



**JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE:  
ANGLO-SOVIET INVASION OF  
THE IMPERIAL STATE OF IRAN**

تہاجم دول انگلیس و شوروی بہ شہنشاہی ایران

ہمان سردانیش تنگ آورم کیکس بر بخت آوریم  
در ان بوم و سرزندہ یک ن مباد  
خواہد ان ساسدن من

By

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

**Sadra Mokhtaridoust**

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

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## Letter from Secretary General

Dear Participants of MUNAPAC'26,

My role as the Secretary-General grants me the distinct honor of contributing to a conference that embodies the principles of education, excellence, and collaboration. Engaging with a team of exceptionally dedicated and talented individuals, I am truly excited to help shape an event that reflects the very best of our community. Motivated by our shared vision, we strive to deliver an experience that captures the spirit and ambition of our club. Rooted in a strong tradition of Model United Nations excellence, this year's conference continues to build upon years of dedication and growth.

Every member of our academic and organizational teams has worked tirelessly to ensure that MUNAPAC'26 becomes an unforgettable experience. Not only do we aim to provide three remarkable days, but also to contribute meaningfully to your academic and personal growth. In this spirit, our conference offers a wide and dynamic range of committees designed to appeal to all styles of debate. Notably, this year we are proud to present 12 unique committees, each crafted with immense care and originality.

Among them are Historical GA1: DISEC where you can relieve the political tension of the breakup of a major state, GA4: SPECPOL which brings you an out-of-this-world debate experience; forming the backbone of our General Assembly and international governance discussions. Moreover, our special committees consist of UNHRC in which you will be the voice of the unheard, Historical UNSC where the dust of the Middle East can be felt, Historical NATO and the desperate need for a reform, Parlamento Italiano with its unique Mediterranean atmosphere, World Trade Organization where global trade is in your hands, and the Worcester Convention where the fight for equality is born; all bringing diverse political perspectives to the table. Keeping innovation and adrenaline at the core of our crisis committees; the Department of Homeland Security attempts to maintain public security, FCC: Small Council is challenged with the well-being of Westeros, FCC The Apocalypse of St. John plunges delegates into a world of prophecy and chaos, and JCC: Anglo-Soviet Invasion of Iran takes delegates back to WWII to relive the unjust nature of war.

On behalf of the APAC Model United Nations Team, I truly hope MUNAPAC'26 will be an unforgettable experience for each and every one of you, and eagerly anticipate welcoming you all to our conference this June.

Warm regards,

SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF MUNAPAC'26

**Saniyar Safari**



## Letter from USG

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to what I believe will be one of the most demanding and rewarding committees you will experience in your Model UN career.

The Joint Crisis Committee you are about to enter is set at a moment of acute historical pressure, a moment when the fate of an entire nation was decided not over months, but over days. The Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran in August 1941 was not merely a military event. It was a collision between the calculated interests of great powers and the sovereign dignity of a neutral state; between the logic of wartime necessity and the principles that are supposed to govern the conduct of nations. The tensions at the heart of this committee are not abstract. They are the same tensions that define international politics today.

As the Under Secretary General overseeing this committee, I want to be transparent about what we expect from you. This is a crisis committee which means the situation will evolve, often faster than you anticipate. Directives will need to be drafted under pressure, coalitions will shift, and the information available to your room will be deliberately incomplete. That is not a flaw in the simulation. It is the point. The figures you are portraying had no more clarity than you will have in committee, and many of them made consequential decisions on the basis of partial information, political instinct, and the weight of circumstances they did not choose.

We expect you to engage with that reality seriously. Research your character thoroughly. Understand not only what they did, but what they knew, what they feared, and what they were willing to sacrifice. The quality of this committee will be determined entirely by the quality of your preparation and the depth of your engagement once the crisis begins.

The academic team has constructed this simulation with considerable care and historical rigor. Trust the process, engage with your fellow delegates in good faith, and approach every development, including the ones that do not go your way, as an opportunity rather than an obstacle.

I look forward to witnessing what unfolds.

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

**Sadra Mokhtaridoust**



## Letter from Academic Assistant

Dear delegates,

It's an honor for me to welcome you to this JCC set at one of the most critical and significant days of Iran's modern history. A fair amount of effort has gone into the preparation of this committee to give you a simulation that captures all the complexity, uncertainty and pressure of the period as accurately as possible. I strongly encourage those who want to enjoy this committee at its fullest potential, to approach it with curiosity, confidence, and thorough preparation.

As the Second World War unfolded Iran was caught in between global powers and despite its declared neutral stance, Iran was facing intense external pressure and internal instability. And at the same time, Allied powers were operating on their own security concerns and wartime calculations.

Within this context, decisions will have to be made quickly and definitively as uncertainty grows and choices disappear. Regardless, I'm confident that this committee will leave you with lasting insights into leadership under constraint.

I hope you find this committee both enjoyable and educational. Please feel free and do not hesitate to ask any questions regarding the committee or for further information about the historical context.

You can contact me at: [katayoun09@icloud.com](mailto:katayoun09@icloud.com)



ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

**Katayoun Mohsenabadi**

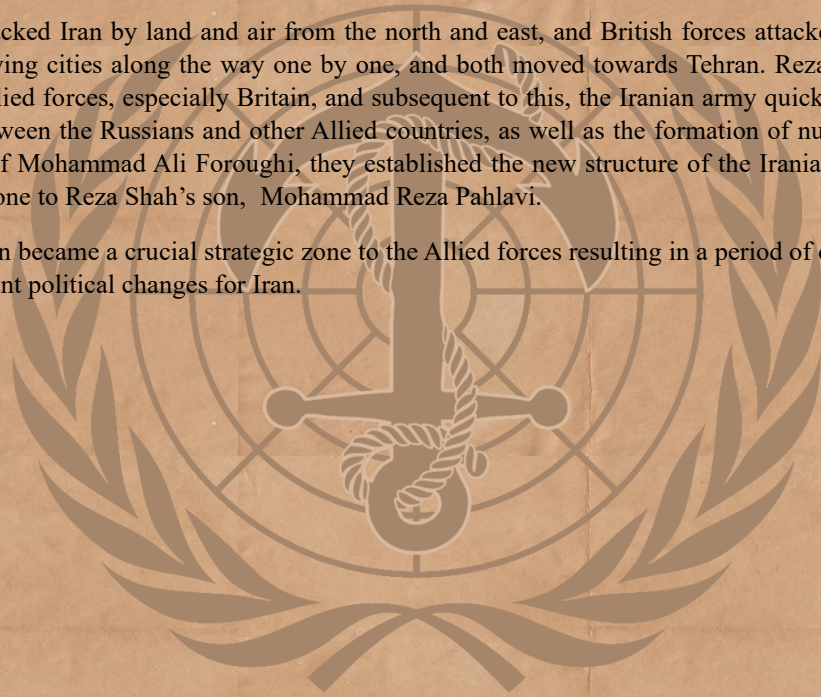


## I. ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

By the outbreak of World War II in September of 1939, the Imperial State of Iran declared its absolute neutrality. However, after the invasion of the Soviet Union by Nazi Germany in June 1941, and due to Iran's extensive border line with Soviet Russia, Iran's neutrality was completely insignificant to the Allies. In September 1941, the Allied forces, with citing the presence of German nationals in Iran, political and economic relations with Germany, and the 1921 treaty between Iran and the Soviet Union that allowed the Soviet Union to have a military presence in Iran under certain conditions, invaded Iran resulting in large parts of the country being occupied by British and Soviet forces.

Soviet forces attacked Iran by land and air from the north and east, and British forces attacked from the south and west, quickly occupying cities along the way one by one, and both moved towards Tehran. Reza Shah resigned under pressure from the Allied forces, especially Britain, and subsequent to this, the Iranian army quickly disintegrated. After much contention between the Russians and other Allied countries, as well as the formation of numerous crises in Iran, with the mediation of Mohammad Ali Foroughi, they established the new structure of the Iranian government and the succession of the throne to Reza Shah's son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

During WWII Iran became a crucial strategic zone to the Allied forces resulting in a period of occupation with major impacts and significant political changes for Iran.





## II. BACKGROUND

By 1925, after years of civil war, turmoil, and foreign intervention, Persia became unified under the rule of Reza Pahlavi, who staged a coup d'état against the Qajar dynasty (1789–1925), which presided over a divided and isolated Persia. He later crowned himself as Reza Shah that same year. In 1935, Reza Shah asked foreign delegates to use Iran, the historical name of the country that was also used by its native people, in formal correspondence. Reza Shah initiated an ambitious program of economic, cultural, and military modernization. Reza Shah's regime established schools, built infrastructure, modernized cities, and expanded transportation networks. Although Reza Shah pursued a foreign policy of neutrality, his state depended on Western financing to fund his ambitious modernization projects.

In early 1940, as Britain was involved in the war with Nazi Germany in North Africa, it grew concerned about German access to the Persian Gulf, especially in light of Germany's non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union. The British began to accuse Iran of supporting Nazism and of being pro-German. Although Reza Shah declared neutrality at an early stage of the war, Iran assumed greater strategic importance to the British government, which feared that the Abadan Refinery (of the UK-owned Anglo-Iranian Oil Company) might fall into German hands. Refining eight million tons of oil in 1940, the refinery made a crucial contribution to the Allied war effort.

Relations between Britain and Iran had been strained since 1931 when Reza Shah unilaterally cancelled the D'Arcy Concession, a 1901 agreement that had given the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company the exclusive right to prospect for Iranian oil for 60 years, with Iran receiving 16 percent of the net profit. Led by Reza Shah, the Iranian imperial government accused the Company of undercutting its share of the profit by clandestinely reinvesting new capital into subsidiary companies, and thus excluding a significant sum from the annual capital gain calculation. Though Reza Shah promptly renegotiated a second concession with the Anglo-Iranian Company – with terms that better protected the Iranians' stake – the diplomatic conflict created an impression that Reza Shah was hostile to British oil interests.

Following Operation Barbarossa started by Germans, the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, Britain and the Soviet Union became formal Allies, providing further impetus for an Allied invasion. In a major strategic analysis in the *New York Times* on a Sunday following Barbarossa, the famous international correspondent C. L. Sulzberger stated, in reference to the Operation Orient, "It is considered virtually a certainty by military experts that if the Reich succeeds an attack on Egypt will be launched. Should the Germans occupy the Caucasus and then push on to Iran and the Persian Gulf they will then outflank the British Middle Eastern positions by a wide sweep and perhaps by Autumn begin to make trouble in Iraq." With the Wehrmacht steadily advancing through the Soviet Union, the Persian Corridor formed by the Trans-Iranian Railway offered one of the easiest ways to supply the Soviets with Lend-Lease goods sent by sea from the then technically neutral United States. British and Soviet planners recognized the importance of that railway and sought to control it. As increasing U-boat attacks and winter ice made convoys to Arkhangelsk (which commenced in August 1941) dangerous, the railway seemed an increasingly attractive strategic route.

