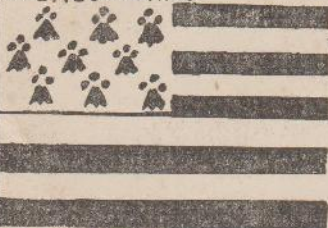


Lizard Pt.

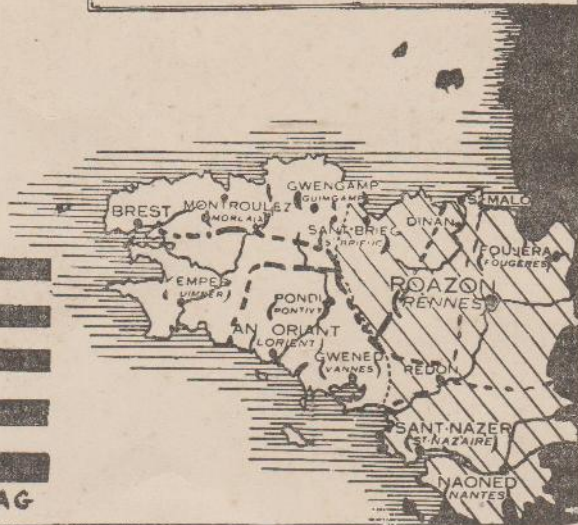
THE BRETON NATION



THE
CELTIC COUNTRIES



THE BRETON FLAG



Brittany, Wales, Ireland and Scotland are the 4 Nations of the Celtic Race. Brittany, at the Western tip of Europe, with a population of over three millions, overwhelmingly Catholic, was born in the 5th century from an emigration from the South of the then Celtic Britain, hard-pressed by the Saxon invasion to the Armorican peninsula, an offshoot of the Gauls, then almost unpopulated and under the crumbling Roman rule. After almost a thousand years of independence, developing their Celtic culture and traditions, knowing great prosperity and a successful defence against several French aggressions, the Bretons suffered defeat in battle in 1489 and were annexed by France in 1532; while some autonomy under the Breton Parliament was still preserved, risings took place in 1598, 1675 and 1720. Since 1790, Brittany was officially suppressed, split up in 5 parts by French centralisation, her old culture ignored, her language banished from the schools and all official institutions; but the Breton language, still 1,200,000 native speakers strong, is the most spoken Celtic language. France has completely disregarded the economic interests of Brittany, whose chief resources are in intense agriculture and fishing, while her rich iron ore basin is maintained unexploited. France has drained Breton man-power for her foreign wars and in 1914-18, 240,000 Bretons were killed.

In 1939, public and church use of the Breton language was forbidden, the nationalist leaders were sentenced to death. On resuming full control in August, 1944, the French utterly forbade all use of the language in public, the churches, in all written or printed matters, the teaching of anything Breton; history, cultural matters, music, dances, etc. Cultural leaders in voluntary schools, clubs, newspapers, radio were interned. Thousands, including 163 priests, have been herded in concentration camps where cultural leaders have been driven insane or have died from torture or ill-treatment, while others, including priests and women, have been shot in cold blood by the French Police or F.F.I. Consequent unrest and open rising in places followed throughout the country. All news has been silenced. The national movement continues underground.