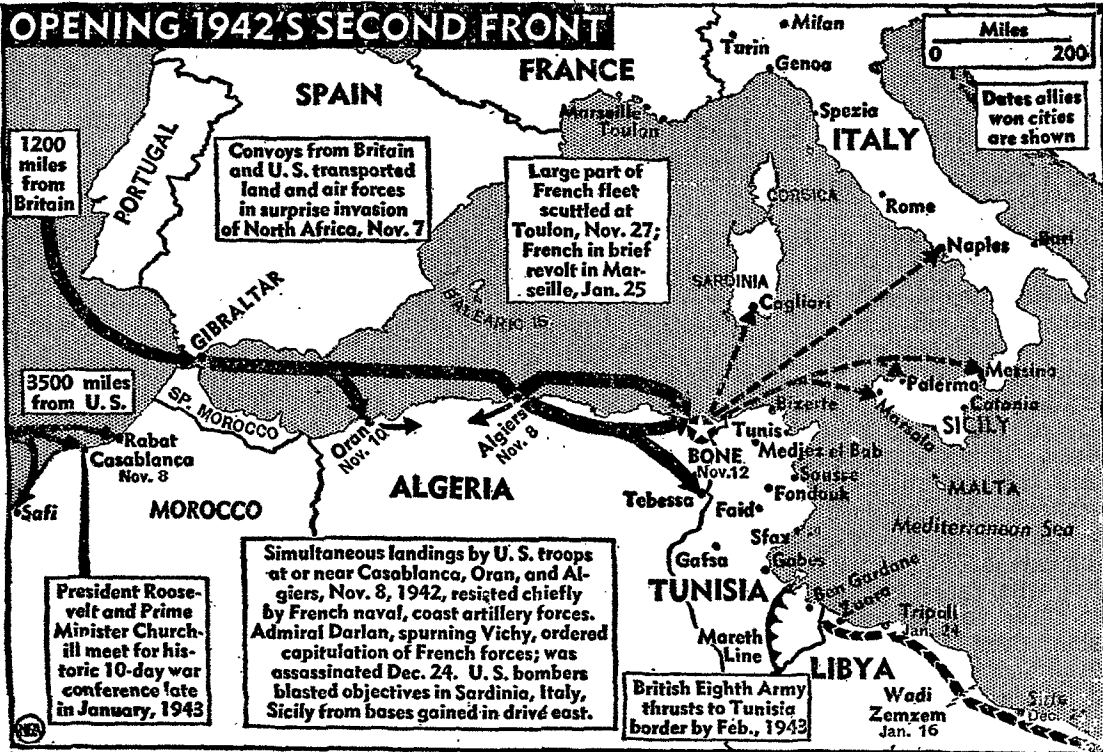


# SIX MONTHS OF WAR IN NORTH AFRICA

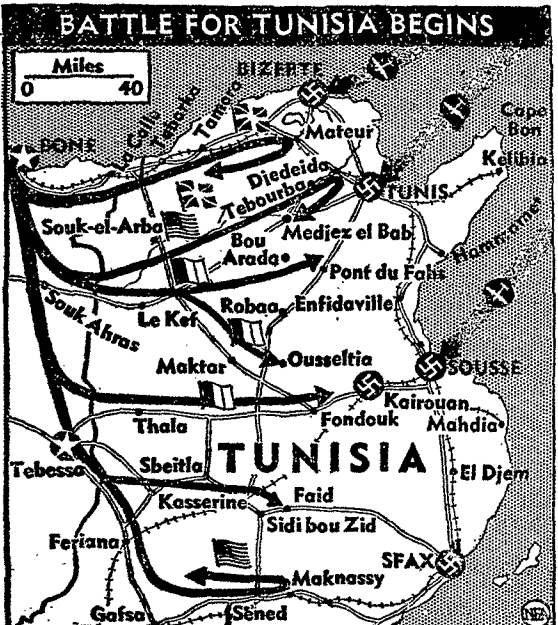
## OPENING 1942'S SECOND FRONT



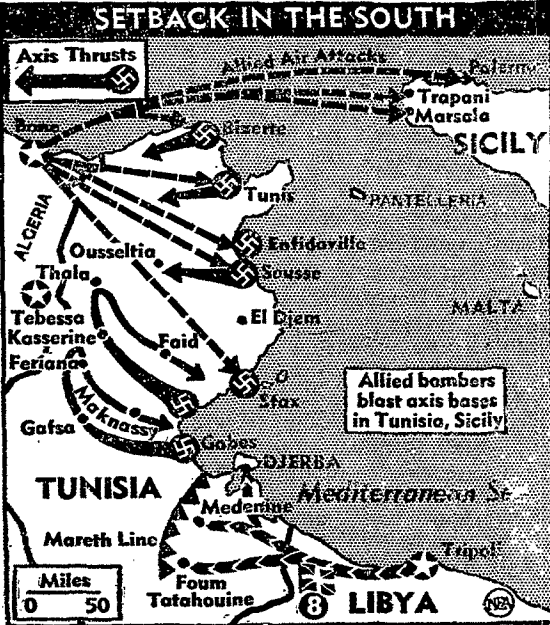
**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER:** The world had about given up second front hopes in 1942 when American and British forces made their swift, surprise invasion of French North Africa. In quick cleanups following landings along the coast, the allies gained control of Morocco and Algeria and thrust into Tunisia. Meanwhile the British Eighth Army was chasing Rommel through Libya toward Tunisia. But the last 100 miles became the hardest, for the axis rushed troops, planes and tanks to seize control of the eastern half of Tunisia.