The two Allied nations applied pressure on Iran and on Reza Shah, leading to increased tensions and to anti-British rallies in Tehran. The British described the protests as "pro-German". Iran's strategic location threatened Soviet Caucasian oil and the Soviet armies' rear, and any German advance south-eastwards would threaten British communications between India and the Mediterranean.

In July and August, Reza Shah refused demands from the British for the expulsion of German residents from Iran (mostly workers and diplomats). A British embassy report, dated 1940, estimated that there were almost 1,000 German nationals in Iran. According to Iran's *Ettela'at* newspaper, there were 690 German nationals in Iran (out of a total of 4,630 foreigners, including 2,590 British). Joan Beaumont estimates that "probably no more than 3,000 Germans actually lived in Iran, but they were believed to have a disproportionate influence because of their employment in strategic government industries and in Iran's transport and communications network."

However, the Iranians began to reduce their trade with the Germans in the face of the Allied demands. Reza Shah sought to remain neutral, not wanting to anger either side. This approach became increasingly difficult in the face of Anglo-Soviet demands. British forces were already present in sizable numbers in Iraq as a result of the Anglo-Iraqi War of May 1941.



### III. THE INVASION

The invasion was planned as a surprise attack, carried out more efficiently than Allied forces had expected. Prior to the attack, the Allied forces sent two letters, one on July 19 and the other one on 17 August, demanding the Iranian government to expel all the German nationals from Iran. After the second note, prime minister Ali Mansur warned Reza Shah that this was in fact a disguised ultimatum. Later General Archibald Wavell wrote “*it was apparent that the Iranian government fully expected an early British advance into Khuzestan and that reinforcements, including light and medium tanks, were being sent to Ahvaz.*”

At the army headquarters, some time before the Allied attack, Lieutenant General Razmara reported the army's lack of readiness to defend the borders to Major General Zarghami, the army commander, and suggested that due to the inability to confront the Soviets, political measures be taken to eliminate the threat. Zarghami presented the report to Reza Shah, but he was furious with the report and sent the crown prince to the next meeting of the General Staff for further investigation. Razmara cited the lack of personnel and facilities, especially motorized transport facilities, as the main reason for the inability to confront the Soviets. Reza Shah later ordered the formation of new divisions, but refused to issue a defense readiness order. The army divisions were increased to the number Reza Shah desired without increasing the number of personnel and equipment, and in fact, some divisions were divided into several divisions. Reza Shah considered the possibility of an Allied attack to be very small, which is why the Iranian army was not prepared to counter an Allied attack.

Sir Reader Bullard and Andrey Andreyevich Smirnov, the British and Soviet ambassadors were summoned to Iran. Reza Shah demanded to know the reason for the invasion of his country without a formal declaration of war. Both responded that it was “due to German residents in Iran”. Reza Shah's attempt to halt the invasion by agreeing with the expulsion of German individuals was left unanswered by both ambassadors.

Reza Shah sought help from US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, requesting his intervention to stop the invasion; however, as the United States was neutral and not involved, Roosevelt did not intervene, only expressing his support for preserving Iran's territorial integrity.

After the war, Churchill defended the invasion in his post war memoirs by invoking the *Inter arma silent leges* principle (in times of war, the law falls silent), to justify the “exercise of overwhelming force against a weak and ancient state” as he described it.

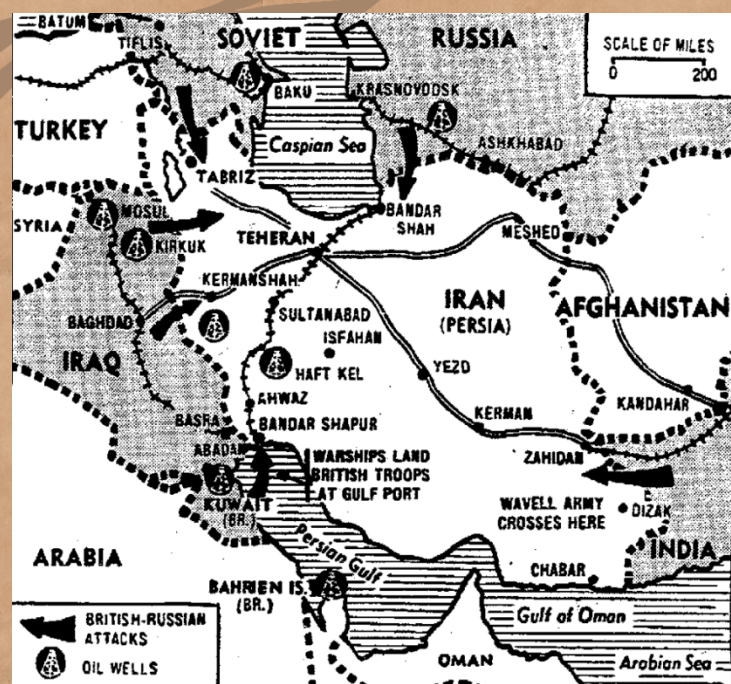


Figure 1 Map legend shows origins and direction of Russian and British attacks as the two nations invade Iran to protect oil fields from sabotage by German agents who they claim have infiltrated there



## A. BEGINNING OF THE INVASION

At four in the morning on August 25, the Soviet ambassador and the British Minister Plenipotentiary in Tehran went to meet the then Prime Minister Ali Mansour and, through similar notes, announced to the Iranian government that due to the Iranian government's disregard for the urgent requests of these two countries, the armies of the two governments had unfortunately entered Iranian territory.

Naval and air forces also participated in this operation. The Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy attacked from the Persian Gulf, while other British Commonwealth forces came by land and air from Iraq. The Soviet Union invaded from the north, mostly from Transcaucasia, with the 44th and 47th Armies of the Transcaucasian Front (General Dmitry Timofeyevich Kozlov), and the 53rd Army of the Central Asian Military District, occupying Iran's northern provinces. Air force and naval units also participated in the battle. The Soviets used about 1,000 T-26 tanks, with 40,000 soldiers for their combat operations. Giving them great numerical and qualitative superiority over the Iranian forces. In addition, the Soviets had the greatest advantage in air power, with 409 warplanes, including heavy bombers. British forces also deployed 19,000 troops and 50 light tanks. The air force also supported the ground forces. The number of Soviet bombers that reinforced the ground forces was five times that of the British government's air force.

Six days after the invasion and the ensuing Allied occupation of southern Iran, the British divisions previously known as "Iraq Command" (also known as Iraqforce) were renamed "Persia and Iraq Force" (Paiforce), under the command of Lieutenant-General Edward Quinan. Paiforce was made up of 8th and 10th Indian Infantry divisions, 2nd Indian Armoured Brigade, 4th British Cavalry Brigade (later renamed 9th Armoured Brigade), and 21st Indian Infantry Brigade.

In response to the invasion, the Imperial Iranian Army deployed nine infantry divisions, some of them motorised; two of the divisions also had tanks. The Iranian Army had a standing force of 126,000–200,000 men. While Iran had taken numerous steps through the previous decade to strengthen, standardise, and modernise its army, the army did not have enough training, armor, or air power to fight a multi-front war. Reza Shah's modernisations had not been completed by the time war broke out, and the Iranian Army had been more concerned with civilian repression than invasions.

The Iranian army was armed with the vz.24 rifle, a Czech version of the Mauser Gewehr 98. Iranian troops also had other Czech small arms like the ZB vz.30 and ZB-53. Iran had bought 100 FT-6 and ČKD TNH light tanks as well as some AH-IV tankettes and additional LaFrance TK-6 armoured cars, enough to outfit their 1st and 2nd Divisions. Further Iranian orders had been delayed by World War II. While it was a large order and they were excellent tanks, they were not enough to defeat a multi-front invasion by two great powers. The changing nature of tank warfare in the 1930s made all but 50 of them obsolete when the invasion began. The Imperial Iranian Air Force (IIAF) at the time flew a motley collection of outdated biplanes, including British Hawker Fury fighters and Hawker Hart bombers, and French aircraft such as the Bréguet 14, Bréguet 19, Potez VIII, and Blériot-SPAD S.42. The IIAF also had some Soviet-made aircraft: copies of the British DH.4 and DH.9A made by the Polikarpov factory, although not modern types such as the original Polikarpov R-5.

Soviet and British soldiers rendezvous near Qazvin.

The Iranians had little time to organise a defence, as the Allies achieved a tactical surprise. The war began in the early morning of 25 August, when RAF aircraft entered Iranian airspace. They bombed targets in the cities of Tehran and Qazvin and various other towns and dropped leaflets urging the Iranians to surrender. The Soviets bombed targets in cities such as Tabriz, Ardabil and Rasht. Civilian and residential areas were hit, and several hundred people were killed and wounded. Reza Shah refused requests by his generals to destroy the road and transportation networks, largely because he did not want to damage the infrastructure that he had painstakingly built during his reign. That contributed to the speedy victory of the Allies.

With no allies, Iranian resistance was rapidly overwhelmed and neutralised by Soviet and British tanks and infantry. The British and Soviet forces met at Sanandaj (called Senna by the British) (160 kilometres west of Hamadan) and Qazvin (called Kazvin by the British) (160 kilometres west of Tehran and 320 kilometres north-east of Hamadan) on 30 and 31 August respectively. Faced with massive defeats, Reza Shah ordered his military to stop fighting and stand down on 29 August, four days into the invasion. Finally, on September 29, the Soviet and British armies joined forces in Qazvin.



## IV. BRITISH THEATRE

The British army advanced towards Iran from two directions. One column entered Iran via Khanaqin and reached Qazvin via Kermanshah and Hamedan. The second column invaded the southwestern region of Khuzestan from Iraqi territory. The first objective of the British invading forces was to occupy the oil-rich areas, and the second objective was to advance into Iranian territory and seize the country's key lines of communication. The British forces in Abadan consisted of the 8th Indian Infantry Division under General Harvey, in the Khanaqin area the 9th Armoured Brigade and an Indian tank regiment, and four British battalions and a British artillery regiment, all under the command of General Slim. The British naval operations were mainly carried out in the port of Shahpur, and eight ships stopped in the port fell into the hands of the British forces. The British Air Force also bombed several military targets in Ahvaz.

