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CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Europe—		Europe (contd.)—	
Germany	1	Italy	11
Czechoslovakia	3	Vatican	12
Poland	4	South-Eastern Europe	12
Soviet Union... ..	4		
Scandinavia	6	Middle East	16
The Low Countries	7	Far East... ..	17
France	8	United States	19
Switzerland	9	Latin America	21
Spain	9		

EUROPE.

GERMANY.

THE O.K.W. bulletins of the past weeks show a "Fortress Germany" stubbornly defended against a great arc of attack stretching from Kirkenes (evacuated on the 27th) through Memel, East Prussia, Hungary, Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Italy, round to the Vosges, the Moselle valley and Holland. The formulæ of this defence are now quite familiar: concentric attacks in the main frustrated, bitter fighting, enemy penetrations at great cost, &c. The western campaign, according to the Germans, last week took second place to the more intense fighting in Kurland and East Prussia: Goldap was stated to have been evacuated on the 23rd; the Russians penetrated into Ebenrode on the 26th and Schlossberg on the 27th. If there is a new feature in these communiqués it is the daily specification of German towns bombarded from the air; twenty cities have been thus named within one week. Such raids, admitted by Goebbels to be Germany's chief present anxiety, inflict much more than material damage. The Kreisleiter of Duisburg, in a statement recently reported, has revealed the strain now put on civic discipline. He asks the bombed-out to be patient until emergency accommodation can be found for them, he warns those as yet unaffected that they must make more room for the homeless and he warns every worker who fails to report for duty immediately that he will be treated as a *Volksschädling*. In the much smaller frontier town of Kleve a recent air raid apparently disorganised all official A.R.P. "Improvised" arrangements were excused on the ground that "many political leaders" had been killed and the population was reproved for having disregarded the Party's efforts to evacuate them eastwards. Such is the general impression of Allied air strength in Germany that, according to a Swedish report, a frequent topic of conversation is now the possibility of air-borne landings within the Reich.

The new Volkssturm has lost no time in assuming military importance if that may be judged by a place in the O.K.W. bulletins. It is said to have fought gallantly in East Prussia side by side with regular troops. But the enthusiasms

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