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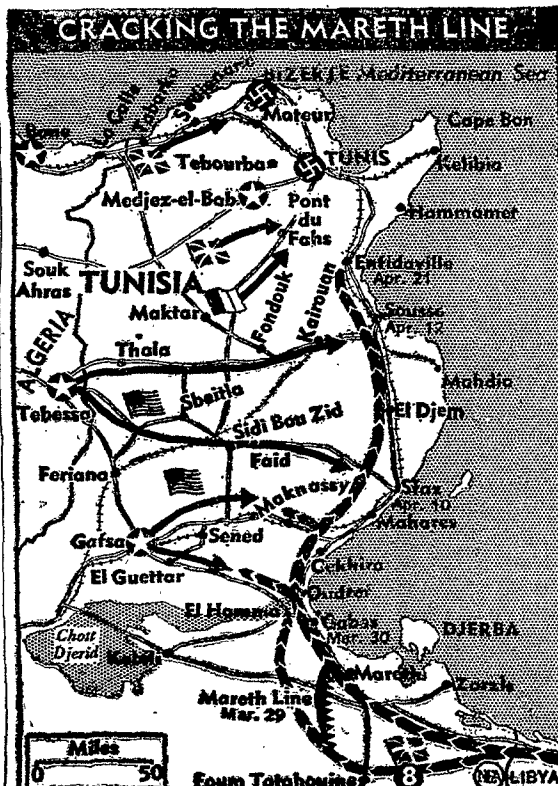
WAR  
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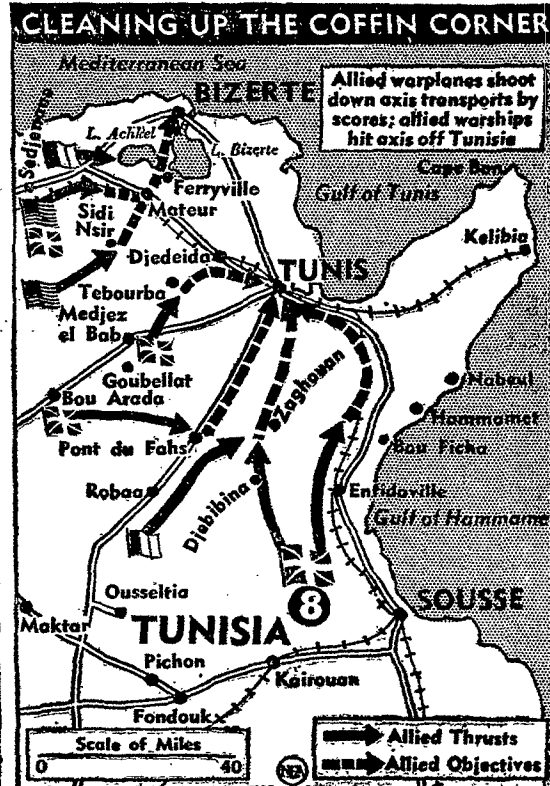
**DECEMBER-FEBRUARY:** The Battle for Tunisia began only a few days after the invasion of North Africa. British-American forces thrust to within artillery range of Bizerte and Tunis, but were turned back by Germans arriving by air and sea in ever-increasing numbers at their coastal bases. General Giraud's French troops were in action against the axis on the central front, and American tank units fought Germans at Faid Pass and made a hit-run raid on Maknassy early in February.



**FEBRUARY-MARCH:** Following their initial success in holding the allies in northern Tunisia, axis forces—joined by Rommel's troops and tanks from Libya—attacked Americans in the Gafsa area and drove them back to the Algerian border. But British Eighth Army pressure on the Mareth Line brought a quick end to this axis offensive, object of which was to delay the allies another month. By mid-March reinforced Americans drove the axis back from Kasserine Pass and re-established a base at Gafsa.



**MARCH-APRIL:** A foxy, encircling drive cracked the axis-held Mareth Line for the British Eighth Army and made General Montgomery the hero of Tunisia as well as of Egypt and Libya. Following the break-through to Gabes, the Eighth Army raced up the coast after Rommel's retreating remnants while American and French forces cleaned up in the interior. By mid-April, the axis had fallen back to the tip of Tunisia and was preparing for its last stand in the hills before Bizerte and



**APRIL-MAY:** Caught in the "coffin corner," Axis fighters seemed doomed to either death or a "Dunkirk" on the northern shores of Tunisia. Allied air superiority made the chances of evacuation slim, so the trapped Axis troops fought desperately in their djebel (hill) positions and brought the British-French-American advance to a momentary halt. Six months after the invasion of North Africa, the wind-up of this campaign is in sight—but there are still many

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