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第二次世界大戰簡史

A Brief History of World War II

第二次世界大戰，是本世紀人類第二度的大流血，戰爭起於一九三一年九一八瀋陽事變，到一九四五年八月大戰結束，先後將近十四年。

這次世界戰爭，以亞洲為起點，歐洲戰爭發生，德義日從政治與精神的結合，發展到軍事結合，一九四一年德蘇戰爭與太平洋戰爭的爆發，東西兩半球的戰火燃燒成一團，把世界劃分為法西斯與反法西斯，軸心與反軸心，侵略與反侵略的兩大壁壘，能夠逃出戰爭漩渦的國家，已是很少。

戰爭開始，發動侵略的軸心國家把握住主動的優勢。初期戰爭中祇能聽到敵人攻勢的砲聲。同盟國家的反攻準備，直到一九四三年才算逐漸完成，一九四四年纔大規模展開。盟國攻勢開始，軸心國家亦即走上下坡路，義大利墨梭里尼首先支持不住下了台，希特勒跟着傳出死訊。德軍在來攻之下投降，歐洲戰爭先收了場。日本沒有德義，精神上更孤單，它的自殺攻擊，抵不住盟軍絕對優勢的砲火，最後迫着這個稱霸東方半世紀的「東方之強」屈了膝，在米蘇里號上簽下降書。

戰爭的起因 造成這次戰爭的是德義日三個軸心國家，日本在一九一八年第一次大戰結束後，國力日漸強大，亟想向

In World War II we witnessed the second colossal tragedy of human bloodshed of the current century. From the very first scene of this world-wide conflict (which consisted of the Mukden Incident of September 18, 1931), to the final conclusion of the whole war in August 1945, a period of nearly fourteen years was spanned.

The War had its beginnings in Asia. But when hostilities broke out on the European Continent, the political and spiritual alliance between Germany, Italy and Japan was extended to embrace a military alliance of the Unholy Three. When in due course war broke out between Germany and the Soviet Union, and later in the Pacific in 1941, the flames of war which surged over both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres were joined into a single and inseparable conflagration. The whole world was divided into two principal camps—the Fascists and the anti-Fascists; the Axis powers and the anti-Axis powers; the aggressors and the resisters of aggression. Few indeed were the nations which could escape from being embroiled in the world's most gigantic combat of strength.

In the early stages of the War, the Axis powers who launched their aggressive schemes held in their hands the superiority of the initiative. The thundering assaults of the enemy's offensives predominated the early scenes of the conflict. The preparations on the part of the Allied Nations for their counter-offensive were only gradually being brought to perfection in 1943, and it was not until a year later that their large-scale counter-attack could be launched.

But once the Allies began their counter-offensive, the Axis powers found themselves on the downgrade. Mussolini of Italy first collapsed. This was soon followed by news of Hitler's death. The German Army, hemmed in by strong forces on all sides, surrendered. The war in Europe was thus ended. Deprived of her war-mates of Germany and Italy, the spiritual isolation of Japan was accentuated. Her "suicidal" offensives could not check the absolutely superior firepower of the Allies, and this "Strong-man of the East", who for half a century held hegemony over East Asia, was finally forced to bend her knees and to sign her surrender on board the U.S.S. Missouri.

Causes of the War

The war was brought into being by the Axis powers of Germany, Italy and Japan. With her growing prowess achieved, since

亞洲大陸侵略，日本軍閥與財閥散佈法西斯思想，鼓動着人民從事侵略行動。義大利上次大戰得到利益不多，墨梭里尼組織法西斯棒喝團，以恢復羅馬帝國的光榮為號召，也能得到人民的喝采。德國在上次大戰以後，經濟政治均陷於解體，德國人憤恨現狀達於極點，它需要權力，需要德意志的精神重生。所以德義日這三個極權國家，在時間與地點方面，都是法西斯勢力最好培植的搖籃。

首次大戰產生的凡爾賽和約，德國人認為是一條枷鎖，希特勒就利用推翻凡爾賽和約來完成政治的蠢動，達到軍事征服的目的。

法西斯飛快的發展時，強國如英法，却在推行一種現實的妥協外交，即所謂綏靖政策。日本侵略中國東北，德軍重整軍備，入萊因，佔薩爾，義大利侵犯阿比西尼亞，德義參預西班牙內戰，英法均取冷眼旁觀的態度，生怕引起戰爭；那知英法的退讓，直接鼓勵着法西斯的侵略行動，一九三八年德國兼併了奧大利，又開始向捷克開刀，捷克犧牲之後，又臨到波蘭。

中國是反法西斯的前鋒 日本在一九三一年攻佔中國寶庫東北，沒有受到阻碍，即大踏步的向亞洲大陸進犯，三個月時間佔據全東北。一九三二年又在上海行動，是年底攻長城，試叩華北的門戶，中國準備毫無，一再容忍。接着日軍又來攻綏遠，察哈爾，發動自治運動。其時全國民族意識異常強盛，民情

the end of World War I in 1918, Japan began to nurse designs on the Asiatic Continent. Her militarists and financial overlords freely disseminated Fascist ideas among the people who were encouraged to undertake acts of aggression. In Italy, which did not obtain much gain from the first war, Mussolini organised his Black Shirts, and his cry for the restoration of the glories of the ancient Roman Empire found enthusiastic response from the people. In Germany, whose political and economic structure disintegrated following defeat in the first World War, the people's dissatisfaction with conditions at that time was worked up to the highest pitch and a popular demand for power, for the rebirth of the spirit of Germany, was easily created. For these reasons, time and the geographical situation all helped to make these three totalitarian states of Japan, Italy, and Germany the ideal cradle for the growth of Fascism.

The Versailles Treaty, given birth by the first World War, was considered by the Germans to be shackles over them. The unsuccessful political manoeuvres launched by the Germans for the abrogation of Versailles was quickly exploited by Hitler who sought to achieve his results through military conquest.

While the forces of Fascism were thus seeking rapid expansion, the strong powers like Britain and France were pursuing a realistic diplomacy of compromise—the so-called policy of appeasement. Japan was invading China's Northeastern provinces; the German Army, rearmed, entered the Rhine and occupied Saarland; Italy invaded Abyssinia; and both Germany and Italy participated in Spain's civil war. To all these atrocities Britain and France merely looked on askance—fearing lest any positive stand might lead to war. But the compromises and concessions made by the Anglo-French powers only served to encourage directly more aggressive acts on the part of the Fascists. In 1938, Germany absorbed Austria, and Czechoslovakia suffered the same fate. When the latter country was also sacrificed, Poland became the next victim.

