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978-1-107-01475-6 - How the War was Won: Air–Sea Power and Allied Victory in World War II

Phillips Payson O’Brien

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How the War was Won

The Second World War is usually seen as a titanic land battle, decided by mass armies, most importantly those on the Eastern Front. Phillips O’Brien shows us the war in a completely different light. In this compelling new history of the Allied path to victory, he argues that in terms of production, technology and economic power, the war was far more a contest of air and sea supremacy. He shows how the Allies developed a predominance of air and sea power which put unbearable pressure on Germany and Japan’s entire war-fighting machine from Europe and the Mediterranean to the Pacific. Air and sea power dramatically expanded the area of battle and allowed the Allies to destroy over half of the Axis’s equipment before it had even reached the traditional “battlefield.” Battles such as El Alamein, Stalingrad and Kursk did not win World War II; air and sea power did.

Phillips Payson O’Brien is Director of the Scottish Centre for War Studies and Reader in History at the University of Glasgow.

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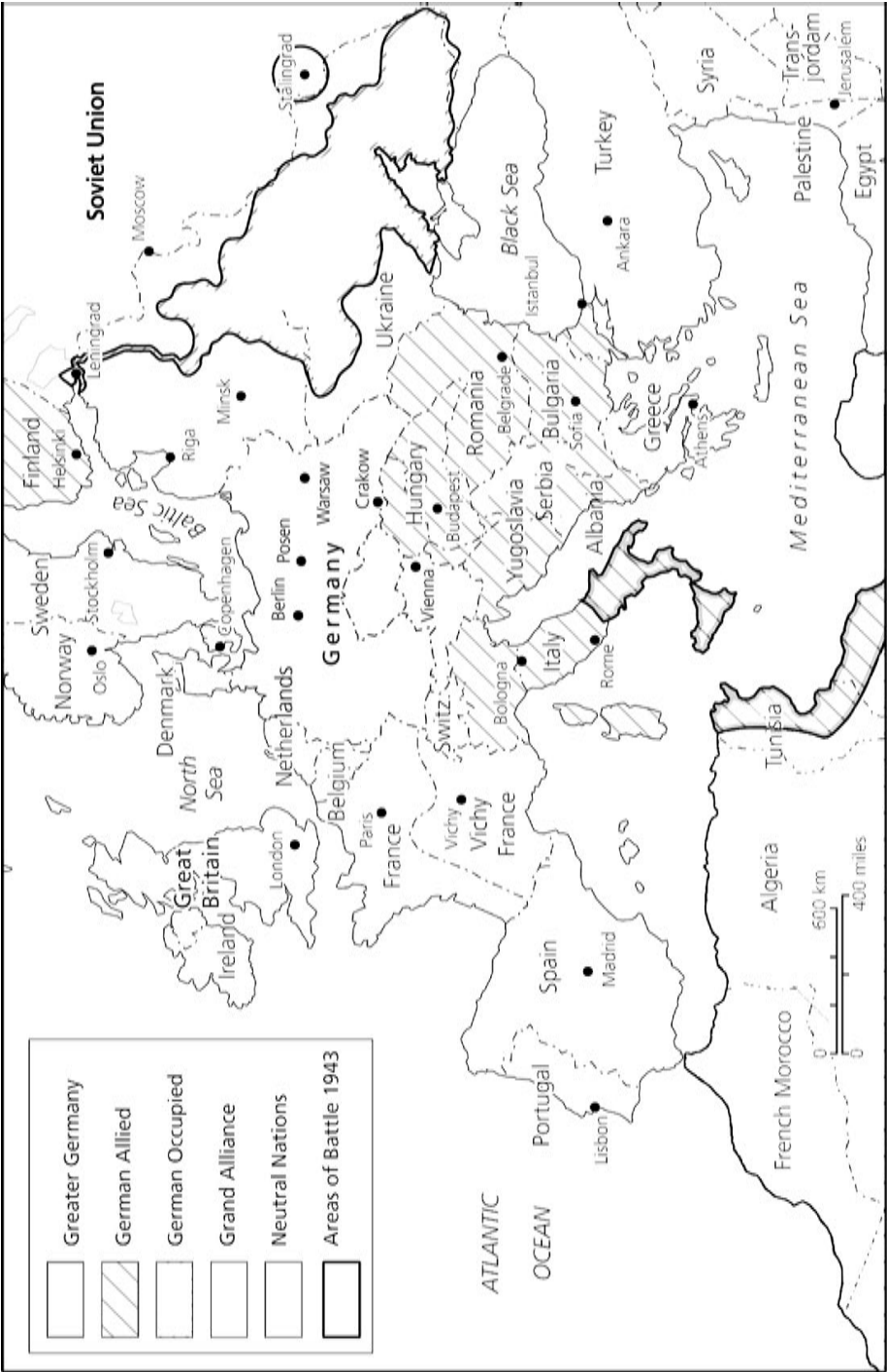
ABBREVIATIONS

