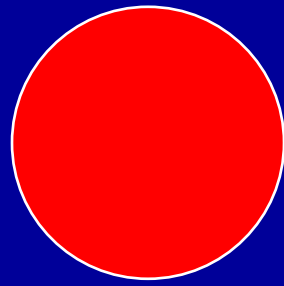


Axis Aggression: War Begins

PDN



Enduring Understanding:

Germany invades Poland, causing Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany

Essential Questions:

1. What types of early aggression did Germany take?
2. What new tactics did Germany use on the Allies?

Objectives

- Understand how German aggression led Europe into World War II
- Trace the course of German aggression and British resistance in Europe

Lightning Attacks

- *September 1, 1939*
 - *Germany attacked Poland*
 - *new tactic: blitzkrieg*
 - *air attack to damage defenses*
 - *fast-moving tanks & mobile artillery attack*
 - *foot soldiers clear out the rest*



Invasion of Poland

- *Polish air force = destroyed*
- *Polish soldiers = no match for Germans*
- *Polish landscape = no natural barriers to slow the blitzkrieg*

Allied Response

- *Poland had support from Great Britain & France*
- *September 3, 1939*
 - *Great Britain & France declare war on Germany*
- *Great Britain & France didn't give much help to Poland*



Allied Response

- *collapse of Poland = fast*
- *little could be done to stop German invasion*
- *German troops move west (toward France)*
- *German leaders made plans for invading*

German Attack on France

- *spring, 1940*
 - *Germans invaded Denmark & Norway (lightly defended)*
- *May 1940 = northern France*
 - *Germans go through Netherlands & Belgium*
 - *around Maginot Line*

German Attack on France

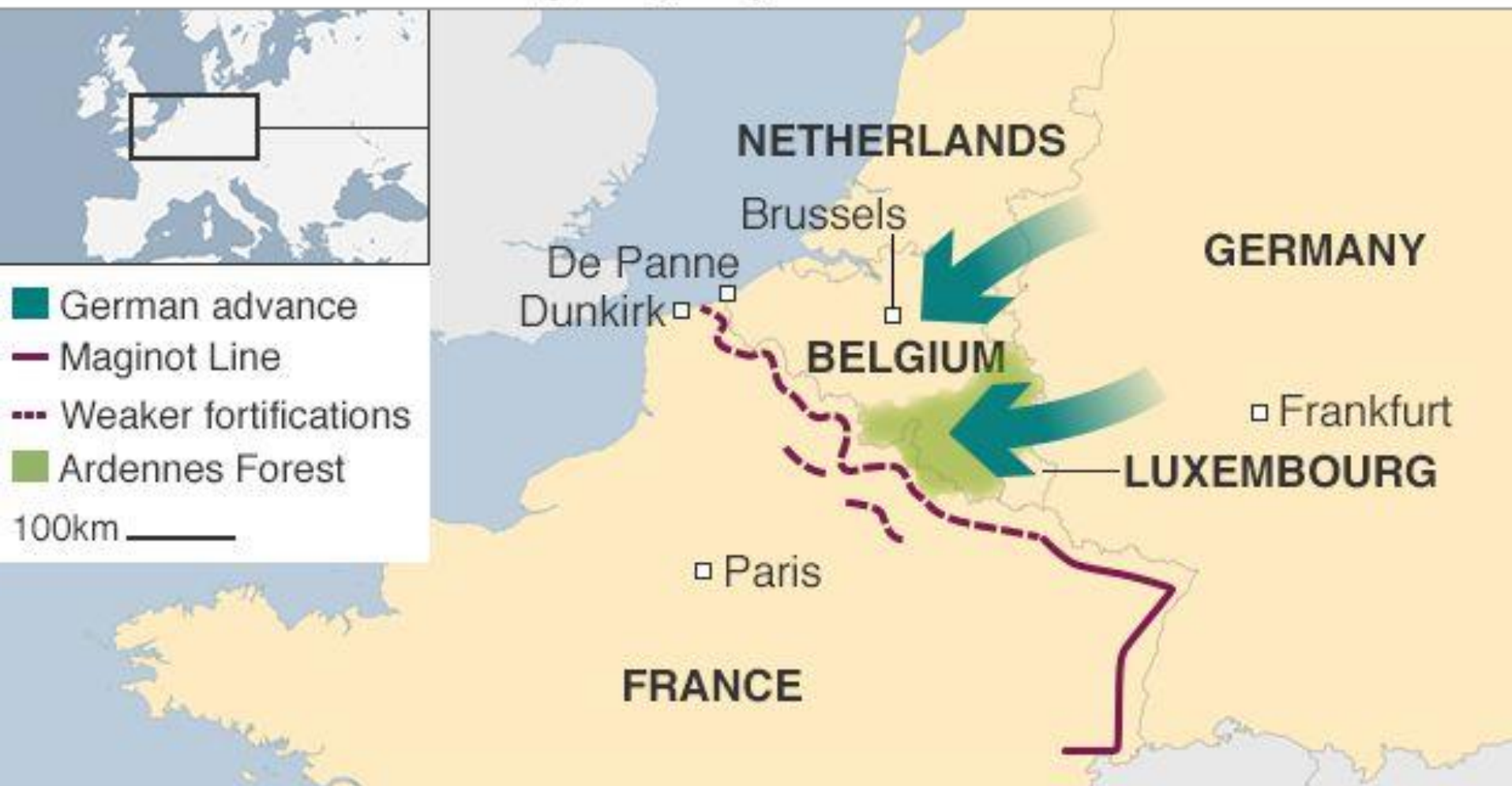
- *May 1940 = northeast France*
 - *Germans attack Ardennes*
 - *dense forest region near the French/Belgian border (undefended)*
 - *Germans move northwest to coast (English Channel)*



Dunkirk

- *Dunkirk = coastal town (northwest France, near English Channel)*
- *German troops trapped hundreds of thousands of Allied troops*
- *Allied military & civilian ships saved over 300,000 → retreated to Great Britain*

German advance in Belgium, May-June 1940



Source: Secondworldwarhistory.com

German Attack on France

- *remaining Allied troops couldn't stop Germans from taking Paris*
- *June 22, 1940*
 - *France surrendered to Germany*
- *Germany occupied France*
- *area under control of French officials cooperating with Hitler = Vichy France*