

HOT GATES

I was neither at the hot gates
Nor fought in the warm rain
Nor knee deep in the salt marsh, heaving a cutlass,
Bitten by flies, fought

T.S. Eliot *Gerontium*

His sullen negatives obtrude upon a curiously detailed evocation
of long-forgotten wars ("hot gates" translates Thermopylae) ...

T. Sharpe, *T.S. Eliot: A literary life*. New York:
St. Martin's Press, 1991, p. 61.

HOT GATES

London Paris Rome Berlin
 Barcelona Washington
 Moscow Beijing Tokyo
 Jerusalem Jericho

Waco Waco Bethlehem
 Srebrenica Sebokeng
 Sarajevo O Saigon
 Hiroshima Rubicon

I can see a fiery, fiery glow
 Even as the sun is sinking low
 I can see a horseman on the run
 O my daughter, O my son

Dunkirk Dover Normandy
 Frankfurt New York Lockerbie
 Amajuba Bellevue
 Chappaquiddick Waterloo

Bucharest St Petersburg
 Heilbron Hobhouse Gettysburg
 Belfast Budapest Bagdad
 Berchtesgaden Stalingrad

Chorus

Carthage Dresden Babylon
 Sharpeville My Lai Boipatong
 Delville Wood El Alamein
 St Helena Mitchell's Plain

Balaklava Austerlitz
 Belsen Buchenwald Auschwitz
 Nagasaki O Versailles
 Armageddon Thermopylae

Chorus

There's another song that will be sung
 There's another bell that must be rung
 There's another city I've been told
 Where the streets are paved with gold

Christopher Torr
5 November 1993

London The foundations of London Wall are the chief reminder of the City's origins under the Romans, who built London at the highest point at which the Thames could be forded and at the river's tidal limit. It was sacked by Boadicea in 61 AD and subsequently, on several occasions, by the Vikings. ... London's population was decimated by the Plague (1665) and much of the city's fabric was destroyed in the calamitous Fire of the following year. ... London, especially the City and the East End, was seriously damaged by bomb attacks during World War II and subsequent rebuilding has consisted largely of high-rise offices and apartments.

[Webster's]

Paris According to legend, St Denis became the first bishop in the 3rd century AD and Ste Geneviève saved the city from sacking by German tribes in the 5th century. In the 6th century Clovis made it the capital of his Frankish kingdom but it suffered attacks from the Vikings. ... Since the storming of the Bastille (1789), heralding the beginning of the French Revolution, it has been the scene of many revolts, such as the July Revolution and the Revolution of 1848: the most recent disturbance was in May, 1968. Occupied by the Germans in World War II, it was liberated by the Allies in 1944. [Webster's]

Rome Traditionally founded, 753 B.C. ... Sacked by Gauls, 390. ... Sacked by Saracens, 846. By the Emperor Arnulf, 896. By the Normans under Guiscard, 1084. Taken by Barbarossa, 1167. ... Completely sacked by the Spaniards, 1527. ... Proclaimed a republic by the French, 1798. Restored to Pope, retaken, and restored, 1799-1801. Annexed to Napoleon's kingdom of Italy, 1808. Restored to Pope, 1814. Garibaldi's Roman republic suppressed by French, 1848-9. Became capital of Italy, 1870. Papal temporal authority restored in Vatican City, 1929. [DoD]

Berlin First became important during reign of Frederick William the Great Elector (d. 1688). Seized by Russians and Austrians, Oct. 1760; entered by French after battle of Jena, 1806. Capital of German Empire from 1871 to 1918. ... Became capital of Third Reich, 1933. Surrendered to Russians, 2 May 1945, after heavy bombing and fighting had destroyed about 75 per cent of the city proper. Subsequently partitioned into Russian, American, French, and British sectors; from 1948 effectively only into Russian and Western sectors. Its blockade by the Russians, 28 June 1948-12 May 1949, failed in the face of allied air supply. ... 13 Aug. 1961: E. Germany sealed off the Berlin border, and began constructing a permanent concrete wall along it, subsequently reinforced with anti-tank barriers, etc [DoD]

