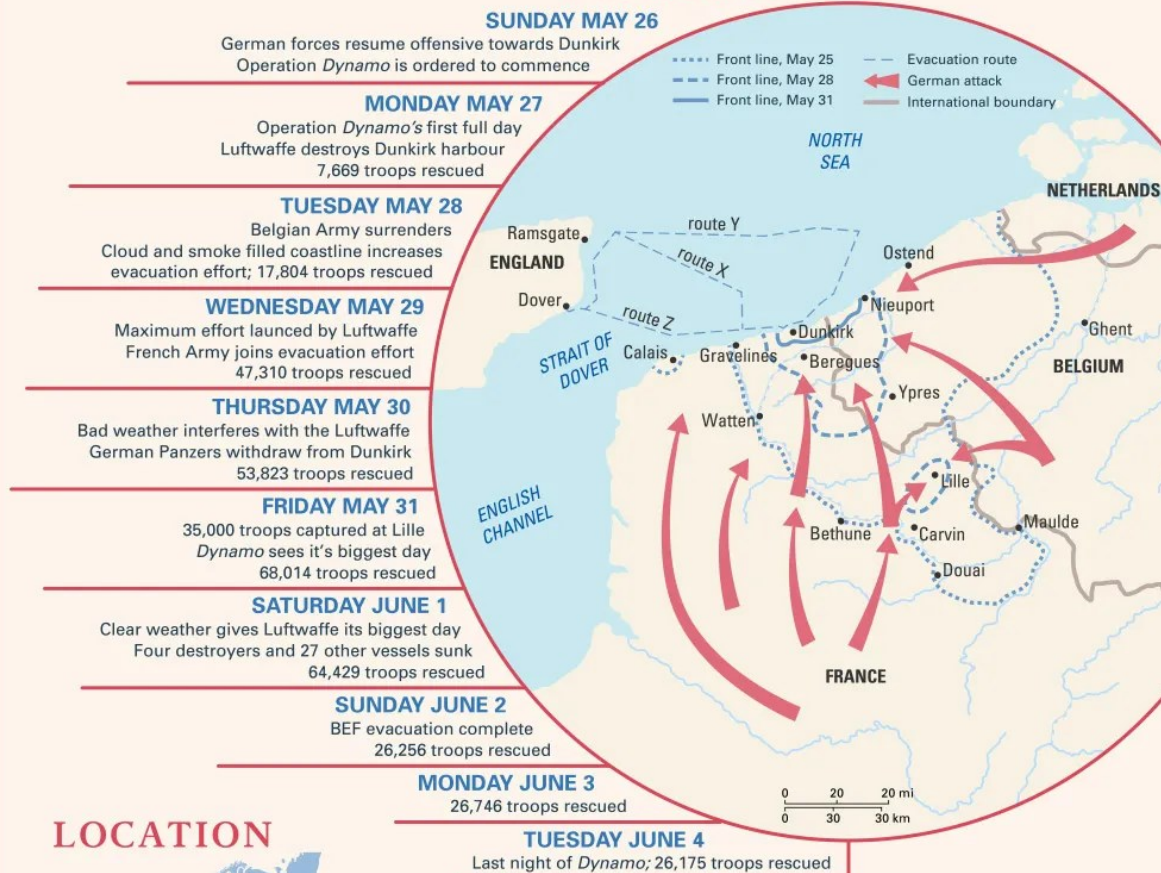


# Some of Hitler's Military Errors during the Second World War

## DUNKIRK EVACUATION MAY 26–June 4, 1940

The evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and other Allied troops from the French seaport of Dunkirk (Dunkerque) to England. Operation *Dynamo* used hundreds of naval vessels and civilian boats in the evacuation.

