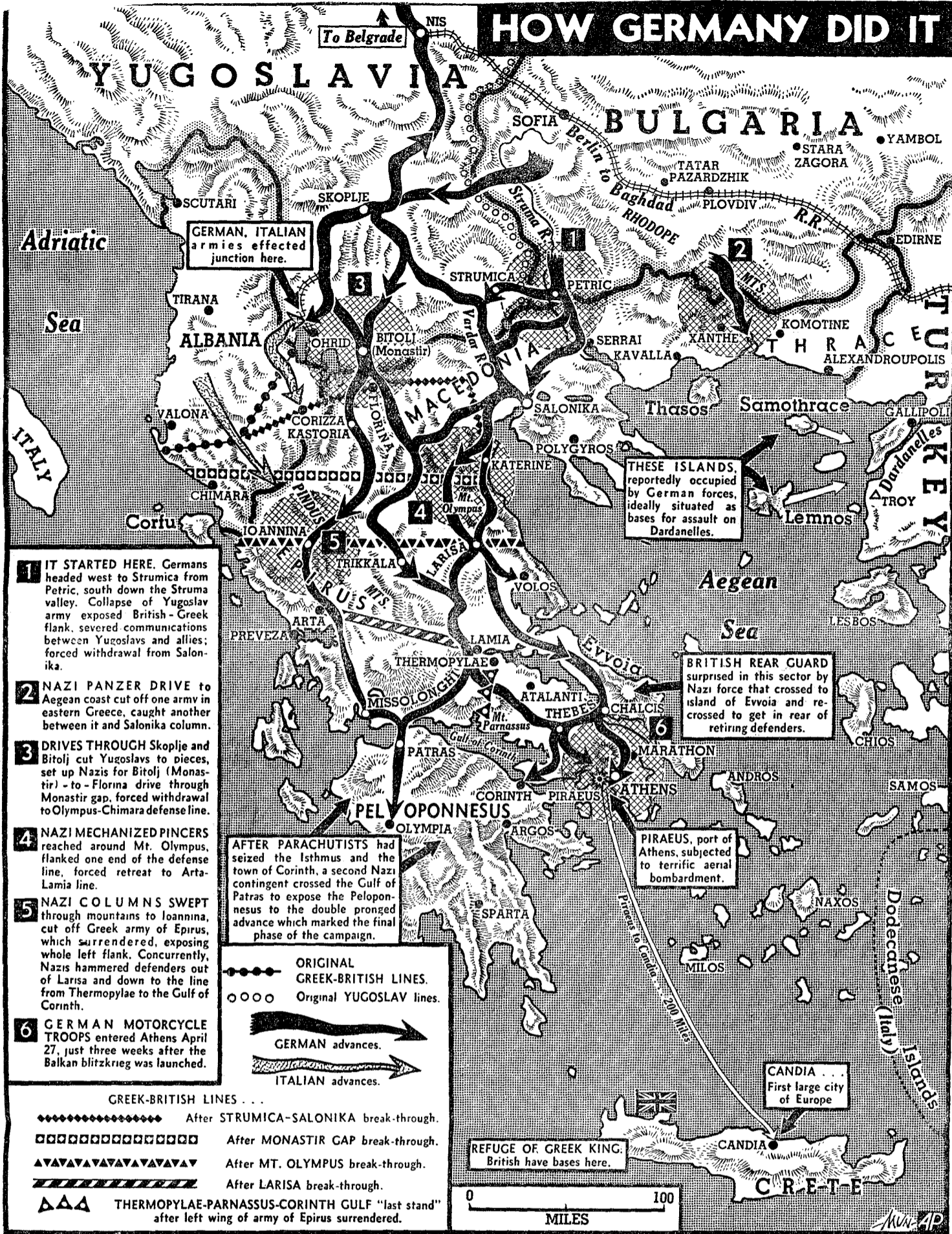


HOW GERMANY DID IT



- 1** IT STARTED HERE. Germans headed west to Strumica from Petric, south down the Struma valley. Collapse of Yugoslav army exposed British-Greek flank, severed communications between Yugoslavs and allies; forced withdrawal from Salonika.
- 2** NAZI PANZER DRIVE to Aegean coast cut off one army in eastern Greece, caught another between it and Salonika column.
- 3** DRIVES THROUGH Skopje and Bitolj cut Yugoslavs to pieces, set up Nazis for Bitolj (Monastir) - to - Florina drive through Monastir gap, forced withdrawal to Olympus-Chimara defense line.
- 4** NAZI MECHANIZED PINCERS reached around Mt. Olympus, flanked one end of the defense line, forced retreat to Artalonia-Lamia line.
- 5** NAZI COLUMNS SWEEPED through mountains to Ioannina, cut off Greek army of Epirus, which surrendered, exposing whole left flank. Concurrently, Nazis hammered defenders out of Larisa and down to the line from Thermopylae to the Gulf of Corinth.
- 6** GERMAN MOTORCYCLE TROOPS entered Athens April 27, just three weeks after the Balkan blitzkrieg was launched.

