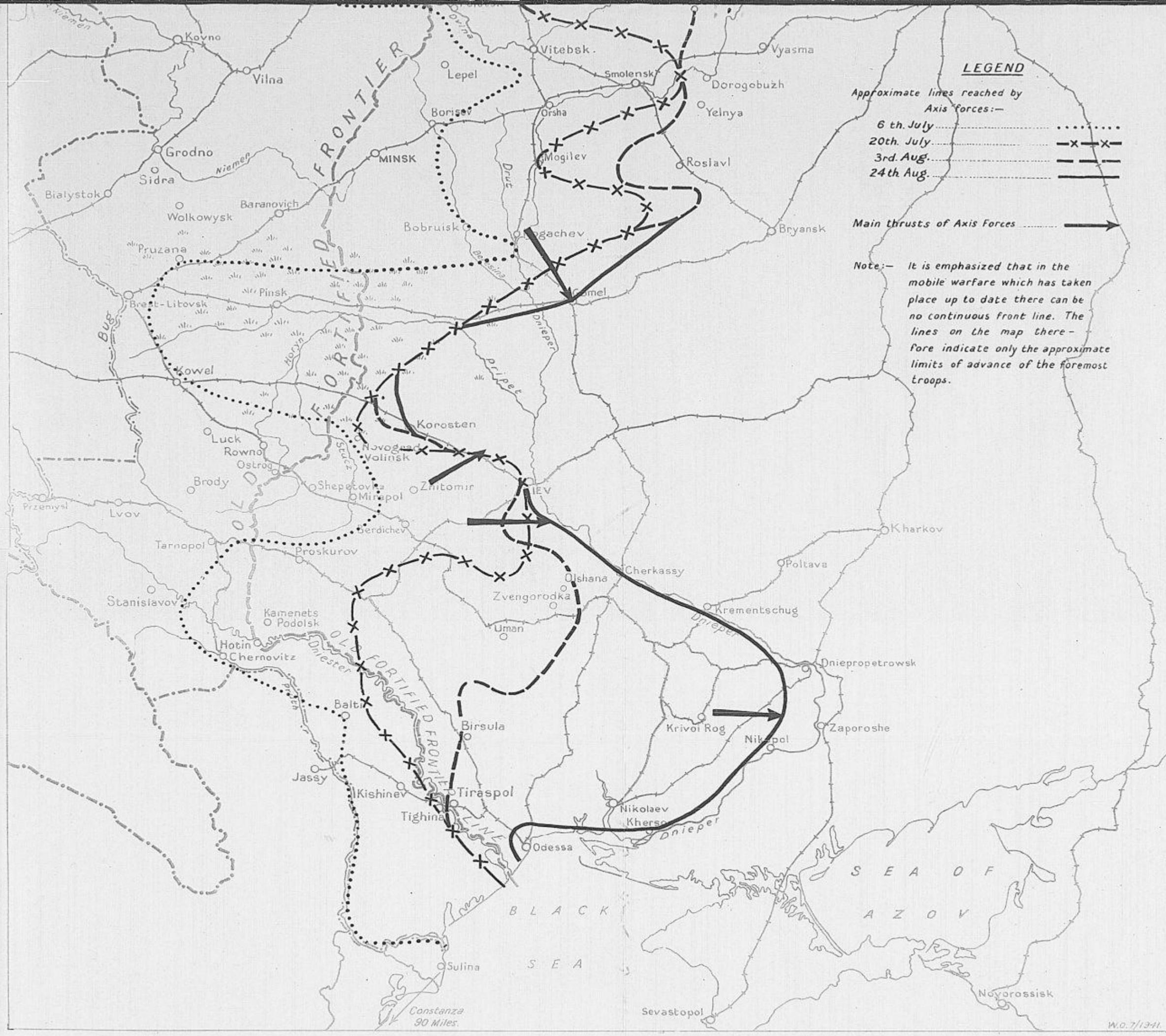
Photographs taken during the daylight attack on the Fives Steel and Engineering Works on the 18th August show direct hits in the north and north-eastern parts of the works. The photographs show the damage to the south part of the works caused in previous raids.

