Chair Report
The Supreme War Council

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Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Representatives of the Distinguished Nations,

I, in lieu of the Secretariat, am thrilled to welcome you to the third annual session of Kabataş Model United Nations Conference. I, Orçun DOĞMAZER, have been studying at Kabataş Erkek Lisesi for four years and am receiving the privilege to serve as the third Secretary-General of this society.

KMUN Conference is the biggest student initiated organization in the illustrious 107 years old history of this community. How Buckingham Palace was used by King George III to host diverse reputed bureaucrats and royal families, likewise Kabataş High School was utilized to serve for those certain purposes at the times of Ottoman Empire. KMUN 2013 and KMUN 2014 have the distinctive honor to comprise more than 350 national and international participants. As it was planned and announced a year ago, the conference will be hosting more than 500 participants coming from various countries in 10 different committees this year.

Academic and organization teams of the conference have been challenging themselves to set a different level of understanding in MUN for KMUN’s participants. Experiencing both of the previous editions of KMUN, this year’s KMUN will differ from its previous editions by not only mixing the interesting sides of the Model UN examples in Turkey, but will also try its best to combine the understanding of the international Model UN.

All the research reports of the conference are written by the directors of the respective committees with the guidance of the academic team of the conference. I do thank the Student Officers namely Melisa Monica Sajjad and Mert Gulsun for writing this very guide for the Supreme War Council. Appreciating their efforts on this research report, I do believe that this report will be a great start for our participant’s on their researches to prepare themselves for the debates on the given agenda items.

In case you require any further instruction as to the academic content of the Supreme War Council, you may always contact your Committee Directors or me via orcundogmazer@kabatasmun.org.

After a year full of work and dedication, I do believe that KMUN 2015 will manage to create its dreamed atmosphere by taking further steps on its previous editions.

Orçun DOĞMAZER
Secretary-General
Letter from the Student Officers

To all members of the Joint Crisis Committee, welcome once again. As Paul Reynaud and Winston Churchill, we are here to provide an insightful, and hopefully historically accurate (as accurate as it can possibly be) simulation of the time period after the start of World War II, prior to the defeat of Germany and its allies.

The concept of JCC is essentially two committees (or councils in our case) working in tandem with each other under a shared timeframe. Though the two committees do not conduct any direct communications or meet face-to-face, they are made aware of one another’s political, economic and especially military actions. A crisis team equally as qualified (if not more) as the delegates works in the shadows of the committees to ensure that all plausible actions between committees take place and are communicated in forms of press releases, reports, etc., all the while making sure the events match up to the timeline. To summarize, the committee directives and in turn results are completely dependent on you, the delegates. Each and every one of you holds the power to change the results of history. At this point, we encourage you all to do additional research to this guide, including the portions that are not included in this guide (future events and actions).

To give a few key terms regarding our simulation, we will be reenacting the Allies of the first part of WWII, specifically the French and British, later joined by the United States, China and the Soviet Union. The Axis, our opposing council, consists mainly of Germany, later followed by Italy and Japan. The Supreme War Council (SWC) (also known as the Anglo-French Supreme War Council), not to be confused with the Japanese body, was formed originally in WWI with the same aim as the one that we will be bringing to life. The goal was to maintain Allied, namely the French and British, interests under the circumstances of war. This specific council both strengthened and weakened the Anglo-French alliance due to slight differences in policies and courses of actions. The added weight of Germany’s success in land-grabbing and the variety of their military tactics only helped to put more pressure on this union.

The council members consists of the Prime Ministers of each nation, followed by a team that they choose to accompany them, usually both nations’ respective Minister of Defense, Foreign Secretary, and other members ranging from Ministers to Commanders to Secretaries. Due to the constant fluctuation in members from meeting to meeting caused by the uncertain air of war, a definite list of members cannot be created. Meetings are conducted on an approximate monthly schedule (disregarding the times of crises, where Emergency meetings were held), taking place in various parts of France and England. Cultures, perspectives and languages created a biased view of the meetings between members (as seen from opposing recounts of the meetings through memoirs), causing many different scenarios. The facts, figures, and dates in this guide will be the ones applied in the simulation.
Introduction

The Committee of the Supreme War Council will simulate the deliberations that occurred during the original Anglo-French Supreme War Council, the Six Weeks War and the invasion of France in May and June 1940. The actual settings of the original discussions were located in several different parts of France and Britain, the first one being held at Abbeville and the last one taking place at Tours.