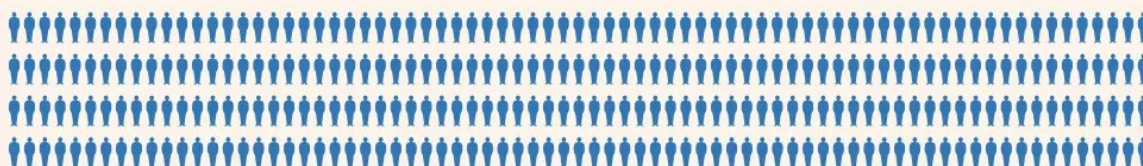
### TIMELINE



### INITIAL PLAN VS ACTUAL OUTCOME

1 icon = 1,000 troops

2 DAYS 45,000 TROOPS



## Evacuation from Dunkirk, 1940

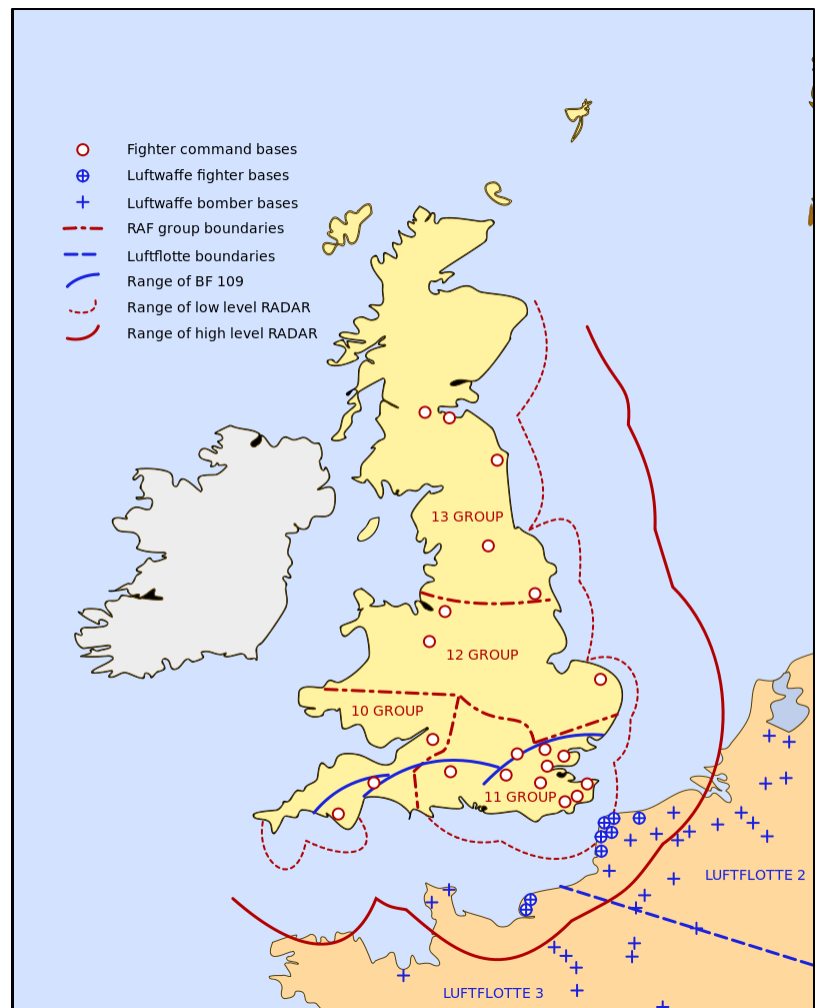
- British and French troops, early into the war, are pushed to the coast by German panzer (tank) units to Dunkirk, a seaport on the French Coast.
- Hitler, listening to Hermann Göring, wanted the *Luftwaffe* to destroy these allied troops, but cloud cover prevented the bombing.
- For nine days the British navy, as well as civilian helpers, evacuated over 300,000 men from the beaches of Dunkirk.

Why was allowing this evacuation to happen an error?