### a. Khuzestan

The British assembled a naval task force under Commodore Cosmo Graham to seize Bandar Shahpour, Abadan, and Khorramshahr. It attacked at dawn on 25 August 1941.

The naval attack began at 04:10 at Abadan when HMS Shoreham opened fire on the Iranian sloop Palang, sinking it in a single salvo. The Abadan refinery was of vital importance to the British commanders as well as keeping the employees of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company safe from possible reprisals. Khuzestan Province was defended by 27,000 troops from the 1st, 2nd, 6th and 16th infantry divisions, consisting of both light and mechanised infantry. All Iranian tanks were deployed in Khuzestan as part of the 1st and 2nd divisions. Shoreham remained in the area and provided naval gunfire support. The Iranians managed to put up a resistance, and the refinery and the city were captured that afternoon after hand-to-hand combat resulted in the deaths of several British and Indian troops.

The Australian-crewed armed merchant cruiser HMS Kanimbla (later HMAS Kanimbla) and her escorts successfully navigated the Khor Musa inlet, arriving at Bandar Shapur at 04:15. Kanimbla successfully landed two battalions of its troops, facing no resistance from Iranian patrol boats. Seven Axis merchant vessels were seized, while an eighth was scuttled. The naval base there was secured that evening following heavy fighting. At Khorramshahr, HMAS Yarra surprised the Iranian sloop Babr, sinking it at its dock. There had been no time to prepare resistance, as the Iranians had been taken by surprise and the head of the navy, Gholamali Bayandor, was killed.

The surprise led to virtually no resistance in other areas of Khuzestan. The RAF attacked airbases and communications and rapidly gained air superiority.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Indian Division (18th Brigade plus the 22nd Brigade under command from the 10th Indian Division) advanced from Basra towards Qasr Sheikh (which was taken on 25 August) across the Shatt al-Arab waterway and captured the city of Khorramshahr, which was next to Abadan on the same day. The Karun River was not secured, as Iranian snipers remained, impeding British advance for a short time. Britain also landed troops at Bandar Abbas, and the Shatt al-Arab was secured.

The British hoped to capture Ahvaz and then drive north into Zagros Mountains passes to reach Qazvin, where they would link up with British troops in central Iran and Soviet troops from the north. By the early morning of 27 August, the British forces had reached Ahvaz. The Iranians, led by General Mohammad Shahbakhti, had prepared a strong defence. Iranian infantry had entrenched themselves around the city, with artillery support and tanks. Although Iranians had taken heavy losses and their morale was decreasing, they were prepared to fight hard. The Indian Army advance came to a halt and they were hesitant to cross the Karun River and attack the city. A British attack on the defences around the city was repelled by Iranian tanks and infantry.

Whether the Iranian defence could have been successful is debatable and on 29 August, after some more sporadic fighting, word reached the Iranian commanders at Ahvaz that their government had accepted a ceasefire and they were not to fight any longer. The British and Iranians agreed as part of the ceasefire that the Iranians would not lay down their arms and remain at their posts but they would be joined by the British troops, who would carry out a parade in the city. In exchange, the Iranians would safely evacuate British residents in the city to British troops.

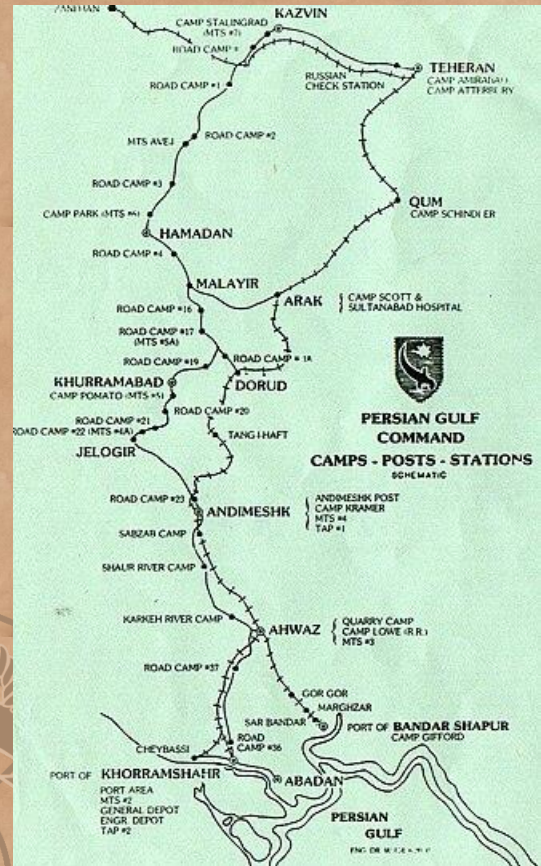


**b. Central Iran**

Farther north, the 10th Indian Infantry Division under Major-General William Slim attacked central Iran. Slim engagingly describes this in the 'Persian Pattern' chapter of his book 'Unofficial History'- including his staff car being engaged by an Iranian anti-tank gun on the Pa-i-Tak pass. The Indian Army infantry and armour massed at the Iraqi border town of Khanaqin (160 kilometres north-east of Baghdad and 480 kilometres from Basra).

The British force broke through the border at the town of Qasr-Shirin and moved into the Naft-e Shah oilfield with little opposition. The RAF provided close air support and was involved in several dogfights with Iranian aircraft. Six Iranian fighters were shot down and several others damaged, for no loss, ensuring air superiority. The RAF also bombed several local towns and dropped leaflets urging surrender.

The main Iranian forces in the region consisted of the 5th and 12th infantry divisions of 30,000 troops with supporting artillery at Kermanshah and Sanandaj. They were all light infantry (as the mechanised and armour had been stretched thin fighting on multiple fronts). The British reached the outskirts of Shahabad in the early morning of 28 August after delays. By 29 August, the British had reached the town of Kerend and were within 3 kilometres of Kermanshah and the Iranian commanders were told of the ceasefire order and stood down. The defenders declared Kermanshah an open city and the British entered on 1 September.





## V. SOVIET THEATRE

The Red Army entered Iranian territory in three directions and in three columns. The first column moved from the Jolfa axis towards Tabriz, the second column advanced via Astara towards Bandar Pahlavi and Rasht, and the third column invaded the northeastern border area of Khorasan. In this invasion, important centers such as Tabriz and Mashhad and the coastal cities of the Caspian Sea were occupied by the Soviet army. On September 29, the Soviet Navy shelled Bandar Anzali in the Caspian Sea, and the Soviet Air Force bombed several Iranian cities such as Tabriz, Anzali, Hamedan, Qazvin, Mashhad, and on August 29, Lahijan, and on August 31, the outskirts of Tehran.

### a. Northwestern Iran

The Soviet forces attacked on 25 August and Iranian airbases were destroyed by preliminary air attacks. The Soviets attacked using three armoured spearheads, totalling over 1,000 tanks and motorised infantry; the Iranians had no tanks in the area. The first force, consisting of the 47th Army broke through the border and moved from Soviet Azerbaijan and Soviet Armenia into Iranian Azerbaijan. They moved towards Tabriz and Lake Urmia. They captured the Iranian city of Jolfa. An Iranian reconnaissance aircraft discovered the forces south of Jolfa moving towards Marand. It was possible for the Iranian 3rd Division under General Matboodi to move motorised infantry towards Shibli to halt the breakthrough, but due to being taken by surprise, he failed to make the proper counter-attack. He also failed to destroy the bridges and highways with explosives, allowing the Soviets to rapidly move through the region.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Army crossed the border and moved towards the city of Ardabil, defended by Iran's 15th Division led by Brigadier-General Qaderi. Two Iranian regiments began to move towards the town of Nir to confront the invaders. Despite having a solid force and well-motivated troops, Qaderi jumped into his car and abandoned his troops. He sabotaged the defence even further by ordering the supply trucks delivering food, weapons and artillery to unload their weapons to make way for his personal belongings. General Qaderi's actions led to the Iranian troops being left without any reinforcements, which resulted in a fast defeat against the Soviet Army. The Soviets bypassed Nir and moved south. On another front, the Soviet Army launched an attack on the village of Alikaran where the Iranian border guards were caught by surprise. The Officer in command, Khalil Alinejad, ordered his troops back to the village to warn the population of the Soviet invasion, while he and a handful of troops gave them covering fire. Officer Alinejad and his troops were killed, and the village of Alikaran was shortly captured by the Red-Army forces. Ardabil was bombed by the Soviet Air Force and received minor damage to its barracks. Cut off and bypassed, both the Iranian 15th Division in Ardabil and the 3rd Division in Tabriz began to collapse. Despite that, the regular troops tried to maintain order and began to march towards the enemy without many of their commanders. However, lacking food, supplies and ammunition, the troops were forced to abandon much of their heavy equipment. Heavy pockets of resistance remained, with some desperate fighting until the end. They were unsurprisingly beaten by the Soviets, who by 26 August, occupied all of Iranian Azerbaijan (including Tabriz and Ardabil).

On 25 August, the Soviet attack against Gilan Province began with their Caspian Sea Flotilla, led by Rear-Admiral Sedelnikov. The flotilla consisted of more than a dozen patrol boats, destroyers, multiple anti-aircraft barges and landing craft. Facing them were three Iranian gunboats. Meanwhile, the 44th Army crossed the border and moved into Gilan Province. They moved along the Astara highway and the main coastal highway (Jadeh-e-Shomal). Heavy Iranian forces in the area made the naval landing force secure Iranian cities, which were then joined by the land forces. The flotilla landed troops and rapidly captured the border city of Astara. The landing force boarded their ships and moved towards their next targets.

The Iranian forces sank barges at the entrance to Pahlavi harbour, and lacking coastal artillery, moved a battery of 75 mm guns to the area. The Iranians fought desperately, and despite Soviet superiority, the Iranians prevented them from landing. The Iranians were careful to not fire their guns while Soviet aircraft flew overhead to prevent them from disclosing their location. Soviet aircraft were kept at bay by 47 mm anti-aircraft artillery on Iranian barges.

The next day, however, the Soviet Air Force moved into action, using many heavy bombers. In groups of 4 aircraft each, their bombers attacked military positions and civilian targets throughout Gilan, including Bandar Pahlavi and Rasht. At least 200 civilians were killed during the bombings. The bombings also destroyed many Iranian positions, and resistance was finally crushed by the 44th Army advancing from land, capturing both



Figure 5 The crossing of Soviet forces from the Iranian border (3 September 1320)



cities. Fighting was very intense, and the Soviets took their heaviest casualties of the invasion here. However, lacking armour and air power, the Iranians could not stop the enemy. On 28 August, they were forced to surrender. Nevertheless, some Iranian forces refused to accept defeat, and retreated to Ramsar to continue fighting. Their efforts were undercut when the Iranian government announced a ceasefire the next day.

