

Ides of May - the defeat of France, May-June 1940.

Constable - Why was France defeated in 1940?



Description: -

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Actually, the problem was far more complicated. Instead, he proposed a subsidiary attack through neutral Holland and Belgium, with the main blow against France to be launched a little later through the Ardennes. The French air force did in fact possess useful 1:25,000 maps of the Ruhr industries which it did not use, but its maps of the German railway and Autobahn systems were on too small a scale to be of assistance in attacks on communications.

Why was France defeated in 1940?

That night had made of her team the British Expeditionary Force far to the north in Belgium had still not seen serious fighting yet the battle was now was virtually decided.

Battle of France (1940) Summary & Facts

For the remainder of the winter, Gamelin and the French command threw themselves into feverish attempts to find places for action. Luftwaffe air cover prevented Allied air attacks against the slowly moving armored columns, and nobody among the Allies seems to have thought of mining the forest roads.

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Since they did not believe that could defeat Germany outright, they hoped that the Maginot would drive up casualties and Germany to the negotiating table. Under the dynamic command of General Heinz Guderian, a pioneer of armoured warfare known euphemistically as 'Hurry-up Heinz', the German Panzers broke out of their bridgehead.

Battle of France

But when that happened the pivot of governance front would be here in the UK then. In full retreat, with no prospect of Russian assistance, the high command was paralyzed, French opinion wavered, and her political system buckled. It also strengthened the credibility of Churchill's insistence that Britain would fight on, thus influencing the neutral USA at a time when American aid was vital.

Why was France defeated in 1940?

This was a very risky plan - much more ambitious than the strategy used in Poland - and was opposed by the more conservative-minded generals. For outsiders—especially the British, who could speak with the superiority of those who survived to fight again another day—the fall of France in 1940 was viewed essentially as the harsh but logical outcome of two decades of divisive French politics.

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