

## JOINT BRITISH-SOVIET MILITARY OPERATION "CONSENT" IN IRAN

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### ABSTRACT

The article shows that the operation to bring troops into Iranian territory began in the morning of August 25, 1941, and that mobile groups of Soviet border guards crossed the border, cut communication lines, controlled Iranian roads and other communications, as well as the deployment of offensive air-to-air forces and military alliances with the aim of seizing crossings, crossings and railway crossings.

**Keywords:** Iran, army of the former Soviet Union, World War II, military operations, contract territories, treaty with the British army.

### INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Against the background of the 80-year-old date of the beginning of World War II and a series of Soviet failures in the summer and autumn of 1941, the joint Soviet-British operation "Consent" remains a little discussed and traditionally invisible military episode. Note that one of Moscow's first allies in the war was London, which on June 22 announced its support for the Soviet Union in the fight against Nazi Germany. On July 12, 1941, the Soviet-British "Agreement between the governments of the USSR and Great Britain on joint actions in the war against Germany" was signed [1].

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From August 25 to September 17, 1941 During the Second World War, a joint Anglo-Soviet operation was carried out to bring the USSR and Great Britain troops into Iran under the code name operation «Consent».

The purpose of the operation was to ensure the guaranteed security of the southern route of supplies of the USSR under Lend-Lease, to take control of Iranian oil fields in order to prevent their capture by Germany, as well as to exclude the possibility of Iranian coming out on the side of the Hitler Axis countries. In addition, the introduction of troops into Iranian territory was supposed to fend off possible aggression from Turkey, creating a flank threat for the Turkish troops [Atlas of the World Battle Fronts in Semimonthly Phases to August, 2].

Influence Germany in Iran was huge. Hitlerite Germany took part in the modernization of the Iranian economy and infrastructure, the reform of the Shah's army. The Germans firmly penetrated the Iranian economy, and built relations with it in such a way that Iran practically became a hostage to Germany and subsidized its ever-increasing military spending. The volume of German weapons imported into Iran grew rapidly.

With the outbreak of World War II and Germany's attack on the USSR, despite Iran's formal declaration of neutrality, the activities of German intelligence services intensified in the country. With the encouragement of a pro-German government led by Shah Reza Pahlavi, Iran became the main base for German agents in the Middle East. On the territory of the country, reconnaissance and sabotage groups were created, weapons depots were set up, including in the northern regions of Iran bordering the Soviet Union.

After the German attack on the Soviet Union, Moscow and London became allies. Negotiations began on the topic of joint actions in Iran to prevent the invasion of the Germans into this country. They were led by British Ambassador Stafford Cripps at meetings with Molotov and Stalin. On July 8, 1941, the Directive of the NKVD of the USSR and the NKGB of the USSR "On measures to prevent the transfer of German intelligence agents from the territory of Iran" was issued, it was de facto a signal to prepare for the Iranian operation. [Eichholtz D., 3].

The USSR three times - on June 26, July 19 and August 16, 1941, warned the Iranian leadership about the intensification of German agents in the country and offered to expel all German citizens (among them there were many hundreds of military specialists) from the country, since they are carrying out activities incompatible with Iranian neutrality. Tehran rejected this demand. He refused the same demand to the British. On August 25, 1941, in the morning at 4:30, the Soviet ambassador and the British envoy jointly visited the Shah and handed him notes from their governments on the entry of Soviet and British troops into Iran [The Great Patriotic War, 4].

Legally the Soviet Union had the right on the introduction of troops into the territory of the southern neighbor, this was provided for by the terms of the Treaty between the USSR and Persia (since 1935 - Iran) of February 26, 1921. The sixth article of the treaty stated that Russia could send its troops to Iran if "third countries try to carry out an aggressive policy on the territory of Persia through armed intervention or turn the territory of Persia into a base for military action against Russia."

The operation of the introduction of troops into the territory of Iran started at dawn on 25 August 1941 of the year. Maneuverable groups of Soviet border guards crossed the border, cut communication lines, and took control of the roads and other communications of the Iranians. At the same time, an airborne assault force was sent to the rear with the aim of capturing bridges, passes, and railway crossings.