### b. Persia Mainland

Meanwhile, the Soviet invasion force in Iranian Azerbaijan had moved south. The 47th Army had been delayed in the Jolfa area when three individual Iranian soldiers managed to block an important bridge until they ran out of ammunition and were killed. The Soviets did not use artillery for fear that they would damage the bridge and delay their advance further. The 47th Army moved south, capturing Dilman (100 kilometres west of Tabriz) and then Urmia (Oroumiyeh), ostensibly to block the escape of "German agents". The latter was defended by only a few snipers. The Soviets responded by bombing targets in the city, killing over a dozen people and wounding many others, and much of the city's bazaar was burned.

Meanwhile, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Army moved south of Ardebil towards the Tehran-Karaj-Tabriz highway, capturing the city of Mianeh, East Azerbaijan and moving southeast towards Qazvin and Tehran by 27–28 August. Iran's 15th and 3rd divisions had already been bypassed and defeated, and there was only sporadic resistance against the Soviets. The Soviet armoured spearhead drove down the highway and poised to take Qazvin on the 29th (151 kilometres from Tehran), followed by Saveh and Qom, south of Tehran, cutting the main Tehran-Saveh-Persian Gulf highway and cutting Iran effectively in two. But the Iranians accepted the ceasefire on 29 August, and the Soviets entered the now "open city" on 30 August. At the same time, elements of the 53rd Army captured the city of Hamadan. One civilian (a small child) was killed in a small bombing raid, and the sporadic resistance was defeated.

### c. North eastern Iran

On August 25, the Soviet forces began invading Iran from Soviet Turkmenistan.

The responsibility of Mashhad and the Khorasan province was for Iran's 9th Infantry Division, which consisted of around 8000 troops; these troops were mostly light infantry, standing no chance to resist the large Soviet forces that were armed with heavy military equipment. The Soviet Union bombed Mashhad Airport, destroying several Iranian military aircraft along with hundreds of military barracks; at the same time, their ground forces that were divided into three groups crossed the border and moved toward their targets in Iran.





## VI. FINAL PHASES OF INVASION

By 28-29 of August 1941, the Iranian military was in complete breakdown. The Allied forces had full control over Iranian airspace, and significant sections of the country had fallen under their authority. Several major cities, including Tehran were being repeatedly assaulted by air raids; however casualties were light in Tehran. Soviet aircraft would drop leaflets warning the people of extensive bombings and urging them to surrender.

Tehran had already begun to experience shortages of water and food supplies. Fear spread among Iranian soldiers, and many of them abandoned their position amid fears that Soviet forces were killing captured troops. As the situation got worse, all members of the royal family, aside from Reza Shah and Crown Prince Mohammad Reza, fled to Isfahan, reflecting the growing sense of the state being on the verge of collapse.

The collapse of the Iranian army, which Reza Shah had invested significant years constructing and modernising, was a direct hit to Iran. Several senior commanders were incompetent and some of them were suspected of sabotaging the Iranian resistance by collaborating with the British forces. Some generals even held secret meetings to discuss surrender.

When Reza Shah discovered the secret meetings, he confronted General Ahmad Nakhjavan, the head of the armed forces, and stripped him of his ranks. Reza Shah considered having him shot but with the insistence of the Crown Prince, Ahmad Nakhjavan was sent to prison instead.

Reza Shah ordered the resignation of the pro-British prime minister Ali Mansur, blaming him for the disintegration of the Iranian army and maintaining pro-British sympathies

Ali Mansur was replaced with Mohammad Ali Foroughi. After this, Reza Shah ordered the Iranian military to cease resistance and declared a ceasefire. Later the negotiations with the British and Soviets started.

In negotiations, Foroughi and the British agreed on the Allies withdrawal from Iran after the war ended with the condition of Iranians having to ensure the closure of the German, Italian, Hungarian, and Romanian legations with the German minister and his staff leaving immediately. Also all remaining German nationals in Iran had to be handed over to the British and Soviet authorities. The last order meant facing internment and even possibly death.

Therefore Reza Shah hesitated to comply with the last condition and instead he attempted to arrange escape for the German nationals from Iran. By September 18, many Germans had successfully escaped Iran from the Turkish borders.

In response to Reza Shah's defiance, the Soviet army moved to occupy Tehran.

Reza Shah announced his abdication in a letter drafted by Foroughi on September 17. The British initially desired to have Hamid Hassan Mirza, from the Qajar dynasty to sit on the throne; as the Qajar family worked in favor of the British. But due to Hassan Mirza's inability to speak Persian as he was a British citizen, with support from Foroughi, Crown Prince Mohammad Reza Pahlavi took the oath and became the Shah of Iran.

Reza Shah was arrested before he could depart Tehran and subsequently he was exiled to Mauritius as a British prisoner, he remained there for seven months before he was transferred to South Africa, where he died in 1944.

After the invasion was complete and stable, Allied military forces withdrew from Tehran on October 17; subsequently returning to their designated positions, with Soviets in northern Iran and the British in the southern regions.



## VII. OCCUPATION AND IMPACTS

On 29 January 1942, Mohammad Reza Shah signed the Tripartite Treaty with Britain and the Soviet Union. This agreement stipulated that Allied forces must exit Iran no later than six months after the end of the second world war and that Iran must declare war on Germany. In September 1943, Iran declared war on Germany, which subsequently qualified Iran to become a member of the United Nations. Later that year the Tehran conference was held, where Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin reaffirmed their support for Iran's independence and territorial integrity. The treaty stipulated that Iran was not to be considered occupied but rather a member of the Allies. (check the "Tripartite Treaty" section in the Timelines for further information.)

The Persian Corridor had become the main route for logistics, transporting more than 5 million tons of military supplies to the Soviet Union and British forces in the Middle East.

The United States tried to ease Iranians' concerns for the country's independence by providing assistance for the Lend-Lease Act and training the Iranian Army. Furthermore, Arthur Millspaugh became the finance minister of Iran but he was met with strong opposition.

By 1943, around 30,000 Americans were operating in Iran to assist with the Persian Corridor. Sending over 30% of the supplies to the Soviet Union under the Lend-Lease Act through Iran.

In late August 1942, German intelligence agents attempted to weaken the Allies influence by distributing propaganda leaflets in Tabriz and other cities, establishing an underground fascist group called Melnune Iran. The organisation held anti-government protests in the Lake Urumiya region, with the Qashqai and Bakhtiari tribes engaging in armed resistances.

There were another two operations attempted against the Allies in Iran, both in 1943.

One of them being Operation François. It was organised by the Abwehr, aiming to use Qashqai tribes in order to sabotage British and American supply routes which were transporting aids to the Soviet Union through Iran.

The other one was Operation Long Jump, aiming to assassinate Stalin, Churchill, and Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Tehran Conference. Both attempts failed.

The war had significant economic and social consequences for Iran. The state bureaucracy was highly damaged by the invasion, while at the same time it created shortage of food and other essential goods. The British and Soviet forces controlled the grain supplies and sometimes they would withhold giving them to those who did not follow their order while rewarding the ones that followed their wishes; meaning they used it as a bargaining chip to pressure the government into their demands. Also all the food for the foreign troops came from Iranian forces which made the situation for locals even worse. Under the pressure from The British Ahmad Qavam was appointed as the prime minister, who continued to mismanage the food supply and economy; worsening the shortage even more.

In 1942, protests took place in Tehran because of the severe bread shortage, and the government declared martial law, killing several protestors. After this inflation increased by 450%, placing even harder economic pressures on the lower and middle classes.

On 22 June 1942, the Minister of Finance, sent a letter to the Prime Minister highlighting the severe conditions faced by the Iranian people due to the occupation.

The letter reads:

*“ Dear Prime Minister, following letter No. 14932, it has again been reported from Ahvaz that, under the orders of the governor, police and municipality officials, without the approval of the Ministry of Finance, took and consumed 45 tons of flour from Tehran shipments on the 28th and 30th of Khordad and the 1st of Tir. It is very significant that, in the midst of the Khuzestan harvest, instead of requiring landowners and wheat owners to deliver surplus and ensuring local consumption, the local authorities arbitrarily consumed the incoming flour and wheat, which had been exclusively allocated for consumption in Tehran. In previous years, during Tir and Mordad, some of Khuzestan's wheat was sent to Tehran.*

*Currently, the only way to supply Tehran is through imported wheat and flour. If those responsible for this arbitrariness are not held accountable and no definitive orders are issued to secure consumption from the harvest, the Ministry of*



*Finance will in no way take responsibility for the supply of food to the country and explicitly states that Tehran will soon face severe hardship and famine.*

*The situation with rice is no better than other grains. For example, the price of 44 man of rice ( $\approx 26$  kg) increased from 250 rials in Tir 1320 to 600 rials in Tir 1321.”*

Famine deaths reports went up in several regions; yet despite all of this there was no large- scale armed resistance against the Allied occupation.





## VIII. VIOLATIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND RESOURCE EXPLOITATION

### Unauthorized Grain Purchase by Soviet Forces

In a confidential letter dated June 26, 1942(1321/4/5), written by the Minister of Finance to the Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning the purchase of barley by Soviet forces from farmers, it was emphasized that this must be stopped immediately.

The letter reads as follows:

*“ A report from the General Directorate of Surveillance indicates that Soviet forces have purchased a large quantity of barley in Takestan and are transporting it daily by vehicle. Other reports from various northern regions of the country have also been received in this regard. This is occurring despite the fact that the Ministry of Finance has provided necessary assistance to deliver several thousand tons of barley to the Soviet Union in response to the persistent requests of the Soviet Trade Representation. Since this action undermines the procurement and collection of goods which is currently of primary importance and given that aid has already been rendered in delivering barley, it is no longer acceptable for their representatives to purchase barley independently. Therefore, it is requested that you negotiate with the Soviet authorities and take action so that definitive orders are issued to refrain from purchasing grain, whether wheat or barley. Please inform the Ministry of Finance of the results of your efforts. “*

These unauthorized direct purchases undermined the Ministry of Finance's resource management and shattered Iranian sovereignty over domestic markets, leading to a destabilised food supply that sacrificed Iranian civilian lives for the Soviet war effort.