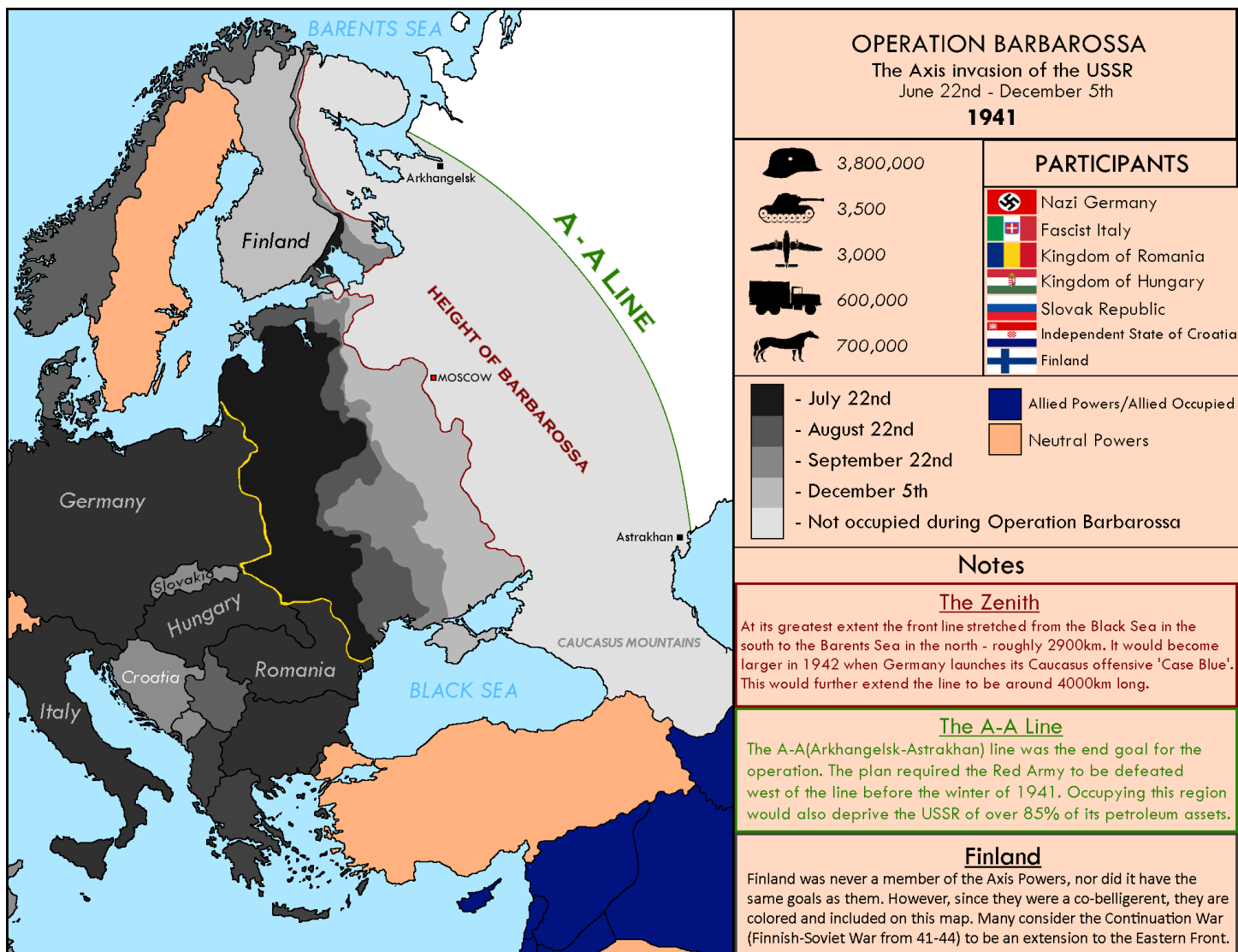
## The London Blitz (bombing of London), 1940

- During the **Battle of Britain**, the *Luftwaffe* accidentally bombed London instead of RAF (Royal Air Force) airfields.
- Winston Churchill (Prime Minister of Great Britain) retaliated by having the RAF bomb Berlin.
- Hitler, embarrassed and upset, orders London bombed for two months.

Why was exclusively bombing London an error?



Battle of Britain boundaries, bases and RADAR coverage. Image from *Strategy for Defeat, The Luftwaffe 1933-1945* by Williamson Murray



Source: Reddit user: Jeff\_Strongmann

## Operation Barbarossa (Invasion of Russia), 1941

- On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1941, the Third Reich invaded the Soviet Union. For the Soviets this triggered **The Great Patriotic War** – a fight for the survival of the Soviet Union in the face of a Nazi invasion.
- 3.8 million personnel of the Axis powers—the largest invasion force in the history of warfare—invaded the western Soviet Union along a 2,900-kilometer (1,800 mi) front, with 600,000 motor vehicles and over 600,000 horses for non-combat operations.



- Germans and Soviets engage in the **Battle of Stalingrad** as part of a long, costly, and brutal war.
- Historically, what are Russia's two secret weapons?

1.

2.

Why was engaging in *Operation Barbarossa* a major military error?



*The Motherland Calls statue over present-day Volgograd (Stalingrad)*  
Credit: MLADEN ANTONOV/GETTY