Barcelona Said to have been built by Hamilcar Barca, third century B.C. Became a Roman colony; conquered by Visigoths, A.D. 415, and Moors, 713. ... Captured by the French under Vendôme, 1687; by the English under Peterborough, 1706. Taken by the Duke of Berwick ... for Phillip V, 1714; by Napoleon, 1808. Restored to Spain by Treaty of Paris, 1814. Execution of Ferrer for conspiracy at, 13 Oct. 1909. ... Surrendered to Gen. Franco, 1939. Anti-gov. student riots at, 1966 and 1968. [DoD]

Washington [I]ts location as the nation's capital was chosen by George Washington and approved by Congress in 1790. ... Almost all of the early government buildings were destroyed during the War of 1812 when British troops occupied the city in the summer of 1814 and burned all public buildings except the post office. New construction began as soon as the war ended (1815). During the Civil War Confederates forces often threatened the capital but never reached it. [Webster's]

Moscow Founded c. 1147; captured by the Tatars ... 1382; burnt by the Khan of the Crimea, 1571; the city was burnt by the inhabitants in 1812, when Napoleon entered, and he was forced to leave it. Ceased to be Russian capital on founding of St. Petersburg, 1712. At

distribution of coronation gifts, 2,000 people crushed to death, 18 May 1896. Again made capital, 1917. [DoD]

Peking / Peiping / Peking / Beijing Captured by Khitan Tatars, A.D. 986; recaptured by Chinese in twelfth century; again captured by Tatars, 1151; first settlement of foreigners in 1860; Boxer riots and the siege of the legations, 1900. Capital of China from 1421 until 1928, when Chiang Kai-Shek removed the government to Nanking and renamed Peking Peiping. Occupied by Japanese, 1937-45. Surrendered to the Communists, 1 Feb. 1949, and re-established under its original name of Peking as the capital of China, 1 Oct. 1949. [DoD]

Tokyo Capital of Japan ... since 1868. Formerly called Yedo; castle, built fifteenth century, grew, and was capital, 1603-1868. Practically destroyed by earthquake in Sept. 1923, when Yokohama was completely demolished. Heavily bombed by the Americans, 1945, and since reconstructed on American 'skyscraper' lines. [DoD]

Jerusalem The history of Jerusalem probably extends through more than 4,000 years; David made it his capital, Solomon developed it and built the Temple. In 586 B.C. it was taken by Nebuchadnezzar and many of its inhabitants were deported to Babylon, but its walls were rebuilt by Nehemiah (c. 444 B.C.). It was again captured by Alexander the Great (332 B.C.), by Ptolemy I of Egypt (320 B.C.), and by Antiochus Epiphanes (168 B.C.), who destroyed the city and the Temple. Under Herod the Great the Temple was rebuilt, the fortifications restored and a new city was created, only to be destroyed yet again by Titus in A.D. 70; sixty years later Hadrian established the city of Aelia Capitolina on the site, with a temple to Jupiter in the place of the earlier Jewish Temple. In the 4th cent. under Constantine the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was built where the present church stands, but in the 7th cent. the Muslims took Jerusalem, made it one of their most sacred cities after Mecca, and erected the Mosque of Omar. Apart from the period after its capture by the Crusaders (1099-1187), the city remained almost continuously in Muslim hands, from 1517 under the Turks, until taken by the British in 1917. After the partition of Palestine the new city was made capital of Israel (1950). ... After the Israeli-Arab war (1967), the entire city was occupied by Israeli forces. [PEP]

Jericho Village in the Jordan valley 15 m. ENE of Jerusalem at 825 ft below sea level and 7 m. from the N end of the Dead Sea. The first Canaanite city to be captured by the Israelites; later destroyed and rebuilt several times, as recent excavations have shown. [PEP]

Waco In the end, the anguish was mainly for the children. Altogether, at least 20 of them apparently perished with their parents. Seven had been sired by Koresh, the failed messiah. They were to be the firstborn of a new Davidic line, heirs of his polygamous kingdom. An additional 21 children left the compound during the 51-day siege; most are now orphans. [Newsweek, May 3, 1993]

