

Set up

USA: Admiral Nimitz is based in San Francisco where the USA has concentrated its shipbuilding facilities. The entire Pacific fleet is in the port, including every US submarine. Only the 4th Infantry Division supports him, though air cover is provided by several hundred P-40C "Tomahawks".

MacArthur holds the Philippines, while Honolulu is defenceless.

On the East Coast, combat engineers with motorised AA and AT units are based around Washington. Squadrons of Boston and Hudson bombers with their P-35 escorts are already outclassed, but US armaments production is plagued by inefficiency and corruption. The Atlantic fleet, however, is a match for any of the major powers.

Convoys criss-cross the Pacific, taking raw materials and oil to Japan and bringing back finished goods, while scores of tankers in the Caribbean ferry oil from Venezuela.

USSR: Komandarm 1st Rank Timoshenko leads the Ukrainian Front, comprising a mechanised and an infantry corps (with artillery and anti-tank support). He is backed by numerous squadrons of Il-4, Pe-2 and TB-3 bombers with fighter cover provided by nimble I-153 bi-planes.



I-153 fighter – reliable but becoming dated

The cream of the Russian Army is in the Far East, with Lt General Zhukov in command. He has three Siberian infantry corps with substantial cavalry and artillery units. Although he has less bombers than Timoshenko (mainly Il-4 and SB-2 models), he has twice as many fighters (I-15 and I-16).

Several of the more important western cities have army garrisons.

The fleet is fairly evenly split between the Baltic and the Black Sea, but 60 submarines are based in Vladivostok.

China: The Communists hold Si-An and Lan Chow, with a small force to the north.



The Kuomintang hold an arc from west of Wuhan to Nanning, but they have few reserves and no air support. Chiang Kai-shek is in the rear, hoping his brittle line can hold against the more powerful and more modern Japanese forces.

CW: The Royal Navy is spread across the globe, with major fleets at Scapa Flow, Plymouth, Gibraltar, Port Said and Trincomalee. The bulk of the carriers are in the Mediterranean, as are the submarines.

General Gort is in London with mechanised and motorised corps on standby. Gibraltar, Malta and Singapore are garrisoned. General Wavell is in Egypt, though he has only a few territorial units under his command.

The Royal Air Force is concentrated in south east England, although a group of Hurricanes are based in Sheffield to protect the industrial Midlands. (They are assisted by a 3.7in AA unit). Clyde, with its shipbuilding assets, is considered out of range of German planes.



Setting up 3.7in AA in the Midlands

Spitfires are ready to cover the Blenheim and Harrow bombers should they be required.

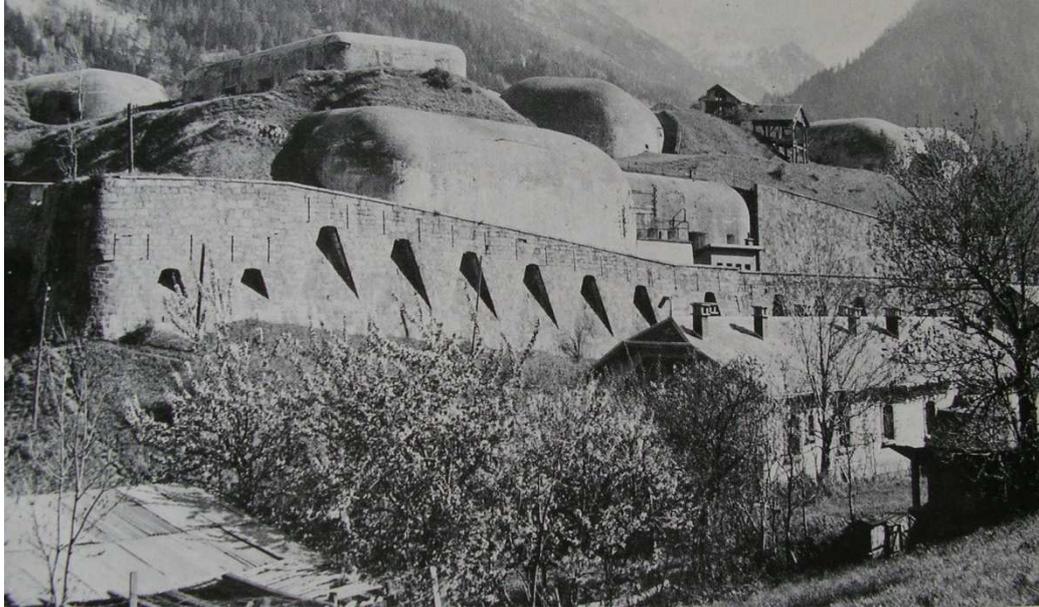


"Harrow" bomber/transport ready for action in SE England



Convoys stretch across the Pacific and through the Caribbean to join up in the mid-Atlantic with cargo ships and tankers from India, South Africa and the Middle East.

France: French troops are massed behind the Maginot line.



The seemingly impregnable Maginot Line – Generals George and Billotte expect it to hold firm against the Wehrmacht

General Georges has a small force near the Belgian border, while General Billotte is well to the rear. The Alpine Corps with a garrison unit holds the Italian border. LeO 451 bombers and MS 406 fighters provide the air defence. 75mm anti-air guns surround Paris.

The Navy is split between the Atlantic Fleet based in Brest and the Mediterranean in Marseilles. The merchant fleet brings oil from Iraq and minerals from West Africa.

Italy: Italo Balbo, Governor-General of Libya, is on the Egyptian border, with a weak infantry corps and several territorial units. General Graziani with the rest of the Army is in the Alps, with the entire Regia Aeronautica (except for squadrons of Gabbiano flying boats based in Sardinia).

The Regia Marina is based in La Spezia, the navy's main ship production port.



Gabbiano flying boat beached for maintenance in Sardinia – getting ready for action?

Japan: The bulk of the Japanese army is in China, with General Umezu attempting to control troops from the Manchurian border to Hainan from his base in Wuhan province. General Terauchi is about to move south from Manchuria with reinforcements, and Admiral Yamamoto waits in Tokyo with militia unit. Two marine corps are ready to board transports in Fukuoka harbour.

In Manchuria proper, Harbin is held by local forces, while the area near Vladivostok is lightly guarded by territorials and garrison troops.

Umezu has a few hundred Ki-27 and Ki-30 aircraft for support in Central China, while in the south a large number of "Val" bombers with fighter support await Yamamoto.

The fleet is concentrated in Fukuoka.

Ger: 3 separate Army Groups threaten Poland. In East Prussia, von Bock has VIII Mechanised Corps and several infantry units. The XLI and DAK mechanised corps anchor von Leeb's armies in West Pomerania, while von Rundstedt has the Alpine Korps as his key unit in Silesia, Moravia and Slovakia.



The Luftwaffe has placed 1000 bombers to support the attack on Poland: half Ju-87B dive bombers, half He IIIH medium bombers. A further 1000 fighters are ready should the Polish air force dare to intervene.

One of the 500 He 111H bombers available for the attack on Poland

In the west, garrison units man the Siegfried line, with XLIII infantry Korps in reserve. Germany expects to mobilise enough troops to defend the west in the event of a French attack.



88mm anti-air guns defend the capital, but Stettin with its advanced shipyard is undefended.

The Kriegsmarine is in Kiel, including the 60 front line submarines that Admiral Doenitz hopes will economically isolate Great Britain.

US Entry Chits: 2 in the Ge/It pool. 1 in the Japanese Pool