### Censorship of Press and Mail

In another confidential letter dated July 20, 1942(1321/4/29) to the PM concerns were raised regarding the censorship of press and postal packages in Tehran by British agents.

The letter goes as follows:

*“ Confidential*

*Mr. Prime Minister, for your information, it is reported that according to the General Directorate of Surveillance, for several days now, the British censorship branch has been taking all press and letters arriving from Turkey, along with other mail bags, to their own censorship department and archiving them. The censorship agents are intent on ensuring that the Turkish press is archived. “*

The British seizure of postal packages reveals the reality of the occupation. While Iran was supposed to be a sovereign partner, British intelligence treated them as a conquered territory. Stripping the Iranian government of its right to manage its own communications and foreign affairs; by turning Tehran into a hub for Allied intelligence operations.



## IX. PREVENTING THE TRIAL OF ALLIED FORCES

In May 29, 1944(1323/3/8), the Minister of Justice formally petitioned the Prime Minister regarding the legal immunity of Allied forces, particularly in cases of homicide.

A segment of the letter goes as follows:

*“According to existing records in the Ministry of Justice, in most instances where officers or members of the Allied forces commit acts subject to criminal prosecution especially in cases of intentional and unintentional homicide the established cases remain unresolved due to the absence of the defendants. Allied military authorities not only fail to provide the means for completing investigations to the public prosecutors' offices but also base their judgments solely on the reports of their own personnel regarding the incident. They deem the perpetrator justified or unjustified based on their own internal findings, refuse to surrender the accused to the competent authorities, and expect private claimants to refer directly to the nearest Allied military garrison to compensate for damages.*

*Setting aside the fact that issuing judgments for crimes committed in Iran, as well as determining the amount of damages owed to private plaintiffs, falls within the jurisdiction of Iranian courts and despite extensive, yet fruitless, correspondence with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on this matter the current conduct of Allied authorities is fundamentally incompatible with the nation's judicial independence. It is requested that you direct negotiations with the relevant Allied authorities to resolve this matter through a formal agreement; otherwise, judicial officials will have no success in arresting and punishing the perpetrators, and consequently, casualties will continue to increase day by day.”*

This was a direct consequence from the Treaty of Turkmenchay which Iran was forced to sign with the Russian Empire in 1828 after losing the Russo-Persian war. In that agreement capitulation rights were given to Russian citizens in Iran; which meant that Russians in Iran were not subject to Iranian courts and instead they were judged by their own consular authorities. Over time, other foreign powers, particularly Britain, obtained similar privileges. And this letter was a stark warning. Without the power to arrest and punish foreign offenders, the Iranian people would continue to suffer incalculable casualties.

This system of capitulation only got abolished later in 1928.



## X. POLISH IMMIGRATION TO IRAN

Polish migration to Iran during World War II was a direct consequence of the dual occupation of Poland by Germany and the Soviet Union. Due to Iran's geographic location and safe access to transportation routes leading to Iraq, Africa, and Palestine; It became a critical passage for temporary settlement and transit of Polish migrants.

The first group of evacuees arrived at the port of Pahlavi in early Farvardin (March); consisting of four Russian ships that were carrying 2900 soldiers and civilians. After the arrival, Polish military personnel continued their route to Iraq via Hamadan and Kermanshah; while by the end of Ordibehesht (April) civilian arrivals had reached 13,000.

The main wave of migrants was between 24th of March and early September, it involved soldiers, civilians, and children. Most of them arrived by rail from Turkmenbashi and Ashgabat; settling in camps in either Pahlavi Port, Mashhad, or Tehran.

Although conditions were better than in Poland, there were still many hardships; things such as famine, infections (typhus and dysentery), and overall unsanitary conditions, resulting in deaths of children and elderly. Iranian people, both authorities and civilians played a crucial role in providing care, shelter, and assistance to Polish migrants. In total, out of 170,000 of transferred Poles, approximately 115,000 Poles were evacuated to Iran in two evacuation phases, including 78,000 soldiers and 37,000 civilians about 14,000 who were children.

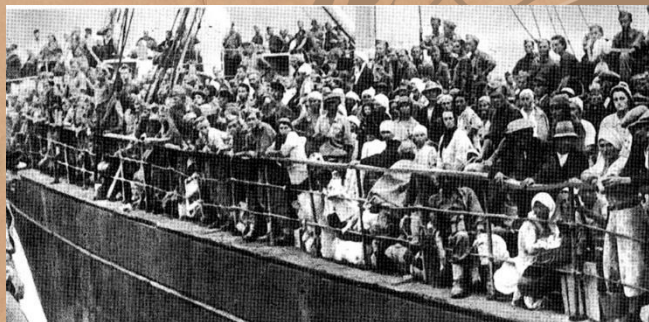


Figure 10 A memorial in the Polish Cemetery in Tehran



## XI. CHAOS

Subsequent to the Allied invasion and the shift in administrations, politics and power, ethnic and religious tensions were appearing. The British were concerned and warned that such conflicts could intensify in the absence of Allied forces.

An incident in Ahvaz, rumors about the abduction of a Muslim child by a Jew, provoked widespread anger among 800 Muslims, leading to them attempting to burn the local synagogue. Following this, the Soviet forces had to protect Mashhad's Jewish quarter during Muharram to prevent any potential conflict.

As this wasn't limited to a single city, clashes broke out between Muslims and Christians in Tabriz; and Assyrian Church leaders expressed concerns to the British, seeking protection for their community from them.

Violence also occurred elsewhere. A cleric led group attacked the Zoroastrian neighbourhood in Kerman, killing two Zoroastrian people and looting their properties; they also hanged three Baha'i individuals and looted fifty of their shops in Shahrood.

Meanwhile, ethnic and linguistic conflicts arose in regions such as Azerbaijan, Kurdistan and the Arabic regions of southern Iran. Gatherings advocating separation from Iran and union with the Arab states emerged from the Arabs, appealing to the British and Americans for support. However, ultimately, internal divisions prevented these efforts from succeeding. Similar developments emerged in the Kurdish regions as well.

Three years after the Allied occupation of Iran, the Soviet Union's political influence in South Azerbaijan and Eastern Kurdistan increased significantly. The Allies had agreed to withdraw their troops from Iran six months after the end of the war. However, shortly before the end of this agreement in 1946, the Soviet army under the leadership of Joseph Stalin remained in Iran, which also influenced the formation of the People's Party of Iran. The Communists sought to resolve the growing conflicts between the landowners and the ahbabs (local landowners). On 12 December 1945, after weeks of fierce fighting, the Azerbaijani National Government was established under the leadership of Seyyed Jafar Pishaveri. In late 1945, the Azerbaijani National Government was succeeded by the Mahabad Republic under the leadership of Ghazi Muhammad. Soon after, Kurdish and Azerbaijani government forces began joint military exercises, supported by the Soviet Union. Units sent by the Shah's government to dismantle the new state institutions were repelled by the Red Army. By this time, they were already fighting Iranian forces, and as a result suffered 2,000 casualties.





## XII. WITHDRAWAL

By the Tripartite Treaty deadline of March 2, 1946, British forces began to evacuate Iran, but Moscow declined to follow suit, justifying it as a necessity for “Soviet security”. This refusal led to the first ever complaint filed by a nation to the United Nations Security Council, a crucial test for the new organization's global effectiveness. Despite the fact that the UN Security Council never took direct measures to pressure the Soviet Union into leaving, finally in May 1946, after the visit of PM Ahmad Qavam to Moscow and the promise for an Iranian-Soviet oil company, the USSR forces exited in Iran. (For further information, please check the “Postwar crisis and the Soviet Withdrawal” section in the timelines.)

## XIII. TIMELINE

### 1. THE ALLIED INVASION AND ITS POLITICS - 1941

#### 1.1 THE INVASION

25Aug-۳شهریور

At dawn, British forces started raiding Iran from the South and West borders while the Soviet Union forces arrived on the North and East borders; invading Iran under an operation named Countenance. Neither invading forces were met with such resistance from the Iranian forces. The Iranian War Headquarters issued a statement in which it announced that the cities of Tabriz, Ardabil, Urmia, Khoi, Ahar, Miandoab, Mako, Benab, Mahabad, Rasht, Hasan Kiadeh, Mianeh, Ahvaz and Bandar Anzali were attacked. This declaration reported heavy casualties of civilians, but few casualties of soldiers.

26Aug-۴شهریور

Attacks continued on defenceless cities and barracks. As a result of the heavy attacks the armies of Tabriz, Mashhad, Rasht, Gorgan and Ardebil were completely disintegrated. Most people of the cities attacked by air forces evacuated the cities and took refuge in the surrounding cities.

27Aug-۵شهریور

An extraordinary meeting of the government board with the presence of Reza Shah was held, in which Reza Shah shared his intention to resign but was met with opposition from the ministers. Subsequently Rajab Ali Mansour resigned from his post as the Prime Minister.

Mohammad Ali Foroughi was suggested to Reza Shah for the position of Prime Minister; At first Reza Shah opposed this idea by calling Foroughi an old man but in the end Foroughi was accepted to be the Prime Minister. Foroughi did not alter anything in the cabinet of ministers but according to the Reza Shah's wishes he appointed Ali Soheili the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Javad Ameri as the Minister of Interior.

28Aug-۶شهریور

In the National Consultative Assembly, Mohammad Ali Foroughi introduced the government's decision to cease military resistance. He emphasized on the necessity of immediate negotiations with the invading powers and the parliament voted unanimously in favour of his request.

Foroughi's speech in the National Assembly was delivered with composure and rhetorical mastery which still to this day is regarded as one of the most enduring and influential addresses by an Iranian statesman in the twentieth century. One particular statement from this speech has remained especially memorable and is frequently quoted: “They come and they go; they have their own concerns and no quarrel with us.”



Following the parliamentary session, Foroughi held talks at his residence with the British and Soviet ambassadors to discuss an end of hostilities. At the meeting he was informed of the British's intentions to exile Reza Shah Pahlavi. Despite the ceasefire letter being delivered to both embassies the very same night that day and both embassies immediately informing their capitals, military operations against Iran continued without interruption.

The Soviet Union in particular continued their attacks with the same level of intensity throughout the following days. Iranian soldiers who surrendered were taken into captivity and transferred outside the country. Meanwhile The Red Army took control of administrations in the occupied cities, arresting both governmental officials and military authorities.

### 29Aug-۷ شهریور

Following a series of discussions and negotiations, especially the meeting between Foroughi and The Allied ambassadors, Reza Shah sent most of his family members to Isfahan leaving only Crown Prince Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in Tehran.