The main purpose of these sessions were initially to establish a common war strategy against the brutal advance of the Third Reich, which was Hitler’s Nazi Party’s manic renaming of the German Republic designed to create the feeling of a successor to the historical Germanic empires. The first meetings took place during the so-called Phoney War when Germany was trying to invade Poland and both France and Britain were obligated by the virtue of their agreements with Poland to enter the war against Germany. At this first phase of the Second World War, no major military conflicts occurred. The Allies and the Axis Powers have largely prepared for the prospects of inevitable and devastating warfare that would result from the clash of the world’s military and economic superpowers. Logistic and strategic agreements were reached at this point. For example, the possibility of conducting a pre-emptive strike was lengthily thought upon.¹

Over the following meetings, the new Prime Minister of the British Empire Winston Churchill joined in. As Germany began its “Blitzkrieg” into France, obliterating everything

in its path and advancing in a never before witnessed haste, an emergency session for the SWC was demanded. Over the three consecutive meetings in France, the situation had reached a bottom point with pure desperation reigning at the deliberations.

We will be commencing our debates under the harsh conditions of the war to end all wars. It is absolutely crucial to understand the conditions the original ones were, in order to be able to come to historically accurate conclusions and to make adequate decisions.

Members

Winston Churchill

Sir Leonard Winston Spencer-Churchill was born on 30 November 1874 and passed away on 24 January 1965. He was a man of various traits, being a soldier, a Nobel Prize winning author, a historian, a politician and perhaps most crucial of all, one of the most influential leaders of the 20th Century. He had fought in the First World War and in several other wars for Britain. He had served as the Member of Cabinet for many governments. But most importantly he led the government of the British Empire through the Second World War.²

Paul Reynaud

Paul Reynaud was a French politician born on 15 October, 1878 in Barcelonnette, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence and passed away on 21 September 1966. He was a lawyer having studied in Sorbonne, most prominent during the time between the two world wars.

General Charles de Gaulle

General Charles André Joseph Marie de Gaulle (born 22 November 1890 – died 9 November 1970) was another French politician who served as the head of the French resistance movement against the Nazis during their invasion of France in the Second World War. During the war, de Gaulle led a French government in exile from England and afterwards he came back to found the post-War French Republic.

Marshal Philippe Pétain

Henri Philippe Benoni Omer Joseph Pétain was an important general of the pre-War France and served as the Commander in Chief and the “Chief of France” for a brief period. His legacy remains largely disputed even today due to his cooperation with the invading Nazis and he has been therefore convicted of treason after the war. He was born on 24 April 1856 and died on 23 July 1951.

Maxime Weygand

Maxime Weygand was another French military general who served in both World Wars and had accumulated a great deal of influence thereby. He was a decorated member of military, however as France lost the Battle of 1940 almost immediately, he did not join the resistance and quite unexpectedly helped the Nazis maintain control by collaborating with them. He was also later judged and found guilty of treason. He was born on 21 January 1867 and died on 28 January 1965.

Anthony Eden

Robert Anthony Eden, 1st Earl of Avon was a British politician who served in a variety of positions including Foreign Secretary for three periods between 1935 and 1955, including the last five years of World War II. He was very popular in public opinion for a long time but he had to resign because of the Suez Canal incident. Although he couldn’t find support for his case at the time, nowadays he is seen to be largely right in his judgement. He was born on 12 June 1897 and passed away on 14 January 1977.

Major-General Edward Louis Spears

Sir Edward Louis Spears was a great military leader of the Second World War, especially excelling with the communications he set up between English and the French. He was a decorated general (Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire 1941, Companion of the Order of the Bath 1919, Military Cross 1915) and was a 1st Baronet. He was born on 7 August 1886 and died on 27 January 1974.

General Sir John Dill

Field Marshal Sir John Greer Dill was one of the most important military commanders of the British army in both World Wars. He had played a vital role in the strengthening of the cooperation between the United States of America and the British Empire. This relation had helped Britain a great deal during and after the war and because of his services John Dill was greatly decorated. Although his legacy remains a current topic of controversy due to his alternative plan of using mustard gas, he is still seen as a war hero in Britain. He was born in 25 December 1881 and died on 4 November 1944.
General Hastings Ismay

General Hastings Lionel "Pug" Ismay was an English general who served in various positions during the First and the Second World War. He was also the first Secretary General of NATO and is mostly remembered for his time as the Chief Military advisor to Churchill during the days of the most heated fights in the WWII. He was born on 21 June 1887 and died on 17 December 1965.