China as the Advance Guard of Anti-Fascism

In 1931, the Japanese met with no obstacles when they began their invasion of the Northeastern provinces, China's treasure-house. They immediately began to embark on a large-scale invasion of the Continent, and in three months occupied the whole of China's northeastern provinces. Early in 1932, they staged an incident in Shanghai. Towards the end of the same year, the Japanese attacked the Great Wall, experimenting, no doubt, on the possibility of breaking through this back-door of North China. Unprepared at that time, China tolerated all these criminal assaults without hitting back effectively. The Japanese soon extended their aggression to Suiyuan and Chahar, and launched the so-called "self-government" movements in the areas.

沸騰，西安事變解決，全國對外敵懷同仇，萬衆一心，對日抗戰形勢已成，當一九三七年七月七日民族抗戰的號角從盧溝橋頭響起時，中華民族團結成一個巨人，從事神聖的挽救民族的戰爭。

戰事先在平津一帶展開，八月十三日上海又發生戰事，國軍堅守三月，退向南京；南京失陷，中國首都移至四川重慶。華北方面，逐戰逐退；一九三八年春發生徐州會戰，日軍大敗於台兒莊。徐州失守後，日軍轉兵攻武漢，至是年十月，武漢及華南重鎮廣州被敵佔據。十五個月以來的中國抗戰，雖重要城市相繼失陷，而抗戰意志，始終堅定，國人一致從事對日的長期戰爭。

歐戰爆發 一九三九年九月一日德國繼續用兵於波蘭，開始了一個空前冒險的征服歐洲的計劃。英法被迫對德宣戰，但不及援助波蘭，波蘭已被德國閃電戰所擄取。此後，德國進行了六個月的神經戰，按兵不動，祇是一味恫嚇，直到一九四〇年四月九日又以閃擊姿態，十二小時亡了丹麥，同時以第五縱隊爲內應，經兩個月戰爭亡了挪威。

一九四〇年夏天，希特勒的鎗頭指向荷蘭，比利時，盧森堡，繞道西歐低窪國家攻法國。英法比荷爲德國強烈攻勢阻成數段，比王下令投降德軍，英軍被逼至敦刻爾克，作冒險的撤退。法國北部法軍雖圖振作，以組織渙散，士氣消沉，六月十四

The national consciousness of the Chinese people became highly aroused and public agitation against the alien invader was heightened. Meanwhile, the Si-an Incident was being settled, and the whole country became united as one in their determination to deal with the aggressors in the proper manner. The situation calling for the war of resistance against Japan had been strongly built up. And so when on July 7, 1937, the fighting at Marco Polo Bridge (Lukouchiao) sounded the bugle call of the war for racial existence, the Chinese people built themselves into a giant to fight their holy war for the preservation of their race.

Fighting first broke out in the Peiping-Tientsin area. It was extended to Shanghai on August 13, 1937. After holding this part of the country for three months, the Chinese forces withdrew to Nanking. Later when the latter city was also lost, the Chinese Government moved to Chungking, which became the war time capital. On the North China Front, the Chinese forces gradually withdrew but always after engaging the enemy in a good fight. Thus in the spring of 1938 was staged the Battle of Hsichow, when the Japanese forces met with their first major defeat at Taierh-chuang. The Japanese eventually captured Hsuechow and turned their forces against the Wuchang-Hankow area. In October, of 1938, both Hankow and Canton, bastion of South China, fell into enemy hands. The first fifteen months' of China's war of resistance thus resulted in the loss to the enemy most of the major cities of the country but nevertheless the war consciousness of the nation remained more unshakable than ever, and the people became fully resigned to their determination to prosecute a prolonged war with Japan to the bitter end.

War Breaks Out in Europe

On September 1, 1939, Germany sent her armies into Poland, to initiate an unprecedented adventurous scheme for the conquest of all Europe. Britain and France were forced to declare war on Germany, but they were too late to render effective assistance to Poland which was soon grabbed by Germany with blitzkrieg tactics. For the next six months Germany called a temporary halt to her military operations, in the meantime engaging in a war of nerves, putting up all forms of threats to all and sundry.

On April 9, 1940, however, the Germans moved again, and their blitzkrieg strategy resulted in the conquest of Denmark in twelve hours. At the same time, with the aid of her fifth columnists in Norway Germany also overrun that country after a campaign which lasted only two months.

In the summer of 1940, Hitler's guns were turned towards the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg, with the objective of launching an attack on France via these low basin areas of Western Europe. The British, French, Belgian and Netherland forces were cut up into several sections in face of the fierce attack

日巴黎失陷，法蘭西的罪人貝當，遂宣佈對德媾和。

德國進到英吉利海峽，希特勒瞻望英倫，準備跨海西征，先展開一個空中攻勢——不列顛之戰，一連着八十四天的惡鬥，英人犧牲重大，到最後五分鐘，德國却軟化了。

征英不成，德國繼續在巴爾幹挑動戰爭，指使義大利攻希臘，羅馬尼亞侵入保加利亞，迫匈牙利，羅馬尼亞加入軸心，用兵南斯拉夫，英國雖競以軍事外交力量支持巴爾幹各國，但結果還是軸心佔着上風。

在大西洋上，英國與德國的海軍在廣大的海洋上，正從事封鎖與反封鎖的惡戰。

美國，也受着納粹的直接威脅。在羅斯福總統英斷之下，美國以人力物力，協助被侵略國家作戰。

非洲戰場 法國崩潰，一九四〇年秋義大利乘機向埃及進攻，想與德國控制中東和地中海，義軍佔英屬索馬利蘭，九月間自利比亞攻埃及，英軍情勢危急，於冬季增援反攻，重入利比亞。希特勒鑒於義軍力量薄弱，調非洲師團由隆美爾指揮下，猛攻後軸心軍又入埃及。一九四一年德蘇戰爭與太平洋戰爭爆發，德義軍在非洲無法推進，兵力分散，一九四二年十一月盟軍在北非洲大規模登陸，至翌年五月，軸心軍已在非洲被肅清。

德蘇戰爭 德國在歐非作戰年餘，從波羅的海到地中海

of the Germans. The King of the Belgians ordered his army to surrender to the Germans. The British expeditionary forces were forced to undertake the most risky withdrawal at Dunkirk. The French army in Northern France made a last stand but faulty organisation and sinking morale made themselves felt and Paris was captured by the Germans on June 14. Marshal Petain, who proved himself an unworthy son of his country in this war, declared that France would conclude peace with Germany.