Bethlehem The village dates from before 1000 B.C. Christian pilgrimage began earlier than 132 ... but the village was devastated in 1244 and again in 1489. [DoD]

Srebrenica

Sebokeng

Sarajevo Yugoslavia. Capital of Bosnia and Hercegovina, 125 m. SW of Belgrade, on the Miljacka R. ... Busy commercial centre. Manufactures chemicals, carpets, pottery, tobacco products, etc. Flour milling, brewing, engineering. Largely Oriental in appearance, with its

numerous mosques, it is the centre of the Muslim faith in Yugoslavia; also has Roman Catholic and Orthodox cathedrals. ... The assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand in Sarajevo (1914) led to the 1st World War. [PEP]

Ho Chi Minh City (name until 1976: Saigon) ... A city in S Vietnam, on the Saigon River. ... an ancient Khmer town, it was the capital of Cochinchina and then of French Indochina (1887-1902). During the Vietnam War, as the capital of South Vietnam, US presence brought an economic boom but left problems of prostitution, crime, and drug addiction.
[Webster's]

Hiroshima A city in Japan, in SW Honshu on the delta of the Ota River. A former military base and important seaport, it was largely destroyed (August 6, 1945) by the first atomic bomb to be used in warfare; over 130,000 people were killed or injured. Many leading architects helped design the rapid rebuilding of the city and it is now a major industrial centre. An international conference is held here annually to oppose nuclear weapons.
[Webster's]

Rubicon (Italian Rubicone) River Italy. Short river in ancient Italy ... It formed the S boundary of Cisalpine Gaul, and when Julius Caesar crossed it with his troops (49 B.C.) his action was tantamount to a declaration of war against Pompey and the Senate - hence the phrase 'crossing the Rubicon' for taking an irrevocable step. [PEP]

Dunkirk Northernmost seaport of France ... Probably grew round a church built in the Dunes of St Eloi in the 7th cent. - hence the name ('Church in the Dunes'). Changed hands many times; in 1388 it was burned by the English, in 1658 was ceded to Cromwell, in 1662 was sold by Charles II to Louis XIV. In the 2nd World War the harbour was completely destroyed, to be partially reopened in 1946 ... Scene of the heroic evacuation of over 300,000 Allied troops, hemmed in by German forces, in 1940. [PEP]

Dover Municipal borough in E Kent, on the Strait of Dover, 65 m. ESE of London. ... Within the precincts of the Norman castle, which overlooks the town, are a Roman pharos (lighthouse), which guided the legions across the Channel, and the ancient church of St Mary in Castro (rebuilt in the 12th cent.). ... Named after the small R. Dour, which pierces the famous chalk cliffs here. ... it was for the Romans an important gateway to England from the continent as it is today. The castle, successfully defended (1216) against the French by Hubert de Burgh, was long considered to be the key to England. In the 1st World War it was the headquarters of the famous Dover Patrol; in the 2nd World War it suffered severely from air raids and long-range bombardments. [PEP]

Normandy In the 9th cent. it was frequently attacked by Northmen, or Normans, after whom the province was named and who had established themselves along the Seine by the early 10th cent. In 1066 William Duke of Normandy became William the Conqueror of England, and Normandy was united to England 1106-1204, to be renounced in 1259, retaken by Henry V, and finally restored to France except for the Channel Is. During the 2nd World War Normandy again became a battlefield (1944), when Allied forces landed on its N coast and initiated the campaign which led to the liberation of France; many of its towns and villages were devastated in the fighting. [PEP]

