

BLACK AUGUST IN EUROPE.

592

This month of August which is normally a happy month of holidays has been passed in Europe beneath the shadow of war. The map has changed many times in the last few years --- now the free city of Danzig with its port has become the point at which the world has said --- there shall be no more change by force. Hitler demanded Danzig and the Polish Corridor which runs between Germany and East Prussia. The democratic Powers in Europe have said this dispute should be settled by negotiation --- ~~agreed~~ ~~to be settled~~. Meanwhile, Germany has massed her troops on the Slovak border of Poland. Germany went further --- in pursuance of her policy of stolen marches, the army of the Reich entered Slovakia itself, within easy striking distance of Poland. This Poland has stated to be ~~taxation~~ an act of aggression.

All these tactics we have seen before..... they preceded the fall of Austria, when Germany's neighbour to the south was engulfed in a lightning movement which left the world amazed. German troops marched into Vienna without opposition.

The same story was unfolded before ~~the~~ Czecho-Slovakia was swallowed by the devouring jaws of the insatiable Nazi. German troops marched into Prague without opposition. These once-free nations have lost their independence. Next upon the Fuhrer's programme came Danzig and with it the propaganda campaign against Poland. ~~and~~ All Europe became an armed fortress. Where the frontiers of Germany meet those of France, Germany built her Siegfried line, along the Rhine country. Parts of it have been

damaged by floods, on two occasions. And along her frontier France has her Maginot Line..... along the Belgian frontier too. Not because France has any cause to fear an act of aggression by Belgium, but because of her memory of neutrality violated in 1914. Built up gradually and carefully over a period of years at enormous cost, the Maginot Line is the most wonderful system of defence fortification the world has ever known. Science has come to the aid of the soldier and the boundaries of Britain's great ally are impassable to any army of invaders.