The Germans had now reached the English Channel. Looking across it towards the west Hitler conjectured up pictures of an even greater conquest on the other side. He launched, as a prelude to his contemplated invasion across the Channel, an air offensive. Thus was fought the Battle of Britain, a war of the most devastating consequences taking place principally in the skies, and for 84 days the British people were subjected to the most harrowing experiences and offered the greatest sacrifices. Finally the Germans weakened and called off the campaign.

The invasion of Britain having failed the Germans turned their attention to the Balkans where the forces of destruction were soon easily let loose. Italy was made to attack Greece, Hungary and Roumania were forced into the orbit of the Axis powers and the invasion of Bulgaria and Yugo-Slavia was also launched. Britain exerted all the military and diplomatic resources at her disposal to maintain the status quo in the Balkans but for the moment the Axis powers gained the upper hand in the situation.

On the high seas in the Atlantic Ocean, over the seemingly unending expanse of water, the contending navies of Britain and Germany were engaged in their own battle of blockade and counter-blockade.

Meanwhile, the United States of America was beginning to feel the threat, directly and indirectly, of Nazi-ism. Under the resolute leadership of the late President Roosevelt the United States pledged her enormous manpower and resources to the aid of the victim nations.

The African Front

Following the collapse of France in the autumn of 1940, Italy took the opportunity to undertake the invasion of Egypt in an attempt to control, jointly with Germany, the Middle East and the Mediterranean. The Italians soon occupied British Somaliland. Using Libya as their base, the Italians in September 1940 attacked Egypt. The British garrison there for a time was in danger but with reinforcements in the winter, a counter attack was launched and the British re-entered Libya. Sensing the weakness of the Italians Hitler ordered the German African Divisions, under the command of General Rommel, to that theater and the Axis once more invaded Egyptian territory.

獲得土地資源，超過戰前數十倍，與蘇聯在地理上發生衝突，同時它更想從蘇聯手中得到重要的作戰物資如煤油糧食及各種礦藏，德國於是又來侵犯蘇聯。

一九四一年六月二十二日到十二月底，德軍集中二百萬精兵和五分之四的空軍閃擊蘇聯，企圖一鼓而下莫斯科。在一千五百哩漫長的戰線上，蘇軍起初作戰很為不利，德軍在北路進至列寧格勒，中路進展最速，佔白俄羅斯首府明斯克，逼近莫斯科近郊，蘇聯首都遷到古比雪夫，南方佔烏克蘭首府。蘇軍積極保衛莫斯科，損失極重。到嚴冬來臨，蘇軍利用季候展開反攻，始抵住了侵略者。

希特勒的攻勢在一九四二年從春季延到夏季，變更戰略，集中一百六十個師準備在頓河與高加索殲滅蘇軍主力，攻佔史達林格勒，再沿伏爾加河經古比雪夫繞攻莫斯科，同時南下取巴庫油田；德軍獲得進展。至八月間，史達林格勒爭奪戰開始，雙方以火力與血肉作孤注一擲，死傷遍野，德軍瘋狂進攻，蘇軍冒死抵禦。這是二次大戰一大高峯，德軍最後的慘敗，注定了在這次戰爭中的命運。

太平洋戰爭 日本佔領了半個中國，為實行其征服亞洲，於一九四一年十二月七日清晨偷襲美國在太平洋的基地珍珠港；美國一無準備，損失慘重。日本靠了優勢兵力，同時進攻上海，香港，荷屬印度，馬來亞，菲律賓，關島，泰國；中英美加澳

The outbreak of war between Germany and Soviet Russia, and that of the war in the Pacific, produced a stalemate in the progress of the Germano-Italian campaign in Africa and the situation for the Axis powers there worsened as large contingents of the United Forces landed on the North African coast in November 1942. By May, 1943, the Axis strength in Africa was completely annihilated.

The German-Russian War

After more than a year of intensive operations in both Europe and Africa, Germany had seized large tracts of land and material resources stretching from the Baltic to the Mediterranean the acquisition being estimated to have enriched Germany to the extent of many times of her pre-war wealth. She now came into direct contact with Russia geographically, while at the same time she was anxious to obtain from the Russians some of the much coveted war resources, including coal, oil, food, and other minerals. She decided to include Soviet Russia in her scheme of conquest.

Between June and December, 1941, Germany mobilised 2,000,000 of her picked forces and 80 per cent of her Air Force for a blitzkrieg attack on Russia with the objective of taking Moscow by surprise. On a front extending over 1,500 kilometers the Soviet Army at first suffered reverses. On the northern front the Germans reached Leningrad. On the central front, where German progress was even more marked, the invaders captured the White Russian capital of Minsk and threatened the approach to Moscow. The Russians moved their capital to Kuibyshev but continued to undertake the defence of Moscow in spite of huge losses. On the southern front the Germans took the Ukrainian capital in their stride. It was not until the arrival of the severe winter that the Russians were able to make full use of the weather and opened a counter-offensive which kept the aggressors in check.

In the early part of 1942 Hitler adopted a new strategy in the war with Russia. One hundred and sixty divisions were mobilised for a concerted attack on the main strength of the Soviet Army, concentrated in the Don basin and the Caucasus, the capture of Stalingrad, and thence the taking of Moscow by marching along the Volga and going through Kuibyshev. At the same time an attack was to be launched for the capture of the Baku oilfields. The Battle for Stalingrad began and both parties put in all they had into the struggle. Corpses covered the battle fields, the Germans attacked with unbelievable fierceness and the Russians defended with equally incredible bravery. The battle was one of the epics of World War II and the Germans ultimately suffered defeat, a development which practically sealed their fate in the whole war.