Lockerbie The Lockerbie Bomb was one of the most bloody and effective acts of international terrorism in the history of the 20th Century. At 7:19 pm on 22 December [1988] the citizens of Lockerbie, a small town in western Scotland, were horrified to see a massive ball of flame plunging from the sky towards their town. The blazing mass plunged into a suburban street, erupting into an explosion which sent flames 300 feet high before bouncing

on into open countryside. As the horrified emergency services raced to the scene it was confirmed the object had been a jetliner. The crash had destroyed 40 houses and gouged a crater 150 feet long and 50 deep. There were no survivors either from the aircraft or the houses. A total of 270 people had died. The aircraft was found to be Pan Am flight 103 bound from **Frankfurt to New York**, carrying Americans home for Christmas. [Matthews, p. 520, emphasis added]

Majuba (Amajuba) Hill S Africa. In Zulu, 'Hill of Doves'. Mountain 6,500 ft high in the Drakensburg (NW Natal) near the Transvaal border 9 m. S of Volksrust overlooking the Laing's Nek pass. During the Boer War of 1880-81 it was the scene of the defeat of the British by a Boer force under Piet Joubert (1881). [PEP]

Bellevue The prisoner of war camps in South Africa lay far from the theatre of war, so as to prevent interference by Boer Commandos. In Natal there were camps at Umbilo and Tin Town, a transit camp at Ladysmith. In the Cape camps were established at Bellevue in Simonstown and at Green Point in Cape Town, the latter being the largest prisoner of war camp in South Africa. While Bellevue was being completed, prisoners were kept on cargo vessels in extremely uncomfortable conditions. [Pretorius, pp. 49-50]

Chappaquiddick The political scandal of the year came when leading American politician Edward Kennedy crashed his car off a bridge at Chappaquiddick in Massachusetts [19 July 1969]. Also in the car was a pretty young woman named Mary Jo Kopechne and she was drowned as the car sank beneath the waters. Kennedy was severely criticised for leaving the scene of the accident and failing to notify police, although Miss Kopechne was clearly dead. [Matthews, p. 389]

Waterloo Belgium. Small town in Brabant 12 m. S of Brussels, near which was fought the famous battle (1815) in which British and Prussian forces (with some Dutch and Belgians) under the Duke of Wellington and Blücher defeated the French under Napoleon. [PEP]

Bucharest Rumania. ... Became capital of Walachia 1698, and for more than a century suffered considerably from plagues and fires. Became capital of Rumania 1861. The Treaty of Bucharest (1812) ended the Russo-Turkish War; that of 1913 ended the Balkan Wars. [PEP]

St Petersburg / Petrograd / Leningrad / St Petersburg

Founded (1703) by Peter the Great on a marshy, low-lying site: so many workers died in erecting the city on piles that it was said to have been 'built on bones'. At various times it has suffered from floods. ... In the late 19th cent. it developed as an industrial centre, and the wretched condition of the factory workers, in sharp contrast to the splendours of the court, led to the revolutions of 1905 and 1917. Renamed (1924) after Lenin, the revolutionary leader. During the 2nd World War the city was virtually isolated from the rest of the USSR and withstood continual shelling and bombing from Aug. 1941 to Jan. 1944. [PEP]

During World War II the city withstood a siege by the Germans (September 8, 1941-January 27, 1944), in which nearly a million people perished. [Webster's]

Heilbronn Town in Baden-Wurtemberg on the Neckar R. 24 m. N of Stuttgart. ... Severely damaged in the 2nd World War. [PEP]

Heilbron In fact, the name 'refugee camp' was a misnomer; the camps could only be called concentration camps. Before the end of 1900 other camps were established at

Potchefstroom, Irene, Heidelberg, Heilbron, Kroonstad, Norvalspont, Pietermaritzburg and Port Elizabeth. Concentration camps for blacks, which will be discussed later, were also established. ... By September 1901 there were 34 concentration camps for whites in South Africa, with approximately 110 000 inmates, the majority of them children. ... After the war P.L.A. Goldman officially determined that a shocking total of 27 927 Boers had died in the camps - 26 251 women and children (of whom 22000 were under the age of 16) and 1 676 males over 16 years, including 1 421 elderly. [Pretorius, pp. 56-57]

Hobhouse (Orange Free State) Emily Hobhouse arrived in South Africa in 1901 with a small fund for Boer women whose farms had been burned. As soon as she learned about the 'refugee' camps, she hastened to visit them and stayed to help, sending news of the appalling conditions she found in the earliest camps. Her criticism was heeded, but a separate committee was sent out to investigate and on her second visit Emily Hobhouse was forcibly restrained from landing at Cape Town. ...

