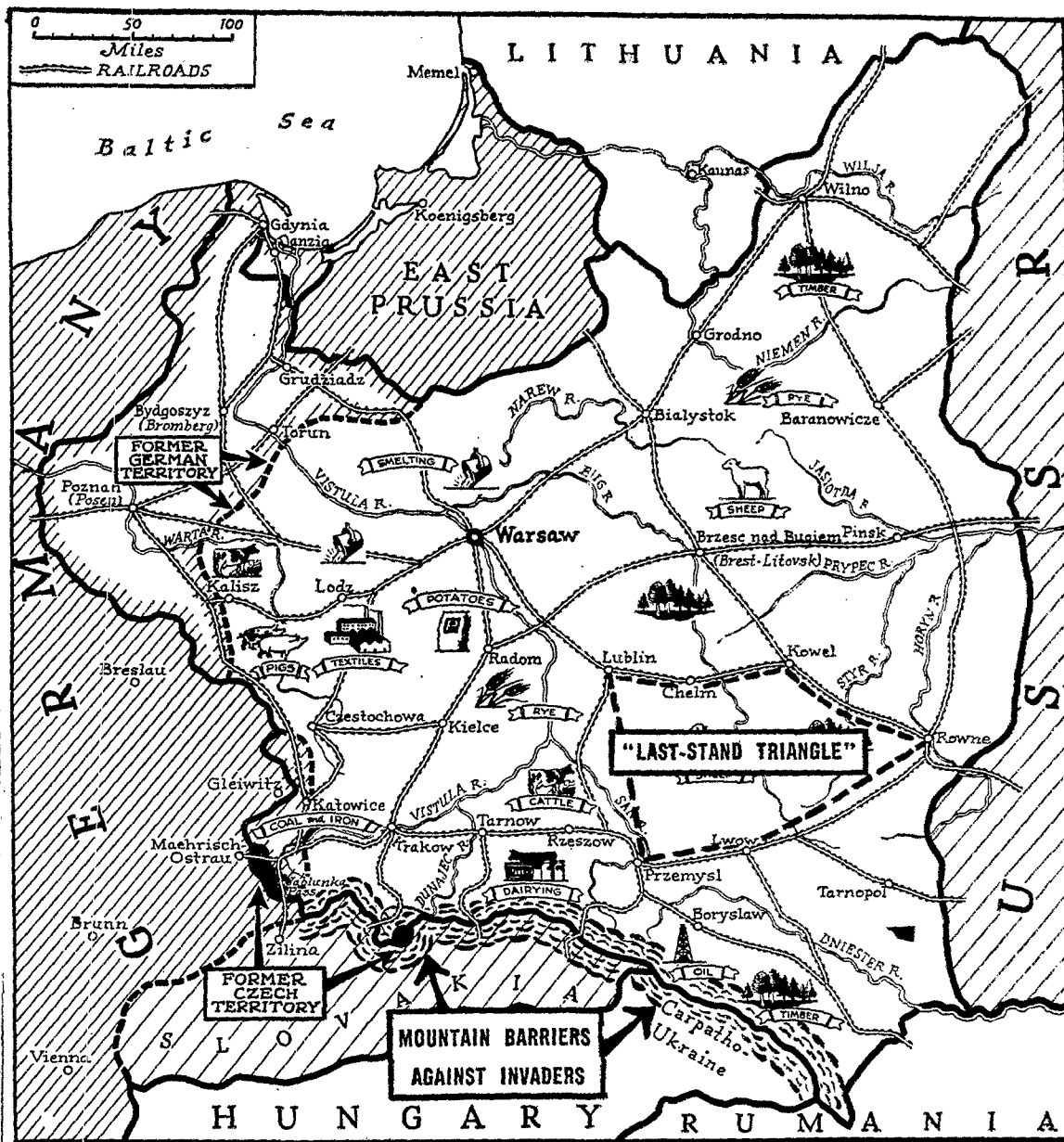


Poland's Railways and Resources



Map shows natural resources of Poland and network of railways aiding her in repelling attacks of invading German troops. Many wartime industries have

been moved from the western border to a triangular area surrounded by strong defensive positions. Mountains to the south impede the progress of the invaders.

Men, Mud, Mountains Are Barriers Of Poland Against Nazi Invasion

(By The Associated Press.)

Men, mud and mountains are Poland's own hopes to stem the German tide.

The Polish South has the Carpathian peaks rearing 7,500 feet into the sky to block a flanking invasion by way of Hungary. Almost as high, the Tatras shunt Germany's Slovakian approach to a narrow northern portion of the Slovak-Polish border.

The Germans found but a single railroad and a single highway in Slovakia there. Poland had five rail lines and numerous roads to service her comparative frontier. Central Poland offers an invader prairie mud, to which is geared perfectly the Polish reliance on infantry and horse-mounted cavalry as the backbone of her some 500,000 regular army.

Germany is reported to have regulars and reservists totalling about 4,000,000.

Every Pole is an army man continuously from the age of 21 to 50, on call during all of 29 years in some form of regular full-time or reserve unit.

This system of universal conscription in peacetime gives the Poles, despite their limited population

total, an estimated reservoir of 4,500,000 trained reserves and a total manpower of 6,000,000.

The Polish network of highways and railroads converging upon its industrial heart are a great strategic aid to defence, and her wide rivers and numerous waterways—including many canals—can be shifted in many instances from defensive aids to obstacles in the face of an invader as he advances.

The central location of Warsaw, on the other hand, makes the Polish capital especially vulnerable to short flights by planes with heavy bomb loads.

Against the pincer position of East Prussia and Germany against the Corridor, Poland had the confidence that remote Prussia would be difficult to service with supplies and men from the Reich, once sea transport became hazardous. As an

ace in the hole, the Poles hoped to interpose against any successful East Prussian advance the 3,000 feet width of the Vistula River, which flows through Warsaw and has no bridges for forty-five miles between Tezew and Gudiadz.