自由法國等相繼對日宣戰。星加坡軍港於一九四二年二月失陷。在菲律賓登陸日軍，取馬尼刺，美軍退至巴丹半島及柯里幾多，由麥克阿瑟領導作堅苦之抵抗，先後五月。東南亞方面，日軍強在泰國登陸，壓迫越南「聯防」，藉以進攻緬甸；中國軍隊入緬協助英軍作戰，後以日軍由泰國經緬甸東，側擊臘成，瓦城失陷，中英軍乃相率退入印度。

珍珠港奇襲成功，使日軍得以一時稱霸東方，彼時德軍正在蘇聯發動進攻，大有在近東會師之勢。

美國艦隊於一九四二年在珊瑚海與中途島，兩次與日發生海戰，阻止了日本繼續進犯。

歐洲的解放 一九四三年盟國反攻準備已逐漸完成，開始向希特勒堡壘防線進攻。德國從閃擊戰的主動地位被迫而作防禦戰了。

盟軍的戰略是在南歐與西歐登陸，再與東線蘇軍三面夾攻德軍，另以空軍實行大規模的戰略轟炸。盟軍在西西里登陸，打了兩個月的硬仗，九月二日盟軍在義南登陸。就在這時，義大利內部發生分裂，墨梭里尼被反對黨逼迫下了台，義大利政府首先向盟國投降。但在德軍控制下之義大利本土之義軍，仍與盟軍作戰。羅馬終在一九四四年六月四日，便拱手讓與盟軍。

羅馬失陷之日，養精蓄銳，訓練經年，準備摧毀希特勒歐

The Pacific War

After occupying about half of China, Japan, in carrying through her plan for the conquest of all Asia, in the early morning of December 7th., 1941, launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, a United States base in the Pacific. The Americans, taken unawares, suffered greatly in the episode.

The Japanese with their military superiority staged simultaneous attacks on Shanghai, Hongkong, Netherlands Indies, Malaya, the Philippines, Guam and Siam. China, Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, and the Free French one after another declared war on this Asiatic aggressor.

The naval base at Singapore fell into Japanese hands in February 1942. Japanese forces landed on the Philippines, captured Manila, and the United States forces withdrew to Bataan and Corregidor where under the command of General MacArthur, they offered stiff resistance to the enemy for five months. In Southeastern Asia, the Japanese landed in Siam, forced French Indo-China into a joint defence undertaking, and planned to attack Burma. The Chinese Army entered Burma to assist the British forces in that area. The Japanese, coming from Siam and capturing Lashio and Mandalay through a rear frontal attack, forced the Sino-British units to withdraw into India.

The success of the cowardly attack on Pearl Harbour for a time placed Japan in the position of overlord of the East. At about this time the Germans were engaged in their offensive against Soviet Russia. There was then a dream among the Axis powers that they would effect a junction of their forces somewhere in the Near East.

In the course of 1942 the United States Navy engaged the Japanese Navy in battle in the Coral sea and near Midway Islands, and these encounters succeeded in checking the further expansion of the Japanese advance.

The Liberation of Europe

By 1943 the Allies had completed their preparations for the counter-offensive and attacks against Hitler's bastions were begun. The Germans were forced to change from their blitzkrieg initiative to assume a position of defence.

Allied strategy consisted of landings in both southern and western Europe and thence to join with the Russians in a three-front attack of German forces, at the same time releasing a colossal air force for large-scale strategic bombings. First landing in Sicily where they were engaged in two months of fierce fighting, the Allies on September 2, 1943 found themselves on the southern mainland of Italy. Just then, Mussolini was overthrown by political rivals following an extended period of internal dissension. The new Italian Government was the first among enemy

洲堡壘之數百萬盟國大軍，已登上四千艘攻歐船艦。

六月六日，歐洲以及世界人士殷望之第二戰場終於開闢，盟軍由天空與海岸在法國北部諾曼底一帶登陸。希特勒佔領下的歐洲，曾先經年餘轟炸，歐洲堡壘的屋頂業已震塌，德國空軍作防禦戰都感到困難，秘密武器飛彈不能阻止盟軍攻勢，大西洋長城之夢已經幻滅。瑟堡半島為登陸後之爭奪中心，盟軍飛機坦克的活躍，使德軍窮於應付。僅僅克恩之戰，德軍犧牲了六個坦克師。

盟軍於八月十五日續在法國南部登陸，法國內地軍與愛國份子加緊活動，二十五日解放巴黎。盟軍過塞納河，向比利時進撲，繼而雙方在萊因河對峙。

東線方面，一九四二年冬末蘇聯即已開始大反攻，高加索與頓河各大城市發生爭奪戰，中路蘇軍的進展，解除了莫斯科的威脅，奪回奧勒爾，衝過聶伯河，一九四三年底，蘇聯已收回失土四分之三。第二戰場開闢後，蘇軍更開始總攻，向波蘭作扇形展開，政治與軍事雙管齊下，屈服了羅馬尼亞，保加利亞，進入南斯拉夫，解放了匈牙利。中路方面，十二月攻佔華沙。一九四五年一月蘇軍進入德國本土。

希特勒在東南西三面圍攻中，東西線主攻，均以柏林為目標，德軍以全力保衛柏林。十二月間曾在西線反攻，圖重行回到巴黎，而艾森豪威爾部下數百萬大軍却在三百五十哩前

nations to surrender to the Allies. But Italian forces in Italy and elsewhere, under the control of the Germans, continued to engage Allied units in battle. Finally, on June 4, 1944, Rome was officially taken over by the Allies, and the conquest of Italy was complete.

About the time of the fall of Rome, millions of Allied forces, carefully trained for the final onslaught on Hitler's European bastions, were embarking on their historic mission in 4,000 landing craft.

On June 6, 1944, the second front in Europe to which the people of that continent and all over the world had been looking forward for some time, was finally opened. Allied troops landed from boats and aircraft on the Normandy coast in Northern France. For more than a year before this time, of course, Europe under Hitler's had been subject to severe air attacks. The roofs of Hitler's bastions, so to speak, had been removed, and the German Air Force found it beyond their power to carry out an effective defence. The secret weapons, rocket missiles, employed by the Germans were futile in checking the Allied advance. The dream that the Atlantic would serve as a natural and insurmountable barrier was shattered. The first object of contention after the Allied landing was the Cherbourg Peninsula. Allied operations, greatly strengthened by the activity of planes and tanks, proved beyond the match of the Germans. In the battle of Caen alone, the Germans lost six tank divisions.