By July 1901 there were nearly 38 000 blacks in the camps, over 30 000 of them women and children. ... By May 1902 no fewer than 29 black camps fell under the control of the Free State administration, plus 37 camps in the Transvaal - a total of 115 000 inmates. In the Transvaal black concentration camps were situated, among others, at Heidelberg Standerton, Nigel, Potchefstroom, Middelburg and Nelspruit. Free State camps included Heilbron, Winburg, Harrismith, Thaba Nchu and Kimberley. No particular distinction appears to have been made between different tribes - in certain cases Zulu and Mfengu inmates protested against being placed in the same camps. ... As was the case with the whites, the majority of black deaths (81 per cent) were children's. Though official figures are undoubtedly incomplete, they indicate that at least 14 154 blacks died in the concentration camps, against a white figure of 27 927. [Pretorius, pp. 61, 80-81]

Improvements made to the white camps were not as swiftly extended to the black camps. Emily Hobhouse wrote in a letter, 'Is it generally known and realised at home that there are many large Native (coloured) camps dotted about? In my opinion these need looking into badly.' In this case her voice went unheeded [Pretorius, p. 81]

Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863) One of the most significant battles of the [American] Civil War... The battle began unexpectedly since both armies were uncertain of the other's position. The first day ended with a slight southern advantage, but a delay in the Confederate attack on the second day shifted the advantage to the Federal troops. On the third day, a large force of Confederates, under the command of General George Pickett, charged the centre of the Union line, advancing briefly despite massive artillery fire, but eventually withdrawing with losses of more than 60 %. ... The casualties suffered by both sides were enormous, the Union lost 23,000 men and the Confederates 25,000. Four months after the battle, ... Lincoln traveled to Gettysburg to dedicate a military cemetery where he delivered the **Gettysburg Address** (Nov. 19, 1863). [DoD]

Belfast, Ireland. Castle built c. 1177; destroyed by Edward Bruce, 1316. B. attacked by Earl of Kildare, 1503, 1512. Town and castle repaired by Hugh O'Neill, who acquired them in 1552. ... Taken by Gen. Monck, 1648; by Lord Montgomery, 1649. Castle accidentally burnt, 1708. ... Queen (then Princess) Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh received freedom of the city, 1949; state visit, 1953. ... Scene of riots and incidents caused by Catholic and Protestant extremists, 1968-70. [DoD]

Budapest, Hungary. ... Captured by Turks, 1541. Recovered, 1686. ... Occupied by Rumanians, Aug.-Nov. 1919. Prolonged fighting between Russian and German troops in 1944-45; finally captured by the Russians, 13 Feb. 1945. The city was largely rebuilt after World War II, but again suffered heavy damage during the abortive revolt of Oct.-Nov. 1956.

[DoD]

Bagdad, Iraq. Founded, A.D. 763 by the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mansur, it reached its highest splendour in the reign of Haroun-al-Rashid (786-809). Besieged and stormed by Persians under Tahir (812-13). ... Kwarismian attack, 1216. Sacked by Hulagu, the Mongol emperor, 1258. Captured by Timur, 1393. Turkish from 1683. Captured by British, 11 Mar. 1917. ... Revolution overthrowing the monarchy originated in B., July 1958. [DoD]

Berchtesgaden Village in the Bavarian Alps, 11 m. SSW of Salzburg (Austria), at a height of 1,700 ft amid fine mountain scenery. ... Popular resort. Salt mining, wood carving. Became famous as the site of Hitler's mountain retreat. [PEP]