Adm	Admiralty Papers, National Archives (UK)
AFV	armored fighting vehicles
Air	Air Ministry Papers, National Archives (UK)
ASW	anti-submarine warfare
Cab	Cabinet Papers, National Archives (UK)
CBO	Combined Bomber Offensive
CCS	Combined Chiefs of Staff
COA	Committee of Operations Analysts
DEI	Dutch East Indies
ETO	European theater of operations
FDR	Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers, Hyde Park, NY
FO	Foreign Office Papers, National Archives (UK)
IJN	Imperial Japanese Navy
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
JIC	Joint Intelligence Committee
MAP	Ministry of Aircraft Production (UK)
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration (USA)
NAUK	National Archives United Kingdom, Kew
NAUS	National Archives United States, College Park, MD
OKW	Oberkommando der Wehrmacht
Prem	Prime Minister’s Papers, National Archives (UK)
RM	Reichsmarks
SD	State Department Papers, National Archives (USA)
UKSBS	United Kingdom Strategic Bombing Survey
USAAF	United States Army Air Force

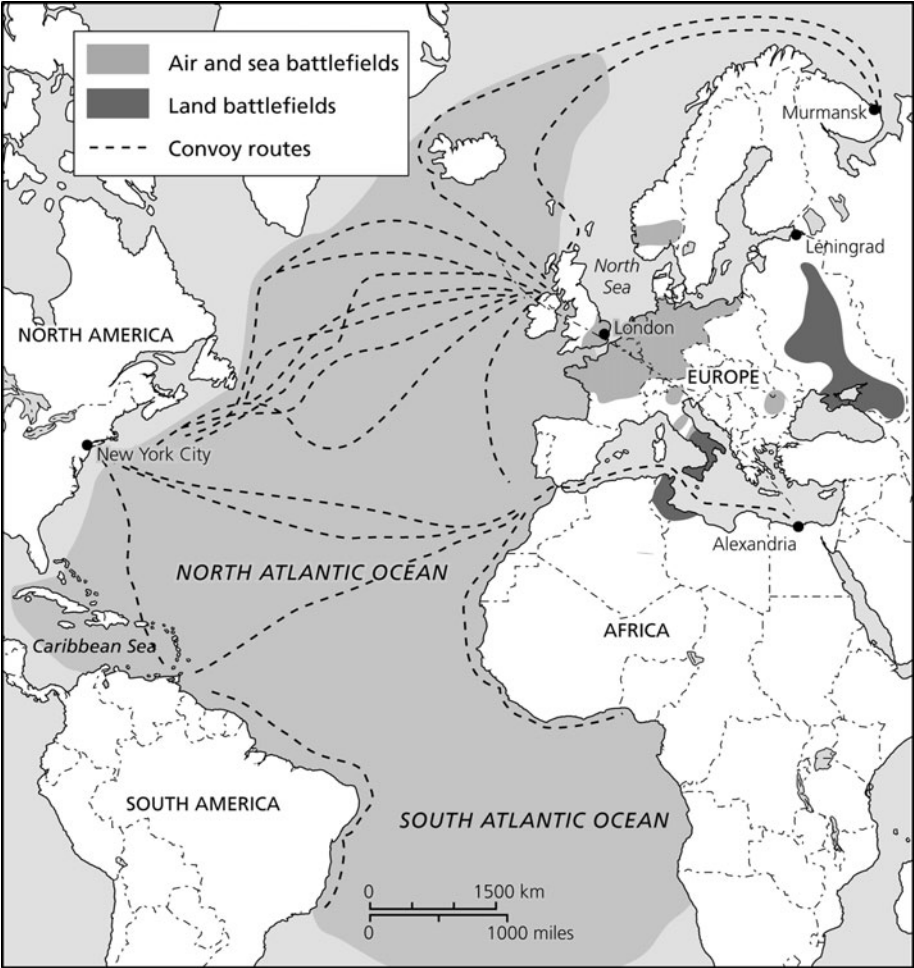
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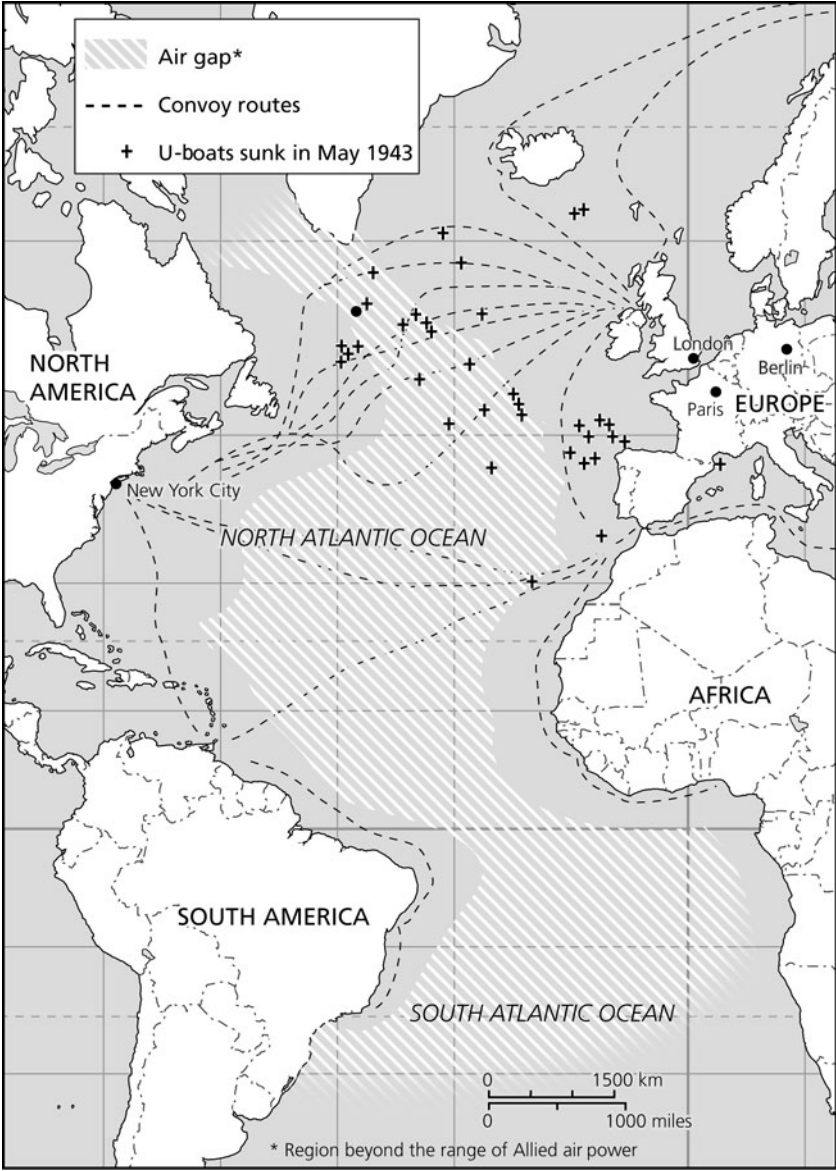
USN	United States Navy
USSBS	United States Strategic Bombing Survey Papers, National Archives (USA)
War	War Department Papers (UK)
WD	War Department Papers (USA)