On August 15, 1944, the Allies began to land on southern France also. The French Forces of the Interior (F.F.I.) and partisan units immediately sprang to vigorous activity, and Paris was liberated on August 25. The Allies crossed the Seine, and marched towards Belgium. The Germans and the Allies were confronting each other on opposite banks of the Rhine.

The Eastern Front

Towards the end of 1942, Soviet Russia had already commenced her counter-offensive against Germany. Battles royal were fought for the control of various cities in the Caucasus and along the Don. The progress of Russia's central front soon removed the threat to Moscow. Orel was recaptured and the Dnieper was crossed. By the end of 1943, the Russians recovered 75 per cent of their lost ground.

After the opening of the second European front, the Russians also opened a general counter-offensive and launched a two-pronged attack on Poland. Political forces were marshalled to augment military success, Roumania and Bulgaria were subdued, Yugoslavia was entered, and Hungary liberated. In December of 1944, the Russians took Warsaw and one month later they entered German territory.

Surrounded on the three sides, the east, the south and the west, two of the three forces having for their common objective the capture of Berlin, Hitler mustered all his resources for that

線開始全面總攻，再打回萊因河。蘇軍與西線盟軍作爭奪柏林之賽跑，蘇軍九路圍攻柏林，柏林市區發生激烈巷戰，四月二十六日美蘇會師於萊比錫以東之突爾高。德國南部城市，亦相繼淪陷，柏林經多日巷戰，大勢已去，杜尼茲海軍上將宣佈希特勒死亡，德國決定投降。至此，稱霸歐洲十餘年之納粹德國，終為英美法蘇盟軍佔領。

日本投降 德義敗亡，三個軸心國家已去其二，盟國乃得轉移兵力，集中打擊日本。一九四四年盟軍在太平洋反攻已收

復了爪加林島，塞班，關島，帛琉島，菲律賓之雷伊泰，這些攻勢均以海空軍為先導，繼之以敵前登陸。一九四五年盟軍再登陸於呂宋，琉璜島，大琉球，切斷其南洋交通線，進入日本內衛圈，空中堡壘自塞班和大琉球及航空母艦上之轟炸機經常轟炸東京，橫濱，名古屋各大日本城市，一次出動常在千架以上，投彈數千噸，使日本軍事防禦與工業陷於解體。在亞洲大陸上，中國軍隊已打通中印公路，取得國外的接濟，空軍轟炸台灣，東北，越南各地，收復桂林，正準備配合聯合國作總反攻。日本在德國失敗後，精神上已崩潰，最後雖然還想以武士道的作戰方式——自殺攻擊，來挽回帝國的厄運，但是盟國的聯合力量，壓倒一切，當波茨坦的決議付諸實施——蘇聯對日宣戰，再加上兩顆小小的原子彈，日本祇好由天皇出面宣佈投降，結束了二次大戰。

city's defence. In December 1944, a counter-offensive was attempted in the western front with the objective of recapturing Paris. But General Eisenhower, with his large Army was already beginning an all-out attack on a 350 mile front and the Germans were easily pushed back. The Soviet forces and the Allied troops on the Western front began a race for Berlin. The Russians approached the German capital from nine routes and there was fierce street fighting in the city. On April 26, the Russians and Americans effected a junction of forces at Torgau, east of Leipzig. Cities in southern Germany were falling into Allied hands in quick succession. Berlin, after days of street fighting, was finally doomed. Hitler's death was announced by Admiral Doenitz, and Germany decided to surrender. Thus Nazi-Germany, which reigned supreme in Europe for more than a decade, was finally subdued by the allied forces of Britain, the United States, Soviet Russia, and France.

Japan's surrender

The defeat of both Italy and Germany left Japan the lone survivor among the Axis trio, and the Allied powers were now in a position to concentrate their attention to dealing with her. In the counter-offensives in 1944, the Allies had recaptured the Carolines, Saipan, Guam, Palau Island, and Leyte Island (in the Philippines). In each case, air and naval units led the attack prior to the landing of troops.

Early in 1945, the Allies succeeded in landing in the Luzon, Iwo Jima, Ryukyu Islands, cutting off the southern communication lines of Japan and entering the inner defences of the latter. Flying fortresses, based at Saipan and Ryukyus, and from aircraft carriers, staged regular raids on the Japanese cities of Tokyo, Yokohama, and others. Attacks were launched by fleets of 1,000 planes and thousands of tons of dynamite were released. Japanese military industry was by then already rendered ineffective.

On the Asiatic mainland the Chinese Army reopened the overland route between China and India and foreign supplies were then available. The Chinese Air Forces also attacked Taiwan, the Northeastern Provinces, and French Indo-China. Kweilin was recaptured. Preparations were being rushed for a coordinated general counter-offensive.

With Germany's defeat, Japan had, of course, already undergone a spiritual collapse. In the very last days a desperate attempt was made to exploit her Bushido concepts in war through the launching of suicide attacks to save the fate of the Japanese Empire. But the united resources of the Allies held sway over all. The implementation of the Potsdam decisions—the entry of Soviet Russia into the war with Japan—and the unleashing of two small atomic bombs finally led to Japan's surrender in the name of her Emperor.