Stalingrad, known until 1925 as **Tsaritsin** and since 1961 as **Volgograd**. Originally a military outpost, built in 1589 to protect farmers from predatory nomads. Tsaritsin was captured by the Cossack mutineer, Stenka Razin, 1670. During the civil war it was defended by Stalin and Voroshilov against the Whites, in the autumn of 1918. Between the end of the War of Intervention (1923) and 1939, its population increased about twenty-fold, and a huge industrial plant was constructed. The siege of S. began in Aug. 1942, and ended Nov. 1942, with the capitulation of von Paulus and his army. [DoD]

Carthage Tunisia. Ancient city state on the N coast of Africa, near modern Tunis, of which it is now a residential suburb. Founded in the 9th cent. B.C. by the Phoenicians. ... rivalry with Rome led to the Punic Wars; in the first (268-241 B.C.) they were defeated in Sicily but conquered much of Spain; in the second (218-201 B.C.), despite victories in Italy itself, Hannibal was finally defeated at Zama (202 B.C.). Largely owing to the insistence of Cato that Carthage must be destroyed ... Rome attacked again; in the 3rd Punic War (149-146 B.C.) Roman armies utterly defeated the Carthaginians and razed the city. More than a century later (under Augustus) Carthage was rebuilt; it became one of the greatest cities in the Roman Empire. Later it was of importance in the early history of Christianity. Subsequently taken by the Vandals (A.D. 439), it became their capital. Recaptured by the Byzantine army 534. Totally destroyed by the Hillali Arabs 698. Almost nothing of Punic Carthage has survived, but extensive Roman ruins testify to its past grandeur. [PEP]

Dresden, Germany. ... Destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1685 ... besieged by the allied armies on 26 Aug. 1813; capitulated after Napoleon had left on 11 Nov. 1813; street fighting during the revolution of 1849; occupied by Prussians, 1866. ... Bombed and severely damaged by British and American air forces, 13-14 Feb. 1945. Entered by the Russians, 8 May 1945.

[DoD]

In the firestorm at Dresden, caused by British incendiary attack on 13 February 1945, which was followed by USA Air Force daylight assault next day, more than 40,000 people probably died, and perhaps more than 50,000. Over the entire war, according to British official figures, 29,890 died through enemy action in London... Dedicated by High Command to winning the war by destroying German cities, Bomber Command employed over the entire war about 125,000 aircrew, of whom 55,500 were killed. A further 9,838 became prisoners of war, including many wounded; 8,403 were recorded as wounded other than prisoners. It is clear that at least half the Command's men died or were maimed, twice as many in absolute terms as the civilians who died in London air raids. ... The courage of these men has never had its due. Public opinion in Britain, even Churchill's own private opinion, recoiled from the effects of RAF 'area' bombing in Germany. Alone among High commanders, 'Bomber' Harris was not given a peerage after victory. [Calder, p. 42]

Babylon Iraq. Ancient city of Babylonia on the R. Euphrates near the town of Hilla, 55 m. S

of Baghdad. Became important when made capital of Babylonia under Hammurabi. Virtually destroyed by the Assyrians under Sennacherib in the 7th cent. B.C. Reached its greatest splendour in the time of Nebuchadnezzar. Captured by Cyrus and by Alexander; declined from the 3rd cent. B.C. when superseded by Seleucia. [PEP]

Sharpeville A black African town in South Africa, in the S Transvaal near Vereeniging. It was the scene of a riot on March 21, 1960, in which a crowd of African demonstrators were fired on by the police. Over 60 of the demonstrators were killed and many others wounded. [Webster's]

My Lai A village in S Vietnam, where a massacre of about 347 civilians by US soldiers took place (March 16, 1968) during the Vietnam War. The incident was investigated only after it had been disclosed by an ex-serviceman (1969). The investigation resulted in the court martial of several soldiers. Only one, Lieutenant William Calley, was convicted but his conviction was overturned. The incident provoked much criticism of the role of the US in Vietnam. [Webster's]

Boipatong

Delville Wood In April 1916 the 1st South African Brigade, still under the command of Brigadier-General H T Lukin, finally reached France, where it became part of the 9th Division. The Brigade had first seen service in the Battle of the Somme, and on 13 July 1916 it received orders to take the village of Longueval as well as Delville Wood on the far side; the wood would help defend a recently captured salient from machine-gun and artillery fire.