These actions reflected his resignation and eventual departure from the country. In the meantime Northern cities in Iran were heavily attacked by Soviet bombers.

### 30Aug-۸ شهریور

Iran was divided into three parts; the North for Russians, the South which included the oil rich regions controlled by the British forces, and the central area of Iran, including Tehran remained under Iranian administration but was heavily controlled by the occupying powers.

On the same day the Supreme Military Council implemented the order of granted leave for conscript soldiers and in their place 30 thousand contract soldiers would be recruited with a monthly salary of 35 tomans.

In the meantime the relocation of the royal family to Isfahan, rumors about Reza Shah fleeing the country and reports of the occupation of various cities created panic in Tehran. The evacuation of military barracks resulted in confused soldiers wandering around the streets of Tehran. The flight of several army commanders and political elites further intensified the crisis. Consequently, martial law was declared in Tehran and Ahmad Amir Ahmadi was appointed as the military governor.

Both Northern and Southern Iranian cities were bombed by Soviet and British air forces. British aircraft flying from bases in Iraq attacked oil facilities of the Anglo Iranian Oil Company in Abadan and Ahvaz.

### 31Aug-۹ شهریور

In the afternoon, Reza Shah summoned all of the military commanders and officials who had approved the disintegration of the army (the granted leave for conscript soldiers) to Saadat Abad Palace, and accused them of treason.

He held Ahmad Nakhjavan responsible on account of him being the one that had secured the approval of the Supreme Army Council to grant leave for conscript soldiers. Reza Shah stripped him of his rank. Nakhjavan remained imprisoned until 16th of Sept.(25Shhr.) which was prior to Reza Shah's resignation. Later Nakhjavan was appointed Minister of War in Foroughi's cabinet.

These circumstances ultimately damaged Reza Shah's political position, intensifying the determination of those who sought his exile after his abdication.

### 1Sept-۱۰ شهریور

On this day Reza Shah informed Foroughi and his cabinet of his decision to resign.



## 1.2 The politics

شهریور ۲۲-۱۳Sept

Under pressure from the occupying Allied powers, The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally requested the closing of the German embassy in Tehran and the departure of German nationals from Iran. The letter stressed that the Iranian government would provide assistance to German nationals through a protecting power.

Part of the letter reads:

*“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Imperial Iran, following footnote No. 3774, respectfully informs the Ambassador of Germany in Tehran that representatives of the governments of the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom insist that the German embassy in Tehran be closed by 17 September and that its staff leave the territory of Iran. Accordingly, this matter is communicated for your information. Matters concerning the nationals of the German government will, of course, be handled through the embassy appointed to protect their interests. The officials of the German embassy may be assured that the Iranian government will provide all possible assistance within its capacity.”*

Following this, Ali Soheili, the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs, notified the Swedish and Swiss representatives in Tehran of Iran’s declaration of war against Germany,

The letter as followed:

*“Respectfully, a copy of the declaration made today by His Excellency the Prime Minister in the National Consultative Assembly regarding the state of hostilities between Iran and Germany, and the accession of the Imperial Government of Iran to the United Nations Declaration of January 1942, is hereby sent for your information. Kindly convey the contents of this declaration to the governments of Sweden and Switzerland and notify the relevant German authorities accordingly.”*

شهریور ۲۳-۱۴Sept

The British and Soviet ambassadors presented Reza Shah with an ultimatum, demanding his resignation by 12:30 p.m. on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept.(26Shhr.). They cautioned that failure to comply would result in the occupation of Tehran, and the formation of a joint British-Soviet administration.

شهریور ۲۵-۱۶Sept

During these tense days, Foroughi secured Allied recognition for the succession of the 21 year old Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, preserving the country’s integrity and stability.

Foroughi had rejected Sir Reeder Bullard’s proposal to change the regime, believing that Iran lacked the capacity to endure such fundamental political changes without the country getting destabilised.

Reza Shah formally abdicated on the morning of 17Sept.(25Shhr.), and the National Consultative Assembly accepted his resignation at 9:30 a.m.

To protect soon to be king Mohammad Reza Pahlavi from the British and Soviet forces, the young crown prince was concealed in civilian clothes on the floor of an old Chrysler and brought through the servants' entrance. At 4:00 p.m., Mohammad Reza swore the oath on the Quran, officially becoming the Shah of Iran.

شهریور ۲۶-۱۷Sept

Despite the resignation of Reza Shah Pahlavi, the Russian and British forces occupied Tehran, taking control over the government. Making it clear to Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi that the real power lies in their hands.



21Sept-۳۰ شهریور

Reza Shah Pahlavi and his family departed Isfahan, travelling through Yazd, Kerman, and Bandar Abbas, where they were then to be taken abroad by a British ship en route for Mauritius.

## 2. Institutionalization of Allied occupation - 1942

### 2.1 Tripartite Treaty - 9 Bhm 1320 /January 29 1942

The Tripartite Treaty was an agreement guaranteeing the territorial integrity of Iran and stipulated the evacuation of Soviet and British forces from Iran no later than 6 months after World Wide II's end. The Treaty further stipulated that Iran completely cooperated with the Allied forces; this included permitting them to use the country's roads and telecommunications system and to provide them with the labor and equipment; and in addition to that, Iran also had to censor the press so that there were no news or information on the occupation and the exploitation of the country's resources.

The Tripartite Treaty was approved by the National Consultative Assembly on 6th of Bahman, and later it was signed by PM Foroughi and the ambassadors of the Allied for final confirmation.

### 2.2 American entry and the Persian corridor - Azar 1321 /Nov

In Azar, US forces entered Iran to construct what became known as the Persian corridor. This passage was a route, connecting the north to the south of Iran, its main goal being transportation for ammunition and other war supplies from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea and from there onward to the Soviet Union.

## 3. The Tehran Conference - 9 Azr 1322/Nov 1943

On the 9th of Azar, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin convened a conference in Tehran without the presence of King Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The ultimate result was that Allied forces would leave Iran after the conclusion of the Second World Wide and that Iran would receive compensation for this period. To secure these terms, Iran had to officially go to war against Germany, a declaration that they had already made on 17th of Shahrivar.

## 4. Postwar crisis and Soviet withdrawal /1945-1946

After the end of the Second World War, American and British forces withdrew their troops from Iran; the Soviet government, however, even before the war had ended, started pursuing a formal concession for exclusive oil rights in northern Iran. When the Iranian parliament passed a law prohibiting the granting of oil concessions to foreign powers, the Soviet Union's path to a concession was officially blocked.

In response to this legislative rejection, not only Moscow took a hardline stance against the Iranian government, and refused to repatriate its military forces from Iranian soil; they also began to prevent the Iranian police and gendarmerie units from entering Azerbaijan and Kurdistan. Openly supporting autonomy movements among the Kurds and Azerbaijanis in Iran putting pressure on the Iranian government. With Soviet support, Kurdish leaders established the Republic of Mahabad, while in Azerbaijan Ja'far Pishevari founded the Azerbaijan Democratic Party government.

Eventually, in Ordibehesht 1325(May 1946), after Iran's complaint to the United Nations Security Council and the visit of Prime Minister Ahmad Qavam to Moscow, Tehran and Moscow had come to an agreement to establish a joint Iranian Soviet oil company; thus the Soviet Union withdrew its forces from Iran. However, the agreement was rejected by the Iranian parliament the following year.

After the Soviet withdrawal, the autonomous governments established by the Democratic Party in Azerbaijan and in Kurdistan survived only for a little more than seven months.



While Britain and the Soviet Union were the primary occupying powers in Iran, after the United States entry into the conflict, a significant amount of American military personnel also arrived in Iran. But despite all of this occupation, Iran maintained its independence and territorial integrity through the Tripartite Treaty.

Throughout the Allied presence in Iran, many of the country's facilities, infrastructures, essential reserves and resources were utilised by the occupying forces. As a result, Iran faced severe shortages of food and hyperinflation, only two months into the occupation. Across Iran, and most acutely in Tehran, the scarcity of bread and basic necessities had reached such a breaking point, that a state mandated rationing system became necessary; and bread was available only through ration cards. Hence, a significant increase in mortality rates attributed to famine and illness, was marked during this time.

It is an irony in the history that Iran, a neutral, suffered the tragic loss of countless civilian lives and structural ruin as a direct result of the Allied presence.





## XIV. FIGURES IRANIAN SIDE

### Reza Shah Pahlavi

Reza Shah Pahlavi (1878–1944), born Reza Khan, was the founder of the Pahlavi dynasty and Shah of Iran from 1925 until his forced abdication in September 1941. Originally an officer of the Persian Cossack Brigade, he rose through the military ranks with extraordinary speed, eventually leading the entire brigade and staging a successful coup in 1921. By 1925, he had deposed the Qajar dynasty and proclaimed himself Shah.

His reign was characterized by a sweeping and often brutal modernization program. He constructed the Trans-Iranian Railway, established the University of Tehran, standardized a national legal system, reformed the military, modernized infrastructure, and initiated widespread cultural change — including the controversial compulsory unveiling of women in 1935. To fund these ambitions without deepening dependency on Britain or the Soviet Union, Reza Shah cultivated economic and technical ties with Germany, a policy that would eventually become the stated justification for the Allied invasion.

By the outbreak of World War II, Reza Shah declared Iran's absolute neutrality, a position he maintained firmly even in the face of escalating Allied pressure to expel German nationals. His refusal to comply — and his failed attempts to seek American mediation — ultimately sealed his fate. On August 25, 1941, British and Soviet forces simultaneously invaded Iran from multiple fronts, shattering the very army he had spent sixteen years building. Four days into the invasion, he ordered a ceasefire. On September 17, 1941, under ultimatum from both Allied ambassadors, Reza Shah signed his abdication letter — drafted by Prime Minister Foroughi — and went into exile, first in Mauritius, and then South Africa, where he died in 1944.

The collapse of the Iranian military under his watch was perhaps the defining wound of his final days. He had built an army to project national power; it disintegrated in six days.

### Mohammad Reza Pahlavi

Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (1919–1980) was the Crown Prince of Iran and heir to the Pahlavi throne at the time of the Allied invasion. On 16 September 1941, Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Foroughi and Foreign Minister Ali Soheili attended a special session of parliament to announce the resignation of Reza Shah and that Mohammad Reza was to replace him. The next day, at 4:30 p.m., Mohammad Reza took the oath of office.