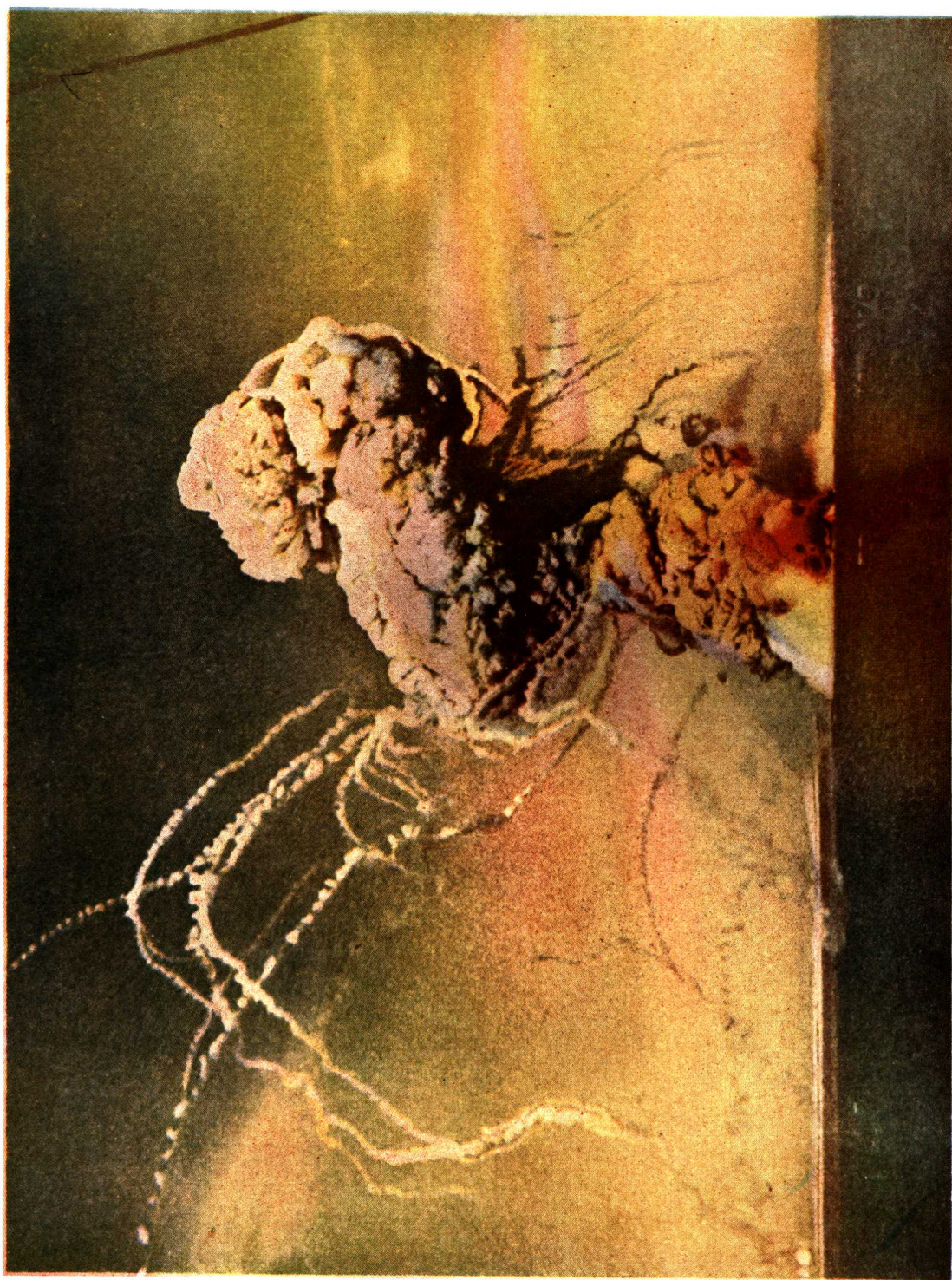
World War II was thus brought to an official termination.