ISSUED WITH WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY N° 106 (27·8·41)



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LEGEND

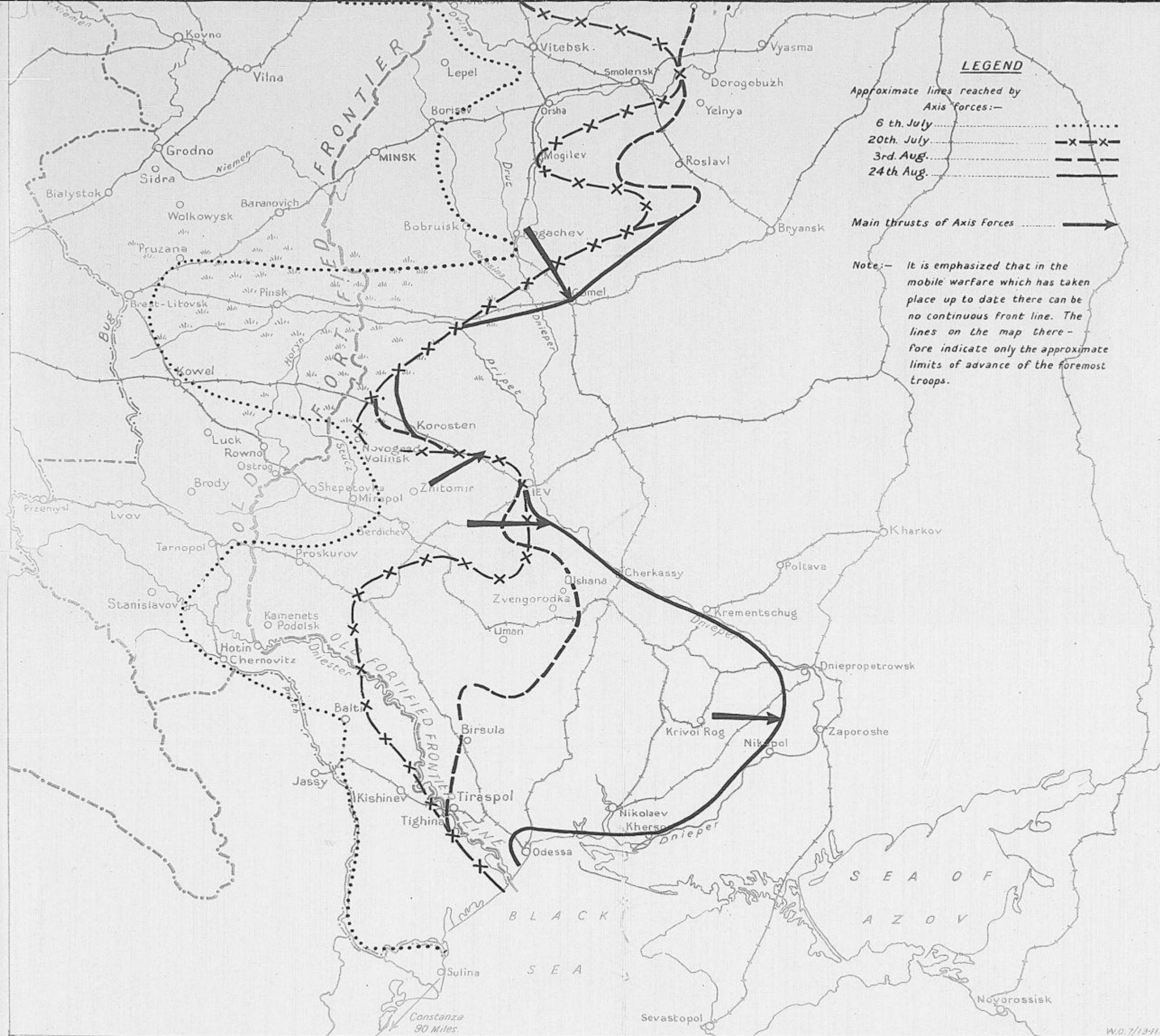
Approximate lines reached by Axis forces:—

- 6 th. July (dotted line)
- 20th. July -x-x- (dashed line with crosses)
- 3rd. Aug. - - - - (dashed line)
- 24th Aug. ——— (solid line)

Main thrusts of Axis Forces → (arrow)

Note:— It is emphasized that in the mobile warfare which has taken place up to date there can be no continuous front line. The lines on the map therefore indicate only the approximate limits of advance of the foremost troops.

Constanza 90 Miles.



LEGEND

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Main thrusts of Axis Forces ———→

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Constanza 90 Miles