He assumed the throne at twenty-one years of age, in one of the most precarious circumstances any new monarch could face: his country was under foreign military occupation, its treasury depleted, and its political atmosphere turbulent after years of his father's authoritarian rule. The young Shah lacked both his father's authority and a strong institutional foundation; the country was under foreign occupation, the treasury was empty, and the political atmosphere — recently opened after years of repression under Reza Shah — was becoming increasingly active.

During the invasion itself, as Crown Prince, Mohammad Reza played a quiet but pivotal role. When Reza Shah discovered that senior generals had secretly convened to discuss surrender, it was the Crown Prince who intervened to prevent the Shah from executing General Ahmad Nakhjavan on the spot — a personal act that would define the beginning of his political character. It was also Foroughi who, with the Crown Prince's support, successfully preserved the Pahlavi succession against British pressure to restore a Qajar claimant.





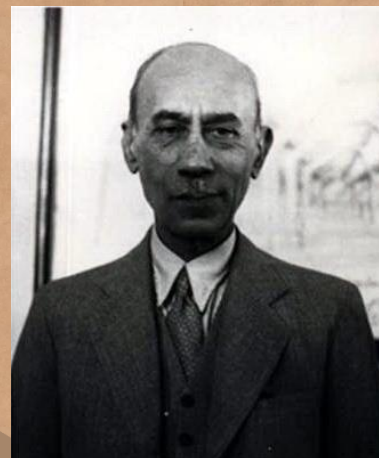
The British would have liked to put a Qajar back on the throne, but the principal Qajar claimant to the throne was Prince Hamid Mirza, an officer in the Royal Navy who did not speak Persian, so the British were forced to accept Mohammad Reza as Shah.

His earliest years as Shah were defined by occupation, dependency, and the gradual assertion of a sovereign identity — a tension that would mark the entirety of his nearly four-decade reign.

### Ali Mansur

Ali Khan Mansur (1886–1974) served twice as Prime Minister of Iran, in 1940–1941 and again in 1950, and six times as Cabinet Minister. Before the war, he had served in key administrative roles including Minister of Roads and Railways, overseeing the construction of the Trans-Iranian Railway — the very infrastructure that would later be coveted by the Allies as a supply corridor to the Soviet Union.

Mansur was a technocratic administrator by nature, loyal to Reza Shah and valued for his organizational competence rather than political vision. He had governed multiple provinces and served as ambassador to Italy and the Vatican before ascending to the premiership. His government navigated the increasingly hostile pre-invasion diplomatic environment, attempting to balance overt neutrality with the mounting pressure of Allied ultimatums.



It was Mansur who, upon receiving the second Allied note demanding the expulsion of German nationals in August 1941, recognized it for what it was: a disguised ultimatum. He warned Reza Shah accordingly. When the invasion came regardless, and the Iranian military began its rapid collapse, Reza Shah — seeking someone to blame — ordered Mansur's resignation, accusing him of harboring pro-British sympathies and demoralizing the armed forces. He was replaced by Mohammad Ali Foroughi on August 27, 1941.

The accusation was politically convenient more than it was just. Mansur was a loyalist caught between irreconcilable forces. His resignation shortly after the Allied occupation began was viewed by some contemporaries as a capitulation that facilitated Reza Shah's abdication, though no formal charges resulted. He later served as governor-general of Azerbaijan in 1946, before returning to the premiership briefly in 1950.

### Ali Soheili

Ali Soheili (1895–1958) was an Iranian diplomat born in Tabriz. He served as Prime Minister of Iran for two terms in the early 1940s, and was well versed in the fine arts, including music and painting.

His entry into the critical moments of 1941 came through Foroughi's cabinet: appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs on August 27, the very day Foroughi took office, Soheili immediately found himself at the center of the most consequential diplomatic moment in modern Iranian history. It was Soheili who formally notified the Swedish and Swiss representatives in Tehran of Iran's declaration of war against Germany — a delicate communication that signaled Iran's shift toward the Allied framework without fully surrendering the fiction of sovereign agency.



On 16 September 1941, Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Foroughi and Foreign Minister Ali Soheili attended a special session of parliament to announce the resignation of Reza Shah and that Mohammad Reza was to replace him. His presence at that announcement made him one of the two faces of Iran's most consequential political transition of the twentieth century.

He subsequently served as Prime Minister from March to August 1942, and again from February 1943 to April 1944 — a tenure that coincided with the Tehran Conference, where Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin reaffirmed their commitments to Iran's post-war independence. He later served as ambassador to Britain in 1953, and died of cancer in London at the age of 62.



## Rokneddin Mokhtari

Rokneddin Mokhtari (1887–1970) was born in Kermanshah. An Iranian musician and violinist of considerable distinction, he was also, paradoxically, the head of the police department in the Reza Shah era. From 1935 to 1941, he served as the head of the police headquarters of Reza Shah.

As Tehran's chief of police during the invasion, Mokhtari occupied a peculiarly charged position: responsible for maintaining order in a capital city that was simultaneously being bombed, gripped by food shortages, flooded with deserting soldiers, and rapidly losing confidence in its own government. The panic that swept Tehran in the final days of August 1941 — the flight of the royal family to Isfahan, the wandering conscripts in the streets, the looting and chaos — fell within his sphere of responsibility.

After the resignation of Reza Shah and his exile in 1941, Rokneddin Mokhtari was arrested and stood trial in 1942. He was condemned to an 8-year term of imprisonment. In 1945 he was released but never regained his former prominence. His post-invasion imprisonment reflected the broader political reckoning that followed the collapse of Reza Shah's administrative apparatus. He died in Tehran in 1970 following surgery.

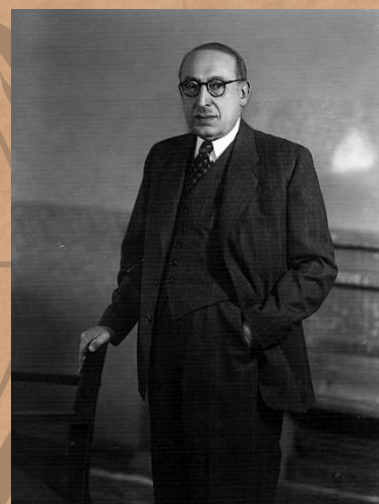


## Ahmad Qavam

Ahmad Qavam (1873–1955), known as Qavam os-Saltaneh, was one of the most experienced and shrewd political operators in modern Iranian history. Born into a prominent family with deep roots in the Qajar court, he entered politics during the Constitutional Revolution, rose to the position of Prime Minister five times across both Qajar and Pahlavi eras, and earned the epithet "The Old Fox" — a title that captured his particular genius for political maneuver under impossible conditions.

During the occupation period, Qavam served as Prime Minister from 1942 to 1943, a tenure marked by economic crisis and social unrest. The bread riots of 1942, which erupted across Tehran due to food shortages caused in large part by Allied mismanagement of Iran's grain supplies, fell on his watch. He appointed a general to restore order and end the riots, which he did forcefully. Qavam was also instrumental in the 1942 Tripartite Treaty between Iran, Russia, and Britain.

His most consequential role, however, came after the war. In 1946, when Soviet forces refused to withdraw from Iran and actively backed separatist movements in Azerbaijan and Kurdistan, Qavam was voted back into office by the narrowest of margins — the Majlis believed he had the best chance of resolving the crisis. He flew personally to Moscow to negotiate with Stalin directly, ultimately striking a deal that secured Soviet withdrawal in exchange for a proposed joint oil concession in the north. When the new Majlis was seated, they immediately voted down the concession — rendering the Soviet promise hollow and Iran's territorial integrity preserved. It was a masterclass in political improvisation that earned Qavam his place in Iranian diplomatic history.



## Ahmad Nakhjavan

Ahmad Nakhjavan (1893–1966) was an Iranian military leader, Major General, and the acting Minister of War. Born in Tabriz, he was the eldest son of Ali Khan of Nakhichevan and belonged to the Turkic Kangarlu tribe.

Nakhjavan holds the distinction of being the first Iranian pilot to fly a Breguet-19 aircraft bearing the Iranian flag from France to Tehran's Qala-e-Marghi base in February 1925 — marking the symbolic birth of the Imperial Iranian Air Force. He subsequently became the Air Force's first director, overseeing its formative years before moving to broader military command. By 1940, he had risen to acting Minister of War under the Matin cabinet, and was soon promoted to Major General.

When the Allied invasion came on August 25, 1941, Nakhjavan approved the Supreme Army Council's plan to dismiss conscript soldiers and replace them with contract recruits





— a decision that effectively began the dissolution of the very force meant to resist the invasion. When Reza Shah discovered this, the confrontation was explosive. When the Shah learned of the generals' actions, he beat armed forces chief General Ahmad Nakhjavan with a cane and physically stripped him of his rank. Nakhjavan narrowly escaped summary execution only because the Crown Prince intervened.

He remained in prison until September 16, 1941 — the day before Reza Shah's abdication — and was then, in a remarkable turn, appointed Minister of War in Foroughi's transitional cabinet. It was a decision that reflected practical necessity over punitive logic: the new government needed institutional memory, however tarnished. He later served in various roles under Mohammad Reza Shah and died in 1966.

## Gholamali Bayandor

Rear Admiral Gholamali Bayandor (1898–1941) was the Commander of the Imperial Iranian Navy from 1931 until his death on August 25, 1941. Born in Tehran to ancestors from the Bayandur tribe, he personally led his men in defending Iranian coasts at Khorramshahr and was killed in action fighting against Allied forces.

Bayandor had spent the decade before the invasion building the Imperial Iranian Navy from near-nothing into a functioning coastal force, overseeing the procurement of vessels from Italy and the development of naval bases along the Persian Gulf and Caspian coast. He was a figure of genuine institutional achievement — a career officer who had modernized an entire branch of the armed forces within a highly compressed timeframe.

immediate and overwhelming. HMS Shoreham sank the Iranian sloop Palang in a single salvo. HMAS Yarra sank the Babr at its dock. Admiral Gholamali Bayandor, commander of the Imperial Iranian Navy in the south, made for the headquarters in Khorramshahr to make a final decision but was killed on the way. His brother, Captain Yadollah Bayandor, acting commander of the Iranian Navy in the Caspian Sea, was also killed during a Soviet air and naval attack on the port of Anzali.

Both brothers died on the same day — the first day of the invasion. It was the most direct and irreversible loss Iran sustained in the opening hours of Operation Countenance. Commodore Cosmo Graham, who served as the Royal Navy's Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf, wrote that Bayandor's "death was regretted by all who knew him. He was intelligent, able, and faithful to Persia." The Iranian corvette Bayandor, commissioned in 1964, was named in his honor.

