

WHAT THE MAP SHOWS

(See also article on pp. 6 & 7)

CONTRARY to popular impression, the French do not desperately need their Algiers-Marseilles route to bring North African recruits into France and French reinforcements to Tunis. They have an alternative route, extending by rail along the North African coast from Bizerte to Casablanca on the Atlantic Ocean, thence to Bordeaux by transport under cover of the French and British Atlantic fleets. The French have built a big naval base at Bizerte; and they have an excellent harbour for submarines at Mers-el-Kebir, half-way between Algiers and Gibraltar from the Mediterranean side.

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NATURE provided Switzerland with its least formidable defences on its northern border. The Swiss, fearful of German strategy, have recently mined their passes, particularly the bottlenecks through which a German Army of invasion would have to march.

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THE Baltic Plain is glacial country. When the ice cap was inching out over Europe, drainage toward the north was blocked; hence the plain is now crisscrossed by old river beds that run from east to west, by rivers that now flow into the North and Baltic Seas. The new river beds and the old connecting valleys make it relatively easy for soldiers to roll across the Baltic Plain in any direction. Germany's soldiers rolled against Russia in 1914 on railroad lines built especially to serve strategic purposes. On the Russian side of the border railroads were as few as they were many in Germany.

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LOGIC cannot predict where the next battles will be fought because: (1) Military men often blunder, and (2) each side is trying to outguess the other and knows that the least likely point of attack is often the most profitable. To-day General Staffs have the map of Europe spread before them and are playing a shell game with one another. Instead of three shells, however, they have half-a-dozen, each covering one of Europe's theatres of war. Not till the big guns blow the shells to bits will anyone know under which shell lies the pea.