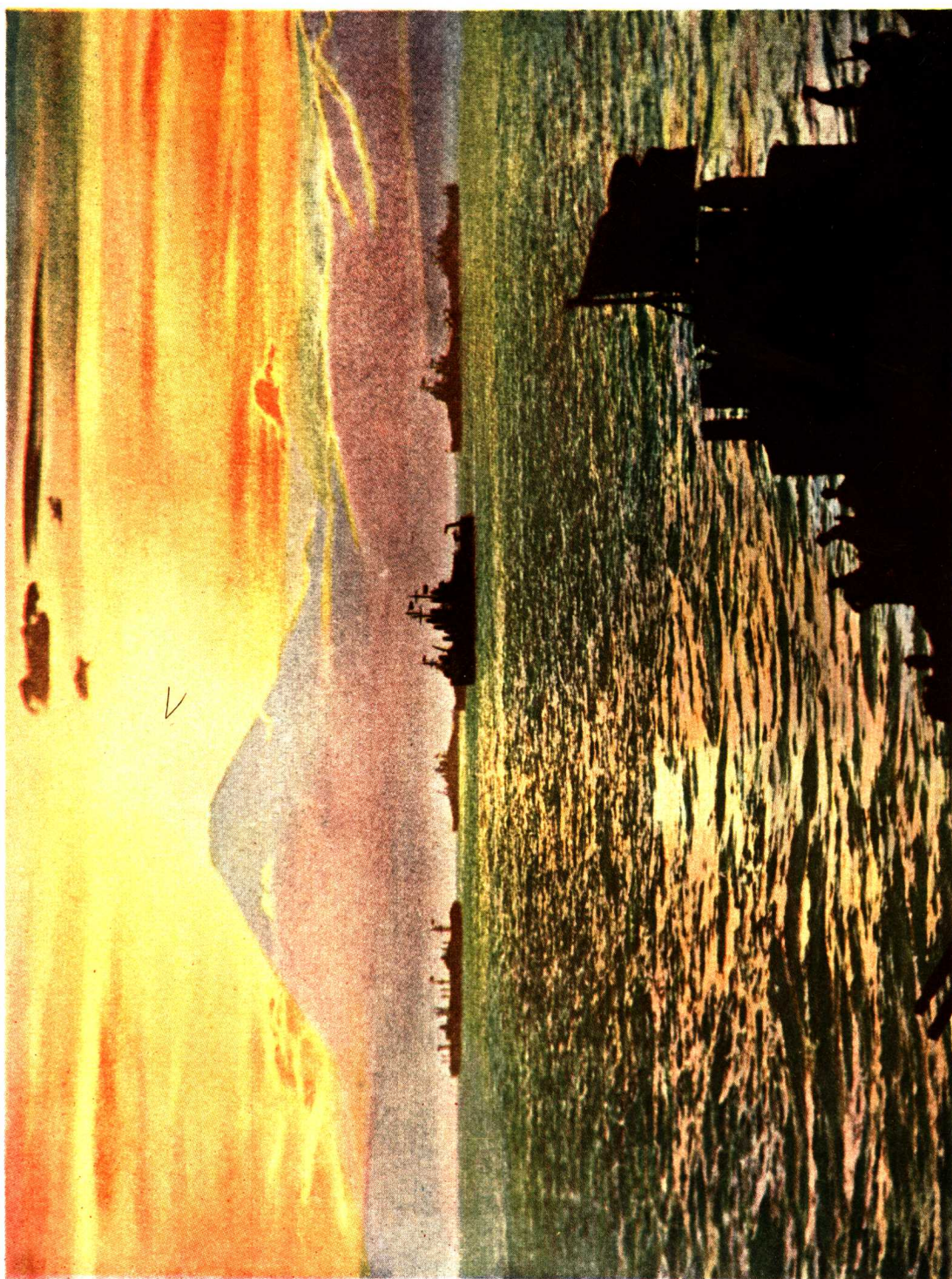
重慶在空襲下
Chungking Under Air Raids



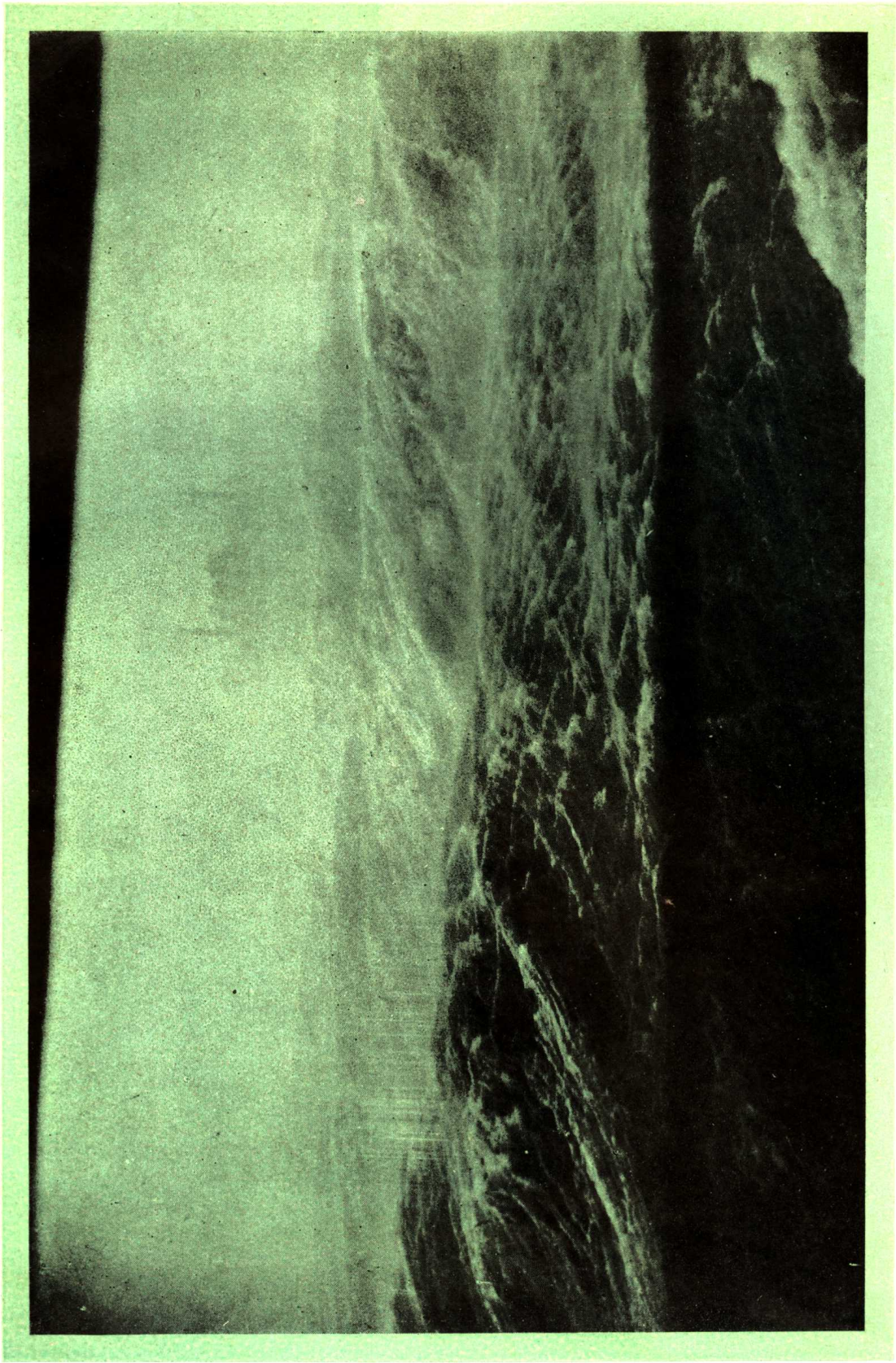
珍珠港被襲
Pearl Harbour Attacked



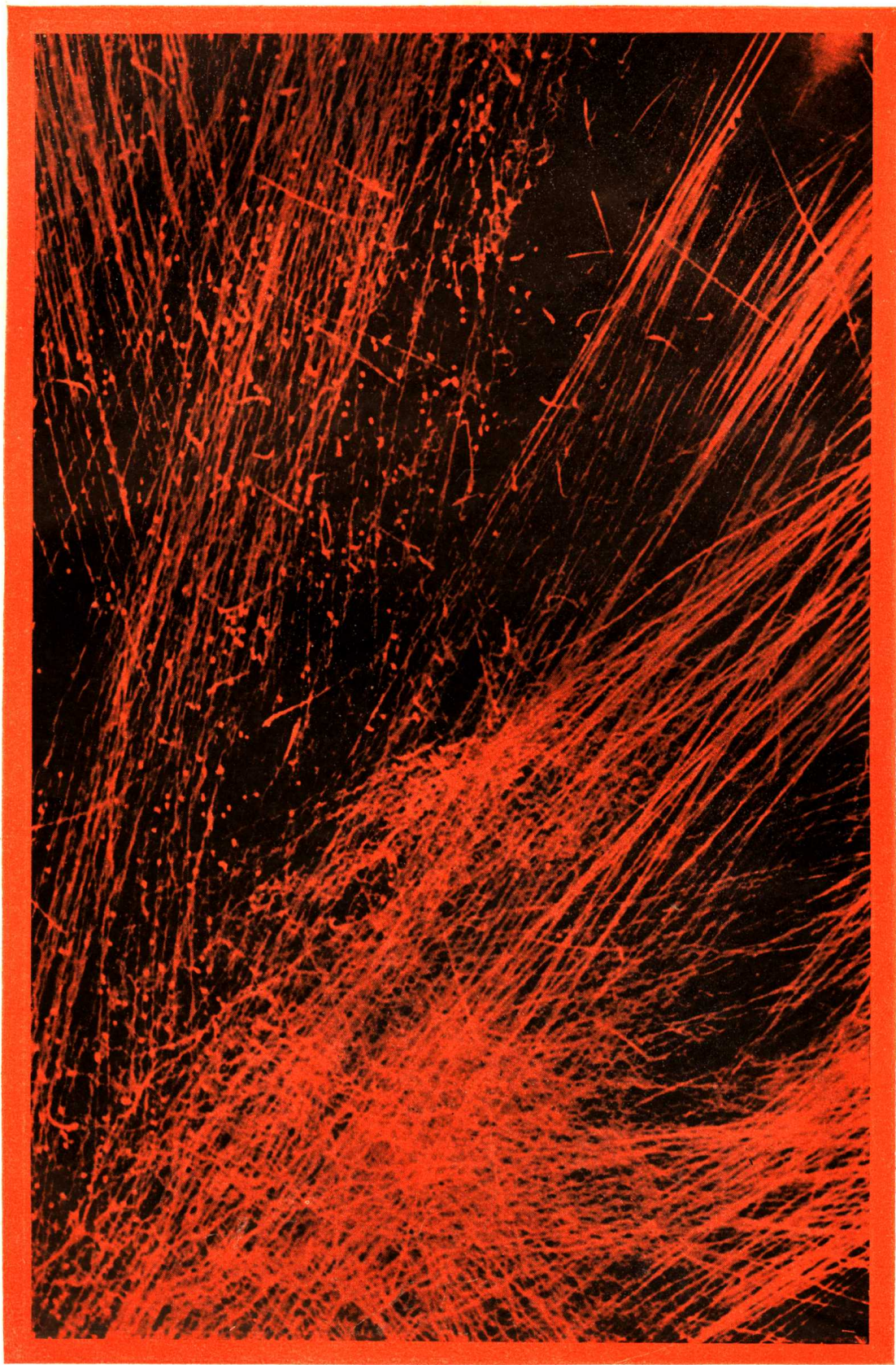
美軍火船在地中海爆炸