Prior to formation

Status of France

Much alike the rest of the world, an uncomfortable feeling of uncertainty was eminent during the period between two world wars in France. The French Republic had lost at least %10 of its working population in the Great War, and came out of it in a state of utter economic and political confusion. Although the GDP growing rates during the first years of the interwar period were relatively high, sometimes even reaching %4.7\(^4\) and the peasant population was rapidly renewing itself, the political trauma caused partially by the state of affairs in the world prevented France from fully regaining its former economic strength. With the arrival of the Great Depression (although somewhat later than the rest of the world), the Third French Republic's\(^5\) economy stagnated and experienced a heavy fall. French people put the blame on the government and this started a chain reaction of unhealthily founded political alterations and a resulting inability to recover. This made France of the time gradually weaker and disorganized.


Many think that French defeat of 1940 was caused by what they regard as the innate decadence and moral rot of France.\textsuperscript{6}

\textbf{Status of England}

The British Empire had emerged victorious from the First World War, however it too was severely wounded. In addition to losing a hefty sum of financial resources in order to win the war, the quality of the manpower of the British Empire fell dramatically\textsuperscript{7}. The commanders of the old order who weren’t just English but have been working in parts of the Empire all over the world have either resigned or died much like low-ranking but perfectly experienced soldiers they’ve commanded. In addition to the quantitative and qualitative loss of people, British Empire has also found itself amidst of internal problems. Many ethnic minorities saw this weakening of the central power as an opportunity to demand more economic, social and political autonomy (in India and Ireland’s case even complete independence). These internal factors, combined with international events deteriorated the overall standing of the British Empire and crippled its preparative efforts before the Second World War commenced.

\textbf{Anglo-French relations}

The Entente Cordiale Period is a time of liking and cooperation in various areas between the French and the British Empires. In the reality, after the Napoleonic Wars, English and French public opinions have steadily grown fonder of the other. Especially after the First World War, having fought together in what has been the greatest of in the history of mankind until that day, helped foster an economic, political and sociological relationship. It was even suggested that these countries form a single entity, a united state. After the devastation of the War of 1940 (defeat of France by Nazi Germany) Britain promised to keep fighting for both of the states and even housed Charles De Gaulle’s “Free French” government-in-exile at the UK.


Status of the rest of the world

The defining concepts of the world before the Second World War were generally social, political and economic. The nature of the First World War separated it from any of the wars our kind was ever witnessed. It was the first war on recorded history that saw millions of civilian casualties, injuries, and displacements, countless hundreds of public, military and governmental buildings destroyed. Along with those, the Empires of the old started crumbling, paving the way for ultra-nationalism. Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires were carved up and from their ashes rose many small nation-states. Germany was deemed responsible of everything that has happened and was made to pay an astronomically high war reparations fee. Versailles Treaty annihilated Germans’ pockets as well as their pride and it made them seek out alternatives to better their conditions. Hitler and his fascist Nazi Party abused this chaotic environment and exploited Germans’ anger to designate Jews and various other minorities as scapegoats and to usurp power. All over the world this blunder has been done at the time. Italians have resorted to Mussolini’s “Fascist Party” (they’ve literally given the name to the business) and the Japanese got increasingly violent towards their neighbours. This fearsome rise of totalitarianism combined with the fear of the British and the French from another world war and resulted in inaction. As Americans preferred the comfort of their isolation and secluded themselves from the quarrels of the rest of the world and the entire world struggled to keep up with the increasing toll of the “Great Depression”, perhaps very unconsciously world neared a devastation without equal.

Supreme War Council

First meeting (12th September, 1939) and Second meeting (22nd September, 1939)

The meeting takes place in Abbeville, France.

The first period of World War 2 is embarked upon with silence. The eight month long military inactivity from the Allied side is what coined the name “Phoney War” for the Western European region.

The main topic of discussion centers on the Italian-German relations. The fundamental national views differ from each other; the British view is that Mussolini’s fascist regime could be separated from that of Germany’s and be made into an ally, while the French policy contradicts this.8 The large French army is made mobile.