AFTER PARACHUTISTS had seized the Isthmus and the town of Corinth, a second Nazi contingent crossed the Gulf of Patras to expose the Peloponnese to the double pronged advance which marked the final phase of the campaign.

THESE ISLANDS, reportedly occupied by German forces, ideally situated as bases for assault on Dardanelles.

BRITISH REAR GUARD surprised in this sector by Nazi force that crossed to island of Evvoia and re-crossed to get in rear of retiring defenders.

PIRAEUS, port of Athens, subjected to terrific aerial bombardment.

CANDIA... First large city of Europe

REFUGE OF GREEK KING. British have bases here.

- GREEK-BRITISH LINES . . .
- ◆◆◆◆◆ After STRUMICA-SALONIKA break-through.
 - After MONASTIR GAP break-through.
 - ▲▲▲▲▲ After MT. OLYMPUS break-through.
 - ▬▬▬▬▬ After LARISA break-through.
 - ▲▲▲ THERMOPYLAE-PARNASSUS-CORINTH GULF "last stand" after left wing of army of Epirus surrendered.
- Original YUGOSLAV lines.
 ———— GERMAN advances.
 ———— ITALIAN advances.

0 100 MILES

HITLER'S generals used their Balkan legions as slashing swords to dissect Yugoslavia, reformed them into sledge-hammers to smash the Greco-British defenders back down the Grecian peninsula.

Briefly, that is a resume of Germany's operations after April 6, when the Nazi hordes got the "go" signal.

The Yugoslavs, in scattered, hastily mobilized divisions, sought to man the borders facing Italy, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria—all axis-controlled. They had made a juncture with the Greco-British line near the southwest corner of Bulgaria, where the three countries meet.

GERMAN panzer divisions slashed west from southwestern Bulgaria along the little Struma valley toward Strumnica. The luftwaffe roared ahead, smearing concentration points, disorganizing communications.

The Yugoslavs, their dispositions incomplete, were thrown into chaos. The mechanized divisions rolled them back, took Strumnica, fanned out west over the roads converging on the town. Farther north, another panzer division repeated the performance. Together they rolled over Skopje and Bitolj.

The Yugoslavs fell back and away from their union with the Greco-British. That allied force was being hammered frontally by another panzer column that headed south down the big Struma, toward Salonika. Retreat of the Yugoslavs left the allied flank and rear wide open to the German force surging unopposed down the Vardar valley.

East of Salonika, a German thrust reached the Aegean, cut off the easternmost Greek troops, trapped the others in eastern Greece.

Salonika fell, indefensible after that first flanking slash. The allies were severed from the Yugoslavs. Nazi forces proceeded methodically to carve up Yugoslavia, trapping her quartered armies between circling pincers columns.

The Nazi forces that turned south found the Greco-British defenders in a hastily-disposed line from Mount Olympus in a wide arc to Chimara. The invaders hurled a hammer-blow at Monastir gap, on the allied left centre. The weakest link in the line, it gave and the Nazis poured southeastward.

FLANKED again, the Greco-British forces withdrew to shorter lines, still bastioned by Mt. Olympus on the east. The Nazis turned their might on that fabled home of the gods. It was no finesse. They simply hurled masses of picked storm troops until the defenders were mounded.

They rolled around Olympus, and the Anzacs and weary Greeks fell back again. Another Nazi column slashed southwest through Monastir gap, got behind the northwestern Greek army of Epirus. Those Greeks, already fighting a revived Italian army, were trapped. They surrendered and exposed the whole allied line to the southeast.

Larissa fell, and the allies fell back again. They fell back in order and stubbornly. They wrote new records of valour on the old stage at Thermopylae. But the Germans came on, converging against the "last ditch" line that ran from Thermopylae past Mt. Parnassus to the Gulf of Corinth.

That is the story of the partition of Yugoslavia by a series of swift slashes, of the steady advance through Greece implemented by a series of massed blows at key points.