## Mahmud Mir-Djalali

Major General Mahmud Mir-Djalali (1898–1983) was an Iranian military commander who served as Vice Chairman of the General Staff of the Armed Forces under Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi. Initially starting his career with the Persian Cossack Brigade in 1920 and playing a critical role in the 1921 Pahlavi coup, Mir-Djalali led the establishing of the Mechanized Artillery Forces and Military Industries of Iran under Reza Shah Pahlavi. Within the Imperial Military, he was known as the "Father" of Iran's armored forces and military-industrial complex.

His connection to the rise of the Pahlavi dynasty was foundational: in February 1921, as a young artillery officer stationed at the old gates of Tehran, Mir-Djalali made the fateful decision not to fire on Reza Khan's advancing Cossack forces. By opening the gates of Tehran rather than shelling the coup, he enabled Reza Khan's seizure of the capital — a decision that earned him Reza Khan's lasting trust and set the trajectory of his entire career.

When the Allied invasion came in 1941, Mir-Djalali was responsible for the withdrawal of Iran's armored vehicles, artillery, and military-industrial assets inland — choosing strategic preservation over battlefield sacrifice. Although this decision was met with criticism, it proved strategically crucial. By withdrawing the bulk of Iran's artillery, tanks, and military-industrial assets instead of allowing them to be destroyed or captured, Mir-Djalali ensured their survival — assets that would prove vital during the Azerbaijan Crisis of 1946, when the Iranian military was once again called upon to defend sovereignty against Soviet-backed separatists in the north.





He later served in a range of senior military and government roles, including chief of military industries during the Allied occupation, head of the Iranian military mission in France, and as an elected senator from Kerman. He died in Tehran in 1983.

### **Timsar Mohammad Shabbakhti**

General Mohammad Shabbakhti was the Iranian military commander responsible for the defense of Ahvaz during the Allied invasion of August 1941. When British forces advanced from Basra and reached the outskirts of Ahvaz by the morning of August 27, they encountered the most organized and tenacious Iranian resistance of the entire southern campaign.

Entrenched Iranian tanks, infantry and artillery under the steadfast General Mohammad Shabbakhti repelled British forces on August 28. Iranian infantry had dug in around the city, artillery covered the crossing points, and all available armored units in the region had been concentrated under his command. A British attack on the city's defenses was repelled, and the Indian Army advance halted at the Karun River, hesitant to force a crossing against prepared positions. It was one of the few instances in the invasion where Allied progress was genuinely stopped rather than merely slowed.

Whether Shabbakhti's defense could have held indefinitely remains an open question. The answer, however, was never tested: on August 29, word arrived that the Iranian government had accepted a ceasefire and ordered all commanders to stand down. Shabbakhti complied. As part of the ceasefire terms, British troops conducted a parade through Ahvaz, with full military honors rendered by the Iranian general — a dignified close to what had been the most spirited defense Iran mounted during the entire invasion.

\*Biographical records on Shabbakhti beyond his role at Ahvaz are sparse in available English-language sources. His rank of Timsar (General) and his command at Ahvaz are well-documented; further details of his earlier career and post-invasion life would require Persian-language archival sources.





## FIGURES

### ALLIED SIDE

#### Winston Churchill

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874–1965) served as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during the Second World War. From the moment Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa against the Soviet Union in June 1941, Churchill shifted geopolitical calculations to form an immediate, pragmatic alliance with Moscow. Driven by the vital imperative to secure the Abadan Refinery—which refined eight million tons of oil in 1940 for the Allied war effort—and to open a dependable land bridge to supply the Red Army, Churchill authorized Operation Countenance. He forcefully bypassed Iran's declared neutrality, famously invoking the legal maxim *Inter arma silent leges* (in times of war, the law falls silent) in his post-war memoirs to justify the rapid deployment of overwhelming force against a sovereign, ancient state.

#### Joseph Stalin

Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin (1878–1953) was the General Secretary of the Communist Party and the supreme leader of the Soviet Union. Facing a catastrophic, deep invasion by the German Wehrmacht along the Eastern Front in the summer of 1941, Stalin viewed the massive, shared border with Iran as both a critical vulnerability to the Baku oil fields and a potential strategic lifeline. He coordinated directly with the British government to launch a surprise, multi-front assault, committing massive armor and air superiorities to clear the "Persian Corridor". Even as the immediate wartime danger subsided, Stalin utilized the military occupation to aggressively pressure Tehran for exclusive northern oil concessions and later delayed the repatriation of Soviet troops, sparking the first major post-war diplomatic crisis of the UN Security Council.

#### Dmitry Kozlov

Lieutenant General Dmitry Timofeyevich Kozlov (1896–1954) was a prominent Soviet military commander tasked with executing the northern pincer of the invasion. As the commander of the Transcaucasian Front, Kozlov directed the combat operations of the 44th and 47th Armies. He oversaw a highly efficient surprise attack that deployed roughly 40,000 soldiers and 1,000 T-26 tanks, systematically overwhelming the unmotorized and underprepared Iranian divisions in northwestern Iran and Azerbaijan. Kozlov's tactical planning focused heavily on speed, bypassing scattered border skirmishes, and seizing deep infrastructure points to rapidly link up with British forces at Qazvin.



Figure 13 Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill at the Tehran Conference in 1943



## Sergei Trofimenko

Major General Sergei Georgievich Trofimenko (1899–1953) was an experienced Soviet operational officer who commanded the 53rd Army during the invasion. Operating out of the Central Asian Military District, Trofimenko spearheaded the northeastern and central thrusts into Iranian territory, driving his columns across the Turkmen border into Khorasan and moving south towards the critical Tehran-Karaj-Tabriz highway. Under his leadership, the 53rd Army successfully bypassed broken defensive lines, occupied Hamadan, and positioned its armored spearheads near Qazvin to cut the main highway in two, effectively forcing the Iranian government to accept an immediate ceasefire.



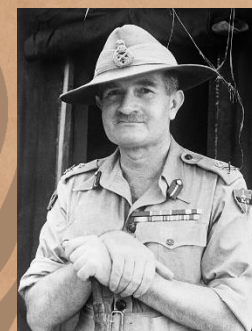
## Sir Edward Quinan

General Sir Edward Pellew Quinan (1885–1960) was the British commander in charge of ground operations entering from the western and southwestern borders. Originally leading the "Iraq Command," his forces were renamed the "Persian and Iraq Force" (Paiforce) six days into the campaign. Quinan meticulously organized the multi-pronged assault using the 8th and 10th Indian Infantry Divisions and various armored brigades. His primary directives were to rapidly secure the vulnerable oil infrastructure of Khuzestan and push through the treacherous Zagros Mountain passes to link arms with the advancing Soviets, executing his operational timeline with clockwork precision.



## Field Marshal William J. Slim

Major General William Joseph Slim (1891–1956)—later promoted to Field Marshal—commanded the 10th Indian Infantry Division during the central campaign into Iran. Massing his armor and infantry at the border town of Khanaqin, Slim directed the operational breakthrough at Qasr-e Shirin and pushed rapidly into the Naft-e Shah oilfield. Known for leading from the front, Slim famously detailed the campaign in his writings, including a dramatic instance where his personal staff car was directly engaged by an Iranian anti-tank gun at the Pa-i-Tak pass. His rapid capture of Kerend and push to the outskirts of Kermanshah effectively broke the will of local defenders, compelling them to declare an open city.



## Fyodor Raskolnikov (Rajabov)

Rear Admiral Fyodor Sedelnikov was the commander of the Soviet Caspian Sea Flotilla during the joint invasion. Tasked with dominating Iran's northern maritime border, Sedelnikov commanded a powerful armada of over a dozen patrol boats, destroyers, landing craft, and anti-aircraft barges. He launched a ferocious amphibious and naval assault on Gilan Province, targeting Astara and the critical harbor of Bandar Pahlavi. Despite encountering desperate resistance from Iranian coastal batteries and scuttled obstacles, Sedelnikov utilized close coordination with heavy Soviet bombers to crush local strongpoints, securing the northernmost maritime ports of the Persian Corridor.



## Cosmo Graham

Commodore Cosmo Moray Graham (1887–1946) was the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf who orchestrated the British naval task force during the opening hours of the invasion. At dawn on August 25, 1941, Graham spearheaded a surprise naval assault aimed at securing Bandar Shahpour, Abadan, and Khorramshahr. His task force took the Iranian navy completely by surprise, sinking the sloops *Palang* and *Babr* at their docks and capturing vital Axis merchant vessels. Graham was a highly capable naval administrator whose operations guaranteed that the invaluable Abadan refinery was secured intact with minimal disruption.

## John D'Albiac

Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Henry D'Albiac (1894–1963) was the commander of British air forces operating in the theater from regional bases in Iraq. D'Albiac orchestrated the aerial campaign that systematically dismantled the Imperial Iranian Air Force's outdated biplanes in the early morning hours of August 25. Under his direction, RAF aircraft gained total air



superiority, carried out surgical bombing raids against airbases and communication hubs in Ahvaz, and dropped millions of propaganda leaflets urging immediate civilian and military surrender to prevent unnecessary bloodshed.

## Pavel Zhigarev

Lieutenant General Pavel Fedorovich Zhigarev (1900–1963) was the Chief of the Soviet Air Forces during the invasion. Faced with the immense burden of stabilizing the skies on the Western Front, Zhigarev simultaneously dedicated significant strategic bombing assets to support the Transcaucasian and Central Asian ground forces in Iran. He orchestrated overwhelming air superiorities over northern Iran, deploying a massive force of 409 warplanes—including heavy bomber groups. His forces carried out highly destructive raids against military and civilian targets in Tabriz, Ardabil, Rasht, and the outskirts of Tehran, shattering the infrastructure networks and decisively crippling the Iranian military's capacity to mobilize.

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- آتاتورک گفته « کاش به همچین ادمی ملی گرا و باهوشیم کشور ما داشت »
- عضو انجمن های فراماسونی (تقی زاده و ...)
- نزدیک با رضا شاه ، « فروغی راهو باز کرد من فقط طی کردم »
- مخالف کشف حجاب چون به رضاشاه گفته بود «مردم ایران آماده همچین تغییری نیستن»
- مخالف کودتا و اعتقاد داشت باید از ریشه سوزوند و ساخت
- Sources
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- [https://fa.wikifeqh.ir/%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%84%DB%8C\\_%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%BA%DB%8C](https://fa.wikifeqh.ir/%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%84%DB%8C_%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%BA%DB%8C)
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