During the second meeting in Hove, England, discussion about ammunition production and reinforcement are discussed. The Prime Minister of the Anglo side declares that a German intervention into Yugoslavia cannot be prevented by the Allies.

Third meeting (17 November, 1939)

The conflicting aspects of their council’s respective policies on Germany are brought under light. Great Britain’s support and initiative to reintegrate post-war non-Nazi Germany into central Europe clashes with the strongly anti-German stance France applies. The French policy is shaped upon the threat of the continuance of the fascist regime and the consequent threat to global democratic security. The British diplomat Sir Eric Phipps views the rejection to have private talks with the French as such, “at the present moment, when France finds herself closely united to Britain in sympathy and destiny…the principal danger to French moral…seems to lie in a divergence on the question of war aims”.9

The meeting in Paris ends with France refusing the plan to bomb the German industrial regions in the Ruhr, with the justification that it would not hinder the invasion of Belgium and instead risk retaliation.

Image caption: The status of the world in May 1940. The blue represents the Western Allies territory, the red represents the Soviet and the Allies territory, the black represents the Axis territory.

Fourth meeting (19 December, 1939)

In Paris, France, the rate of exchange between the French and Anglo currencies is stabilized with a financial agreement, in addition to the formation of a common Purchasing Board in order to purchase ammunition and supplies from the United States.10 Ten other executive committees are set up to maintain and accordingly distribute French-Anglo resources.

Chamberlain set the agenda to a declaration, to announce both nations’ intentions and agreement to only sign a joint peace treaty with Germany [if the case were to arise], however disputes between the Anglo and French policies delay the declaration.

Image caption: The status of the world in December 1940. The blue represents the Western Allies territory, the red represents the Soviet and the Allies territory, the black represents the Axis territory.

**Fifth meeting (5 February, 1940)**
The fifth meeting also began in Paris, France, with the initial presence of the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, invited by Chamberlain. The main topic for discussion is the aid to Finland, currently sieging war with the Soviet Union, as an attempt to indirectly weaken the German ally. The French also prefer major conflicts to take place in a more remote region of Europe rather than the central area.

The Anglo views to the French proposal of an expedition to the northern region of Petsamo were summarized by Sir Alexander Cadogan as “a silly scheme”. Instead, the French plan of sending forces to Narvik, dependent on the approval of Norway and Sweden, is endorsed.

**Sixth meeting (28 March 1940)**
On the March 21st, Édouard Daladier, the French Prime Minister, is replaced by the French Chamber of Deputies by Paul Reynaud. Reynaud is renowned with his militantly-forward approach, and is instated towards the end of the Phoney War period.
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According to the official communiqué from the meeting, the mutual policies of the two sides of the cabinet is to firstly assure security, followed by the reformation of the social and political systems in the regions to create an international system in which every participating side of the war, disregarding the result of the said war, would have equal authority and influence. Parts of the communique are as follows:

“The government of the French Republic and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland mutually undertake . . . not to discuss peace terms before reaching complete agreement on the conditions necessary to ensure to each of them an effective and lasting guarantee of their security . . . and to effect the reconstruction, with the assistance of other nations, of an international order which will ensure the liberty of peoples, respect for law and the maintenance of peace in Europe.”\footnote{Geraud, Andre. "The Anglo-French Alliance." Foreign Affairs. July 1, 1940. Accessed April 5, 2015.}

Following the impasse caused by the refusal to reach a compromise by the ‘neutral’ Scandinavian nations and the concurrent defeat of Finland, Operation ‘Royal Marine’ is proposed by Churchill and Sir Edward Spears. Upon the German dependency on the waterways rather than upon the inland train routes, the target of the operation is to block the German usage of the French waters through the placement of mines. Churchill’s account recalls, “The operation would take place in that part of the Rhine used almost exclusively for military purposes. No similar operation had ever been carried out before, nor had equipment previously been designed capable of taking advantage of river conditions and working successfully against the barrages and types of craft found in rivers. Finally, owing to the design of the weapons, neutral waters would not be affected. The British anticipated that this attack would create the utmost consternation and confusion.”\footnote{Churchill, Winston. The Gathering Storm. Boston: Published in Association with the Cooperation Pub. [by] Houghton Mifflin, 1948.
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The operation is authorized with the consensus of the cabinet, and is planned to be implemented in time with Operation Wilfred (aka Operation R 4). Both operations have the common aim of obstructing Germany’s access to iron ore resources, collected in mines in Sweden via the blockage of waterways.\footnote{“Operation Wilfred - Mining the Norwegian Leads, 8 April 1940.” Operation Wilfred - Mining the Norwegian Leads, 8 April 1940. Accessed April 6, 2015.
}
mutual agreement. They undertake to maintain after conclusion of peace a community of action for so long as may be necessary.  