When final orders were given for the assault at first light on 15 July three battalions moved out in open order, but the wood proved so thick that it was impossible to reach open ground without incurring heavy casualties. ... The advance was met by a heavy German counter-attack towards the middle of the day, but was repulsed with the loss of nearly all 2/107th Reserve Regiment's officers. Later during the day and well into the night there were further attacks, some with flame-throwers and others accompanied by massive artillery bombardments, but the defenders held on. Relief of the Brigade could not be effected for three days, but the last remnants were not extracted until late on 20 July. When the roll was called only 29 officers and 751 other ranks were present. Since 1 July the South Africans had suffered 1080 killed or missing and 1735 wounded; out of 120 officers 23 were dead, 15 taken prisoner and 74 wounded. [Preston, pp. 130-131]

Alamein, El United Arab Republic. Village on the coastal railway in N Egypt, 65 m. WSW of Alexandria. Scene of the decisive victory (1942) of the British over the Germans during the N African campaign in the 2nd World War, which ended the imminent threat of German occupation of Egypt. [PEP]

St. Helena, Island of, S. Atlantic. Discovered by Portuguese on St Helena's Day, 21 May 1502; possessed by E. India Co., 1659; Napoleon d. at, 1821; certain Boer prisoners during S. African War sent there, 1900-2... [DoD]

Mitchell's Plain

Balaklava, USSR. Small port in S Crimea ... 8 m. S of Sevastopol, famous for the battle (1854) during the Crimean War when the charge of the Light Brigade took place. [PEP]

Austerlitz Town in Moravia, 13 m. ESE of Brno. ... Scene of what was probably Napoleon's most brilliant victory (2 Dec. 1805), when he defeated the combined Russian and Austrian

armies. [PEP]

Belsen Concentration camp set up in 1933, and taken by British troops, Apr. 1945. Its commandant, Josef Kramer, and eleven of his staff were sentenced to death for torture and murder of prisoners, 17 Nov. 1945. [DoD]

Buchenwald, near Weimar. Site of a notorious German concentration camp, opened in 1934. Liberated by the Americans, 11 Apr. 1945. [DoD]

Auschwitz. Oswiecim (German name: Auschwitz) 50 02N 19 11E A town in S Poland. It was the site of a notorious Nazi concentration camp during World War II. Population (1972 est): 41,000. [Webster's]

Nagasaki Japan. Capital of Nagasaki prefecture, in W Kyushu 50m W of Kumamoto. ... Seaport. Exports coal, cement, canned fish, etc. Important shipbuilding and engineering industry (Mitsubishi). Fishing. Picturesque, in an amphitheatre facing a narrow bay. In the 16th cent. it was the only Japanese port with foreign trade, being visited first by the Portuguese and Dutch. During the 2nd World War it was largely destroyed by the second atomic bomb, which killed 26,000 people and injured over 40,000 (9 August 1945). [PEP]

Versailles. A town in NW. France near Paris; here Louis XIII built a hunting box on the site of which Louis XIV erected a palace, 1661-87; First Treaty of V., 1783; surrendered to Germans, 1871. [DoD]

Versailles, Treaty of (1919) The treaty, signed at the Paris Peace Conference after World War I, between the Allied and Associated Powers and defeated Germany. Versailles declared Germany guilty of causing the war, imposed heavy reparations payments, and limited the German army and navy to nominal strength. ... the US refused to ratify the treaty and did not make peace with Germany until 1921. [Webster's]

Armageddon (Scene of) supreme or large-scale conflict between the nations. [Rev. 16:16 (A.V.)] [Concise Oxford Dictionary]

Thermopylae Greece. Pass in E central Greece 10 m. SE of Lamia, famous for the heroic defence by Leonidas and his 300 Spartans against the Persians under Xerxes (480 B.C.). Here, too, in 279 B.C. the Greeks checked the Gauls for several months, to be ultimately defeated. [PEP]

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