



### ALASKA: U. S. WAR FRONTIER

ALASKA, sitting high on the globe, is a place of great potential military importance. Whether it is best fitted for offense or defense is a secret closely kept by U. S. military leaders. But probably no man can completely foresee the vast potentialities of Alaska as a defense bastion of the future. One glance at the distance lines radiating from Fairbanks, however, will give even the novice an idea of Alaska's place in the world of the future. As the range of bombers increases—and this occurs at an amazing pace—more and more of the world is drawn into the Alaska orbit. Military experts have stated that the day is in sight when three-fifths of the world's land area and most of its metropolitan centers will be within bomber range of this great potential military outpost. Alaska has served America well—it may some day save it.

The Territory is at the top of the world where distances seem strangely drawn in on the map. This map shows most of the northern hemisphere, looking down upon the world from a point directly above the North pole. While this projection will appear strange to most people it is a comparatively good picture of the northern world and with relatively little distortion above the equator. Compare the size of Greenland and the United States with the same areas on the world map in this atlas. Alaska's true position in relation to the land area of the world is best seen on this, a polar projection.

The Aleutians point like a dagger at Japan. Attu, the westernmost island, is but 2,000 miles from Tokyo. By seizing the islands Japan could point the dagger at the heart of America. Congress has belatedly appropriated millions to arm Alaska, but how this money is being spent, where the men, the guns and the planes are being dispersed and the bases are being located is a secret which the Japs would like to know. The record-breaking time in

which army engineers rushed to completion the new Alcan highway—a military road of inestimable importance—attests the value placed upon Alaska by military authorities. It is possible that you may one day drive your car over this road to the shores of Bering strait and cross by ferry to the vast Siberian wilderness of Russia. Only 56 miles of water separates Alaska and Siberia at this point, and only 16 miles separate the Russian-owned Big Diomed island from the United States' Little Diomed island. Aside from the military importance of strategic Alaska it is hard to conceive what giant industrial empires the Soviets and the United States may some day carve out of their neighboring northlands.