**Emergency meeting (9 April 1940)**

At approximately 04:15 on the 9th of April, Operation Weserubung is implemented by the Germans, invading both Denmark and Norway in warships via Narvik. The envoys informed both countries that they were stationed there to protect the neutrality of the aforementioned countries against the Anglo-French occupation.

Operation Wilfred, scheduled for the 8th of April, was implemented. The mines, however, were set into the Norwegian waters near Narvik by the British destroyers too late. The unsuccessful attempt to restrict Germany's access to iron resources resulted in the formation of Operation Alphabet to evacuate the troops sent in for Operation Wilfred. The mining is used as justification for the German invasion; on the basis that it as a violation of the Scandinavian nations' neutrality by the Allies.

The conclusive outcome of the meeting is the decision to deploy an Anglo-French task-force in Norway.

**Seventh meeting (22nd, 23rd & 27th April, 1940)**

On the 22nd and 23rd in Paris, it is unanimously decided to keep the deployed troops in Norway, emphasizing the recapture of Trondheim and Narvik. It is also decisively concluded that the Royal Air Force will bomb the Ruhr in the case of an invasion into Belgium or Holland.

The 27th marks the decision of withdrawal from Norway despite Reynaud's protests.

**Eighth meeting (22 May 1940)**

Five days after Churchill is made Prime Minister of Britain, the Phoney War period is ceased with the invasion of the low lands and France.

Four days into the invasion, German troops crossed the Meuse River and broke through the French lines. Attempts by the Allies to launch counterattacks by air and land failed with heavy losses and were thwarted by the pace of events.

The crediting for the loss in in the lack of organization, technology, tactical mobility and the flaws in the actual deployment. 14 German divisions surpassed 45 French divisions in the Maginot Line, leaving 114 French and Allied divisions to fend off 121 German divisions. Operations Fall Rot and Fall Gelb are implement successfully against Holland and France. The evacuation plan Operation Dynamo (also known as the Dunkirk

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Evacuation) was prepared after Churchill’s statement in the House of Commons that “the whole root and core and brain of the British Army had been stranded at Dunkirk and seemed about to perish or be captured [by the Germans]”. Originally planned to extract the British Expeditionary Forces (BEF), the Operation evacuated 198,000 British (roughly three fourths of the BEF) and 140,000 French troops from the Dunkirk (Dunkerque) seaport in France to England. Nine allied destroyers, 200 civilian vessels were lost during the evacuation, and the Royal Air Force (RAF) suffered severe casualties covering the operation from the air.

At 7:30 AM on the 15th of May, Churchill is phoned by Reynaud, stating France’s loss. A series of crisis meeting are held, revolving around the further tactics and deployment of air force squadrons.

**Ninth Meeting (31 May 1940)**

The final meeting prior to the “penultimate” meeting at Briare is held in Paris. The three main topics of discussion are: Operation Dynamo, Narvik and a potential Italian invasion into France. The imbalance of the ratio of troops evacuated in Operation Dynamo caused a conflict, and is promised to be solved by Churchill. An armistice and separate surrender is considered, however was ultimately decided against as such an event would provoke a blockade of France by Britain and the bombardment of all French ports in German hands. The British side confirms that it will continue combat under any circumstance.

