

an enemy attack through Anatolia only. It is considered that, although an attack through Persia from the Caucasus is at least equally probable, it could not be staged so early as the attack through Anatolia. The steps necessary to meet such an attack will, therefore, be dealt with in a subsequent Instruction.

1. *Object.*—The object is to ensure the security of our bases and ports in Egypt, Iraq and Persia and of our oil supplies in South-western Persia and the Persian Gulf.

2. *Forces Available.*—Forces likely to be available in this Command during the next four months, are given in Appendix "A".

3. The following forces are the minimum required to provide for the security of the Western Frontier of Egypt and Cyprus in existing circumstances:—

(a) *Western Frontier of Egypt*—

- One armoured division.
- (One armoured brigade group.)
- (One motor brigade group.)
- One armoured brigade group.
- One army tank brigade.
- Three infantry divisions.
- Two infantry brigade groups.

(b) *Cyprus*—

- One armoured regiment.
- One armoured car regiment.
- Three infantry brigade groups.
- One infantry battalion (general reserve).
- Five infantry battalions (static).

4. The forces at present available for Ninth and Tenth Armies and G.H.Q. Reserve are too weak to prevent an attack through Anatolia, on the maximum scale the enemy can develop, from penetrating Northern Iraq and Syria. These forces are given at Appendix "B".

5. *Intention.*—Should this attack take place, I intend from the start to impose the greatest possible delay on the enemy's advance, so as to gain time for reinforcements to arrive.

The enemy will not in any event be allowed to establish himself south of the general line Little Zab River—Ana—Amman—Jericho—Nablus—Haifa.

6. *Method.*—It is essential that, while inflicting the maximum loss and delay on the enemy, our own forces should not be depleted to such an extent that on reaching this line they cannot hold it. The defences on this line will therefore be completed as soon as possible for occupation by the forces given in Appendix "B".

7. Delay will be imposed upon the enemy:—

(a) By supporting Turkey if she resists, provided the necessary air and land forces are available.

(b) By protecting, for as long as possible, the northern aerodromes so as to allow our air forces to carry out the heaviest possible attacks against the enemy's lines of advance through Anatolia.

(c) By thorough demolitions, as laid down in Operation Instruction No. 115 and a Joint Directive by the Commanders-in-Chief to be issued shortly, and by early evacuation of such war materials as would be of value to the enemy if they fell into his hands.

(d) By holding positions, in country unsuited to armoured fighting vehicles, astride his main lines of advance.

(e) By counter-attacking whenever a suitable opportunity offers.

8. The process of delaying the enemy will start as far forward as possible, depending on the land and air forces available and the attitude of the Turks. The plans made by Armies for initial concentrations will provide for any of the following opening moves, and the opening move will be selected and ordered by the Commanders-in-Chief, according to the conditions prevailing at the time.

*Case A.*

*Hypothesis.*

Turkey resists German aggression. Adequate Army and R.A.F. resources exist for operations in Northern Anatolia, in co-operation with the Turks.

*Opening Move*—

(i) Air striking force, with an Army component from Ninth Army will move into Turkey under separate instructions from G.H.Q., M.E.F. and H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.

(ii) When maintenance facilities permit, Ninth Army [less special force referred to in para. (i)] and Tenth Army will advance into Turkey to general line El Azig (Kharpur)—Malatya—Taurus Mountains, with a view to improving communications, preparing demolitions on main Turkish communications, and subsequently covering withdrawal of special force, if this becomes necessary.

*Case B.*

*Hypothesis.*

Turkey acquiesces in German aggression, or collapses quickly. Probable attitude of Turks, if we enter from the south, unknown.

*Opening Move*—

Ninth and Tenth armies enter Turkey and seize and hold general line Diyarbakir—Siverek—Gaziantep (Aintab)—Bulanik (Baghche)—Payas, with the object of demolishing communications and delaying enemy as far forward as possible.

*Case C.*

*Hypothesis*—

(a) The Turks come in openly on the side of the Germans; or

(b) The Turks have strengthened their forces on the Syrian frontier with evident intent to come in on the German side, and entry of our forces into Turkey will obviously be opposed.

*Opening Move*—

Ninth and Tenth Armies carry out demolitions as far forward as possible, and delay enemy's advance.

9.—(a) The Boundary between Ninth and Tenth Armies will be:—

(Ninth Army incl.) Malatya—excl. Karacali Dag (Karadja Dag)—incl. Hasseche (El Haseke)—Garat Motteb—thence Syrian-Iraqi Frontier to Abu Kemal—Qasr Muhaiwir—thence a line due south to frontier of Saudi Arabia.