U.S. Munition Ship Explode In Mediterranean Sea



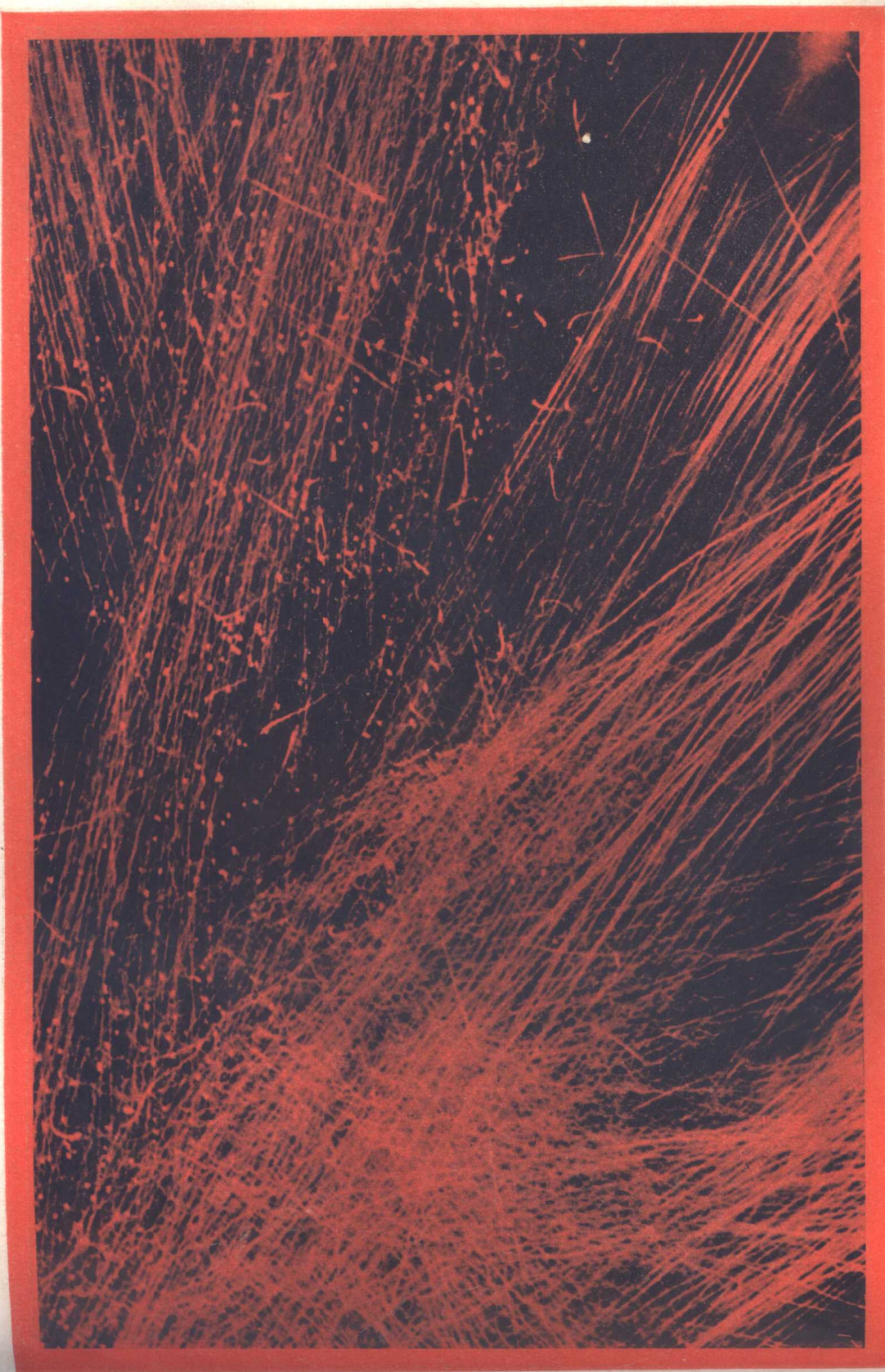
盟軍進入東京灣
Allied Ships In Tokyo Bay



護航在大西洋上
Convoy on the Atlantic



火力 第一
Fire Above All



火力第一
Fire Above All