![Image caption: The status of the world in May 1940. The blue represents the Western Allies territory, the red represents the Soviet and the Allies territory, the black represents the Axis territory.](image)

**The Battle of France**

**Prologue**

Even as early as mid-1800, it was commonly known that the recently unified Germany had the potential to engage in an act of aggression in order to expand its borders and rapidly make up for the time it had lost in the colonization race. This possibility remained
to a large extent ignored and thusly enabled the Prussian growth go unnoticed as a threat to the border integrity of other European Nations. The Dawn of the Industrial Revolution had brought new challenges and ripe opportunities to those countries. If they were able to convert their traditional production faculties into industrial powerhouses, they’ve gained a considerable edge over those who remained stagnated. Mercantilism was the prevailing economic ideal of the time and more export was the ultimate goal that was strived for. Therefore, Germans could be deemed as relatively successful in achieving industrial conversion. However, one very important prerequisite for the empowerment of this Industrial Machine that is the presence of fuel, chiefly coal was absent in the German lands. This prospect combined with their late participation in the colonial race obliged Germans to seek alternative sources were they could have obtained them. The British and the French were comparatively advantaged due to their abundant natural sources. Just as a barrel full of gunpowder, Germany of the time had the most available setting for the growing tensions. Its population grew drastically and it advanced both in military and civil sciences. Pressure to obtain lands that would fuel the further growth was inevitably soaring.

Unfortunately quite unsurprisingly, the result of all these factors was the First World War. There is no need the get into the political details of the Great War, simply because they were mere theatrical acts of procedural sort, which were staged only to conceal the true pure economic nature of things. For the first time in history, a war could be deemed as the World War, neither was the massiveness of fully mechanized warfare ever before witnessed nor was its brutality. It is also vital to understand the reasons behind this war in order to be able to comprehend the way things played out during the Fall of France in WWII. This same brutality could also be observed within the peace agreements that were made afterwards. Germany was punished disproportionately and was put under a colossal monetary and military obligation. German population was both doomed to an economic collapse and a feeling of inexplicable injustice. They went through times of hyperinflation and political turmoil. At this uneasy situation, Adolf Hitler and his accolades arose. They have excelled in propaganda, especially benefiting from the tendency to seek a common enemy and unite against it. They picked minorities particularly Jews as their scapegoat and fueled their propaganda based on ethnic discrimination. This vulgar display of power inescapably showed itself in the military. The already existing group of elite Nazi militants (later known as the infamous Waffen-SS) merged with the army. Nazis fused their rapid re-industrialization with clever political maneuvers and made the Allies of WWI alter the military restrictions that were put on Germany in the Versailles Treaty. Thus began their road to create an absolute military machine without equal anywhere in the world.

We have dealt with the reasons and the provisions that took place immediately after and during the beginning of the Second World War in various other chapters. But to understand how Fall of France came to be, it is also important to take a magnified look into the immediate timeline of the event.
Summary Timeline

May 10th, 1940 - Germany begins invasions of Belgium, the Netherlands, and France

May 13th, 1940 - French and British troops move into Belgium but are trapped between German armies

May 14, 1940 - Luftwaffe bombs central Rotterdam; Netherlands surrenders to Germany

May 27, 1940 - British troops begin mass evacuation from Dunkirk

June 3, 1940 - Luftwaffe initiates air raids on Paris

June 12, 1940 - German forces penetrate France’s final lines of defense

June 22, 1940 - France signs armistice with Germany

June 23, 1940 - Hitler visits Paris

The Invasion of Belgium

The Kingdom of Belgium was one of the key settings in which the First World War took place; therefore Belgians choose not to meddle with another world war in the interbellum period. King Leopold and his government tried to ensure that Belgium stayed neutral at the beginning of the war, but they were also aware of the likelihood of a Nazi invasion. This has led them to order partial preparations, mainly focusing on defending the K-W Line linking the National Redoubt at Antwerp with the south along the River Dijle, just behind the main Fortified Position of Liège.[2] By 1940, the army numbered between 600,000 and 650,000 mobilized soldiers.21

However, a viciously effective battle tactic (often referred as the Blitzkrieg), consisting of a combination of the use of radio telecommunication devices and great strategic moves carried out swiftly with a highly mobile military and a robust air force (Luftwaffe) has enabled Nazis to break Belgium’s defense oriented and to large extent outdated army in only 18 days. On 28 May, forced into a small pocket along the Leie River and after failed attempts to broker a ceasefire on the 27th, the Belgian king and military surrendered unconditionally. Belgian casualties during the campaign numbered some 6,000 killed and 15,850 wounded.22

20 A more detailed timeline can be found at:  
http://www.sparknotes.com/history/european/ww2/section2.rhtml
The Invasion of Netherlands

The Netherlands’ case had many similarities with Belgium’s. The most noticeable difference in Netherlands’ position was their long history generally being connected to Germany’s and its success in achieving to remain neutral during the First World War. Their military was also outnumbered severely outnumbered against the Nazis and wasn’t renew ever since the First World War. This general lack of preparation and the already existing feeling of desperation took its toll in the morals of the public as the Germans first launched their offensive on 10th of May 1940.