Parts of the Red Army were sent to the northern provinces of Iran, British troops - to the southern and southwestern ones. Within three days, from 29 to 31 August, both groups reached the pre-planned line, where they united [Vette V., 5].

From the Soviet side, the general management of the operation carried out Lieutenant General Dmitry Kozlov is the commander of the Transcaucasian Front, which included the 44th, 45th, 46th and 47th combined arms armies. The operation was also attended by the 53rd Combined Arms Army under the command of Major General Sergei Trofimenko, formed in the Central

Asian Military District in July 1941. The planning of the operation was carried out under the leadership of the Chief of Staff of the Transcaucasian Military District, Major General Fyodor Tolbukhin.

On the British side, three divisions, two brigades and a separate regiment were involved in the operation. Iran's forces were much inferior to the allies - Tehran was able to oppose the Soviet and British troops with only five divisions.

Despite the superiority in the forces of the allies, the operation was not bloodless - in the early days there were battles with Iranian troops, but not too fierce.

Shortly after the start of operation «Consent», the Iranian government changed its cabinet. Iran's new prime minister, Ali-Forugi, gave an order to end the resistance, and the next day this order was approved by the Iranian Majlis (parliament). On August 29, 1941, the Iranian army laid down its arms in front of the British, and on August 30, in front of the Red Army [Results and Lessons. M., 6].

The total losses that the allies suffered during the invasion, were relatively small: the Red Army lost 40 people killed, material losses - 3 aircraft. The British lost 22 people killed, 50 soldiers were wounded, 1 tank was hit. Iran's losses amounted to 800 killed, more than 200 wounded, 6 tanks and 6 aircraft.

On September 8, an agreement was signed that defined the zones of occupation between the USSR and Great Britain. The Iranian government pledged to expel from the country all citizens of Germany and other countries of Berlin's allies, adhere to strict neutrality and not interfere with the military transit of the countries of the Anti-Hitler coalition.

The agreement entered into force the next day. Shah Reza Pahlavi, who refused to approve the invasion of the Allied troops, was forced to abdicate. In 1942, his son, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, became the shah (with the consent of both the USSR and Great Britain). The former ruler left Iran. In 1944 he died in Johannesburg (South Africa) [ World War II: Actual Problems., 7].

The allies assigned roles: the USSR controlled the northern part of Iran, the Caspian ports and the Iranian-Turkish border, Great Britain controlled the southern part, the ports of southern Iran and the oil fields.

In October 1941 part of the USSR troops was withdrawn from Iran: all aviation, and then parts of the 44th and 47th armies.

On January 29, 1942, the Treaty of Alliance was signed between the USSR, Great Britain and Iran. The allies pledged to "respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Iran." The USSR and Britain also pledged to "defend Iran with all means at their disposal against any aggression from Germany or any other power." The treaty established that the troops of the USSR and England must be withdrawn from Iran no later than six months after the cessation of hostilities between the allied states and Germany with her accomplices.

Iran's neutrality, ensured by operation «Consent», had a significant impact on the course of the Second World War. The oil fields of Iran and southern Iraq played a significant role in supplying the Allied forces with fuel, and the Lend-Lease route, which ran from the Iraqi port

of Basra through Iran to the north, became the main route along which the USSR received assistance from the Allies during the war years. In 1943, in the capital of Iran, Tehran, one of the main allied conferences was held - the meeting of Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill, during which the most important decisions were made that determined the course of the war at its final stage.

During the occupation, the allies assisted Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in organizing a new army. In particular, by the decree of the State Defense Committee of the USSR, Yak-7 fighters and Il-2 attack aircraft were transferred to Iran, and relevant specialists were trained [A. N. Gordienko, 8,].

The occupation of Iran lasted until 1946, and its completion became one of the first pages of the Cold War - fearing possible provocations from yesterday's allies in World War II, the USSR was in no hurry to withdraw its troops, which led to a long diplomatic confrontation.

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