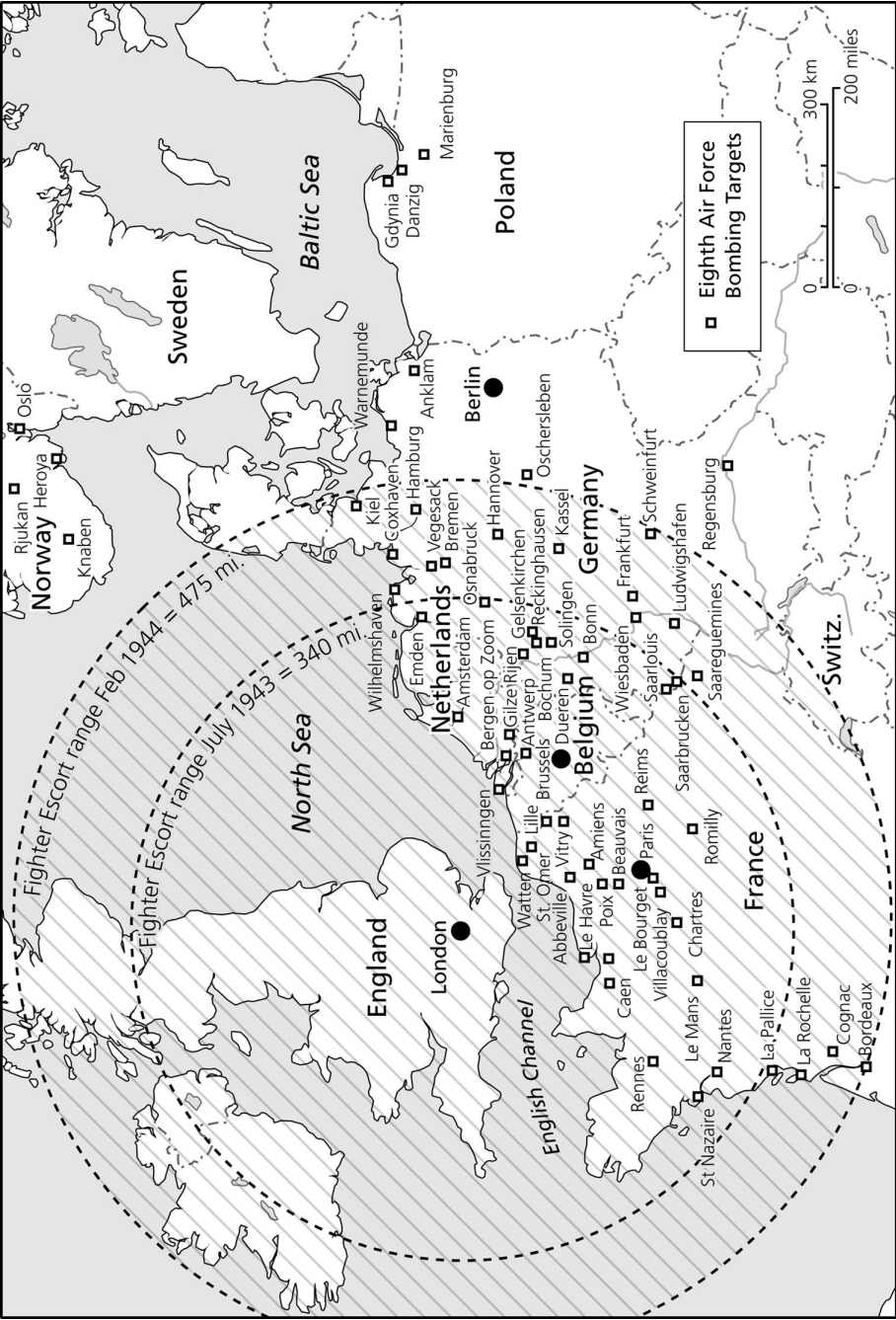


Map 1 The land battlefield, 1943

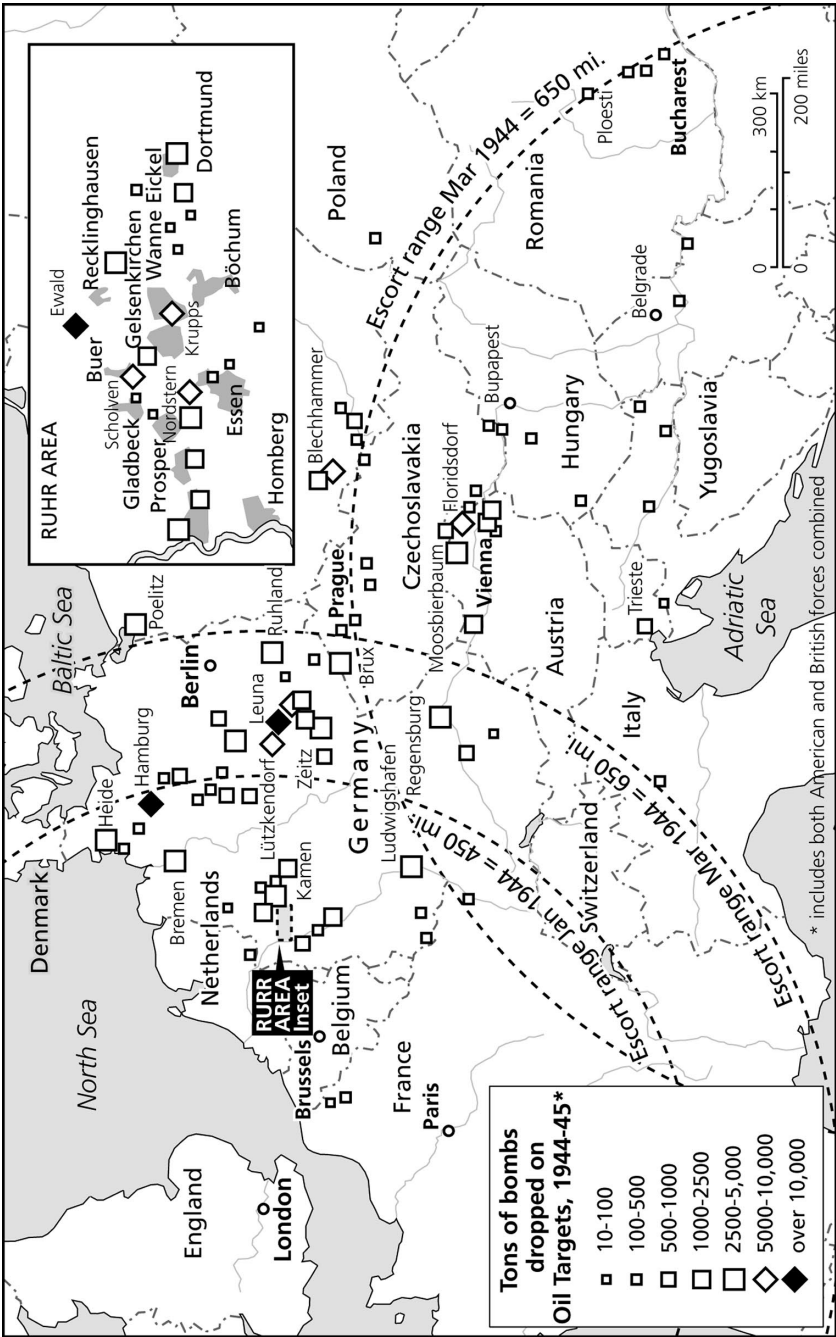