Although, Germans failed to end the conflict in the first day with their paratrooper attack into the Dutch HQ located at The Hague failed. Their rapid progression into the Netherlands and especially the bombing of Rotterdam left no options but to surrender to the Dutch government in the afternoon of 14 May. Both the royals and the government fled to Britain in order to contribute to resistance from there.

The Invasion of France

The French Republic was preparing for the possible German assault even before Nazis have shown their aggression in Poland. This was partially due to their long rivalry in continental Europe and since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, their race to grab natural resources wherever possible. This anxious waiting has led the French to renovate their army and prepare for a possible attack from the North. They have also joined with other Allies in declaring war against the Nazis when they first invaded Poland.

After a period later known as the Phoney War, in which no conflict occurred, Germans started their operation to strike out Netherlands, Belgium and France out of the war. This would have enabled to meet with the Italians and secure them from any major Western European military threat. The first phase of this operation was named “Fall Gelb” (Situation Yellow) and during this phase they’ve managed to defeat both Belgium and the Netherlands with ease, and establish a military foothold within France. This seemingly miraculous military advance was (especially against the colossal and advanced French forces) was enabled to a large extent because of their superior unseen combination of communication technology and mobile warfare tactics, “as known as the Blitzkrieg Method”. At “Fall Gelb”, Germans managed to push through the Ardennes and then along the Somme valley to cut off and surround the Allied units that had advanced into Belgium23. This move outflanked the British and the French Expeditionary Forces and pushed them to Dunkirk, where a massive evacuation operation took place called Operation Dynamo, in which a hastily assembled fleet of over 800 boats had rescued a total of 338,226 soldiers.24 In a sense this marked the beginning of an end for the remaining French resistance.

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Later on 5 June 1940, the Nazi Germany commenced in their final operation to France dubbed “Fall Rot” (Situation Red). German air superiority and armored mobility overwhelmed the remaining French forces. Paris fell on June 14th and consequently on 22 June, the infamous armistice was signed between France and Germany. Resulting in what would be the most chaotic years of France’s history under Nazi occupation until 1944.
Comprehensive Timeline prior to Meeting of Briare (Tenth meeting of the SWC)

September 1st, 1939 - World War II begins:

- Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Lithuania, Norway, Ireland, and Switzerland declare their neutrality.
- The Republic of China and the Empire of Japan are involved in the “Second Period” of the Second Sino-Japanese War. This conflict will later become a part of World War II when the opposing sides of the war when Japan joins the Axis and China the Allies.
- The Phoney war period begins in Europe.

September 4th, 1939 - Japan declares its neutrality in the Western conflicts.

September 5th, 1939 - The United States of America declares its neutrality.

September 12th, 1939 - The SWC convenes for the first ever meeting.

September 22nd, 1939 - The SWC convenes for the second meeting.

October 10th, 1939 - The last of Poland’s military surrenders to Germany.

- An estimated 158,000 British troops are in France.

October 12th, 1939 - The French Prime Minister Daladier refuses Hitler’s peace offer.

November 4th, 1939 - The US Neutrality Pact passes, permitting the French and British to purchase arms.

November 17th, 1939 - The SWC convenes for the third meeting.

November 30th, 1939 - USSR invades Finland.

December 19th, 1939 - The SWC convenes for the fourth meeting.

February 5th, 1940 - The SWC convenes for the fifth meeting.

- The two British divisions assigned to intervene in Narvik are relocated before they reach.

March 13th, 1940 - Finland agrees to an armistice with the Soviet Union.

March 21st, 1940 - Reynaud is appointed Prime Minister of France.

- The Phoney war period unofficially ends.

March 28th, 1940 - The SWC convenes for the sixth meeting.

April 8th, 1940 - Operation Wilfred takes place.

April 9th, 1940 - The SWC convenes for the Emergency meeting.

- Operation Weserubung is implemented by the Germans in Narvik.
• Germany invades Denmark and Norway. Denmark surrenders upon invasion. **April 22nd, 23rd & 27th, 1940** - The SWC convenes for the seventh meeting.

**May 10th, 1940** - Starting from 2:30 AM, Germany invades the low countries (Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg) in the **Battle of Fort Eben-Emael** without an official declaration of war.