Map 2 The air–sea super-battlefield, 1943

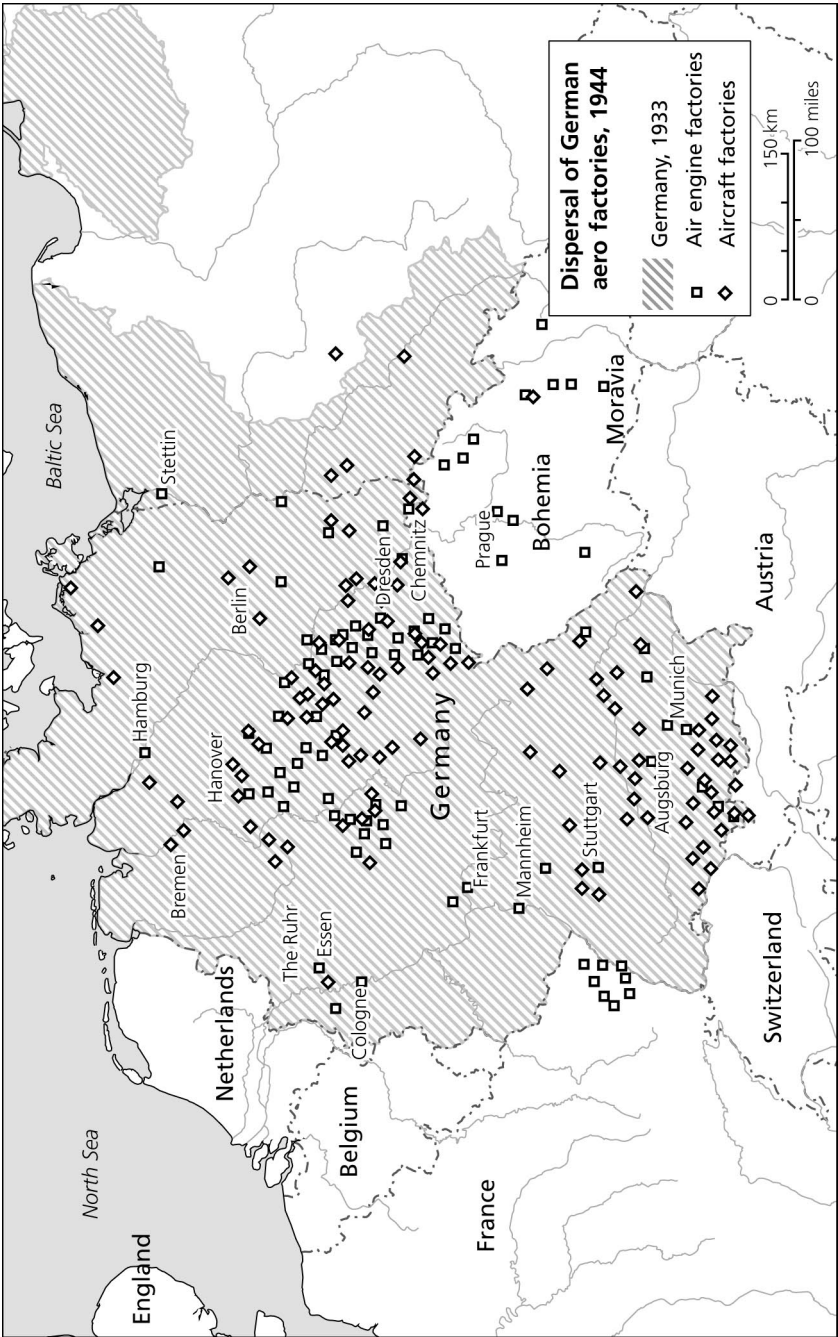




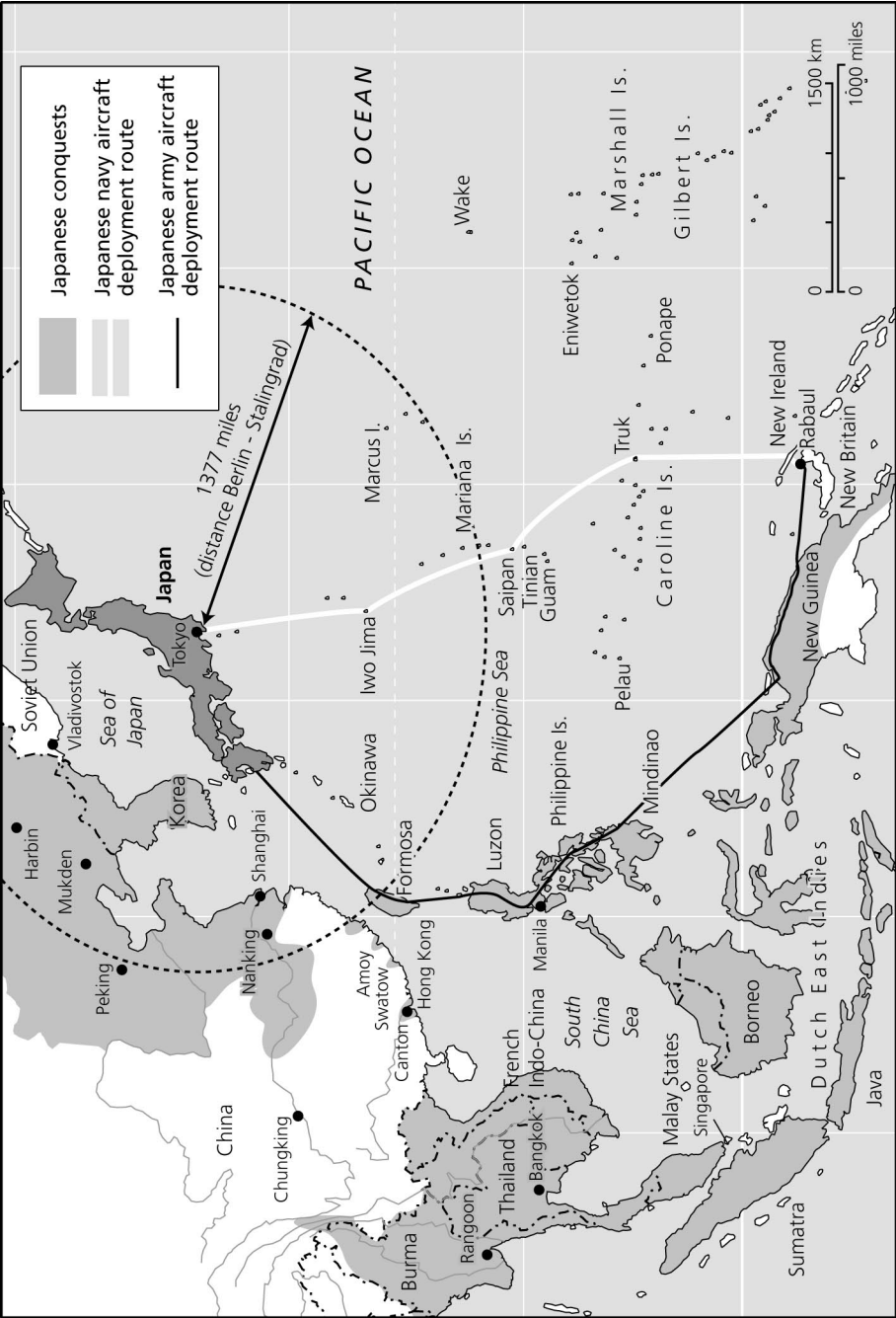
Map 4 Strategic air war in Europe, 1943



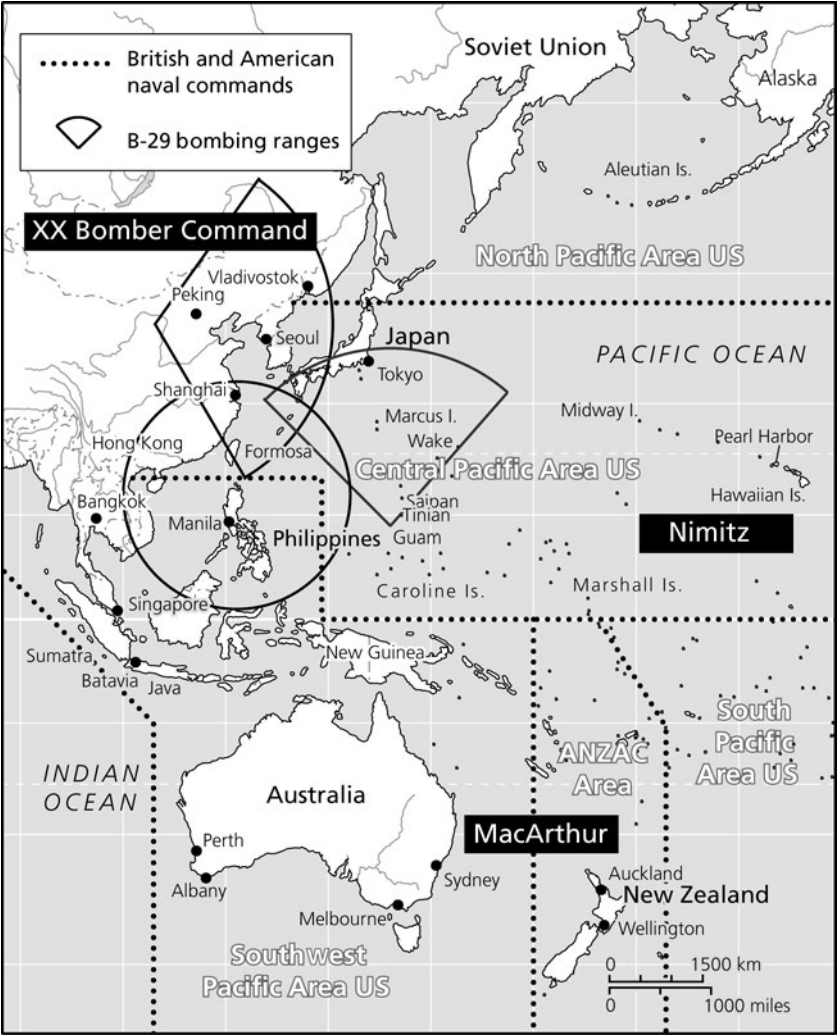
Map 5 Strategic air war in Europe, 1944



Map 6 The dispersal of German aircraft and air-engine production



Map 7 The Japanese empire



Map 8 The three American drives to Japan