• Luftwaffe, the air force of Nazi Germany, initiates air raids on France, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands, obliterating large numbers of Allied planes on the ground.

**May 14th, 1940** - France is breached by Germany through the Maginot Line (the French Army’s main defense line) leading into Sedan.

**May 15th, 1940** - Reynaud phones Churchill, stating France’s defeat.

• At 10:15 AM, General Winkelman agrees to surrender armed the Dutch armed forces under the threat of bombing. Luftwaffe planes drop 95 tons of bombs on Rotterdam, killing 1,000 and leaving 85,000 citizens homeless. At this point, the Dutch have over 12,300 dead and wounded (including civilians), while the German have approximately 9,900 dead and wounded and 1,300 troops airborne.

• The 4th Armoured Division is formed by the French Army under Colonel Charles de Gaulle.

**May 17th, 1940** - Churchill is appointed Prime Minister of Great Britain.

• The 4th French Armoured Division participates in the **Battle of Montcornet** under de Gaulle.

**May 22nd, 1940** - The SWC convenes for the eighth meeting.

• The Emergency Powers (defense) Act passes in Britain, giving the government the right to persons and properties for the duration of the war.

**May 26th, 1940** - Operation Dynamo is commenced.

• German forces reach Calais, France. 200 bombers and artillery overwhelm the last of the Allied defense line, resulting in their surrender. The British death toll is 300, with 200 wounded. Thousands are taken prisoner, including 3,500 British troops. The German death toll is at 780.

**May 28th, 1940** - King Leopold of Belgium officially surrenders to the Germans.

• In the **Siege of Lille** 40,000 troops, the remaining of the First Army are surrounded and in combat with seven German divisions.

• The 4th French Armoured Division participates in the **Battle of Abbeville** under de Gaulle.

**May 31st, 1940** - The SWC convenes for the ninth meeting.

• Two French destroyers are bombed by the Luftwaffe. Over 650 members of the 92nd French Infantry Regiment onboard become casualties.
June 4th, 1940 - Operation Dynamo is completed, evacuating and subsequently saving 338,000 Allied troops.

- Evacuation Narvik begins.

June 5th, 1940 - The Germans descend southwards and the French resistance finally collapses.

- Charles de Gaulle, following his promotion to General on May 25, is made Under-Secretary for Defense of France.

June 10th, 1940 – Taking advantage of the chaos in central Europe, Italy declares war on France and Great Britain (the Allied side), by default joining the Axis side. Italy’s search of natural resources is one of the leading factors for entering the war. Benito Mussolini, the Prime Minister at the time declares to his Armed Forces Chief, “I only need a few thousand dead so that I can sit at the peace conference as a man who has fought [in regards to the future peace conference in which Europe is to be split up and shared amongst the Axis side]”. Despite declaring war on the 10th of June, Italy’s forces are deployed on the 20th in the less dense southern portion of France.

- Paris is declared an open city to avoid destruction and bombing by the impending German forces. The French government relocates to Tours, in central France.
- Operation Cycle, the second evacuation operation for the Allied forces takes place, evacuating approximately 14,000 troops from the French coast.

June 11th, 1940 - The SWC convenes for the tenth meeting in Briare, near where the French Military Headquarters have relocated to.

Conclusion

The subsequent losses are attributed to the differences in foreign and militia policies, amongst geographic and cultural contrasts as well. The security from the lack of a land invasion threat, the British insisted that the reduction of land forces would be the best token of the victors’ good will and commitment to peace, while the French insisted that a guarantee of their security was a precondition for disarming. "[t]he endless technical disputes throughout these years were insoluble until the underlying political issues had been addressed.... --was lost in the fierce arguments that ensued. Despite all the hopes it engendered, the disarmament process did far more harm than good to Anglo-French relations between the wars." (p. 66)

The rest of the world is under certain turmoil; the ongoing conflicts between the Republic of China and the Empire of Japan in the East, the expansion of both the Soviet Union and Germany into Europe and the fear of chaos in the Americas.

Under the circumstances, a further meeting is called for the 11th of June, 1940, which, as stated before, will mark the commencement of the committee simulation. The fate of Europe, and the rest of the world is uncertain, and it is up to the Supreme War Council

to make logical military, political, economic and social moves in order to save the Western world.