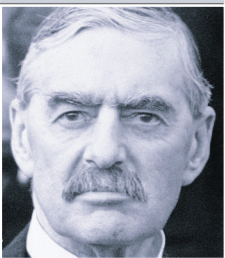


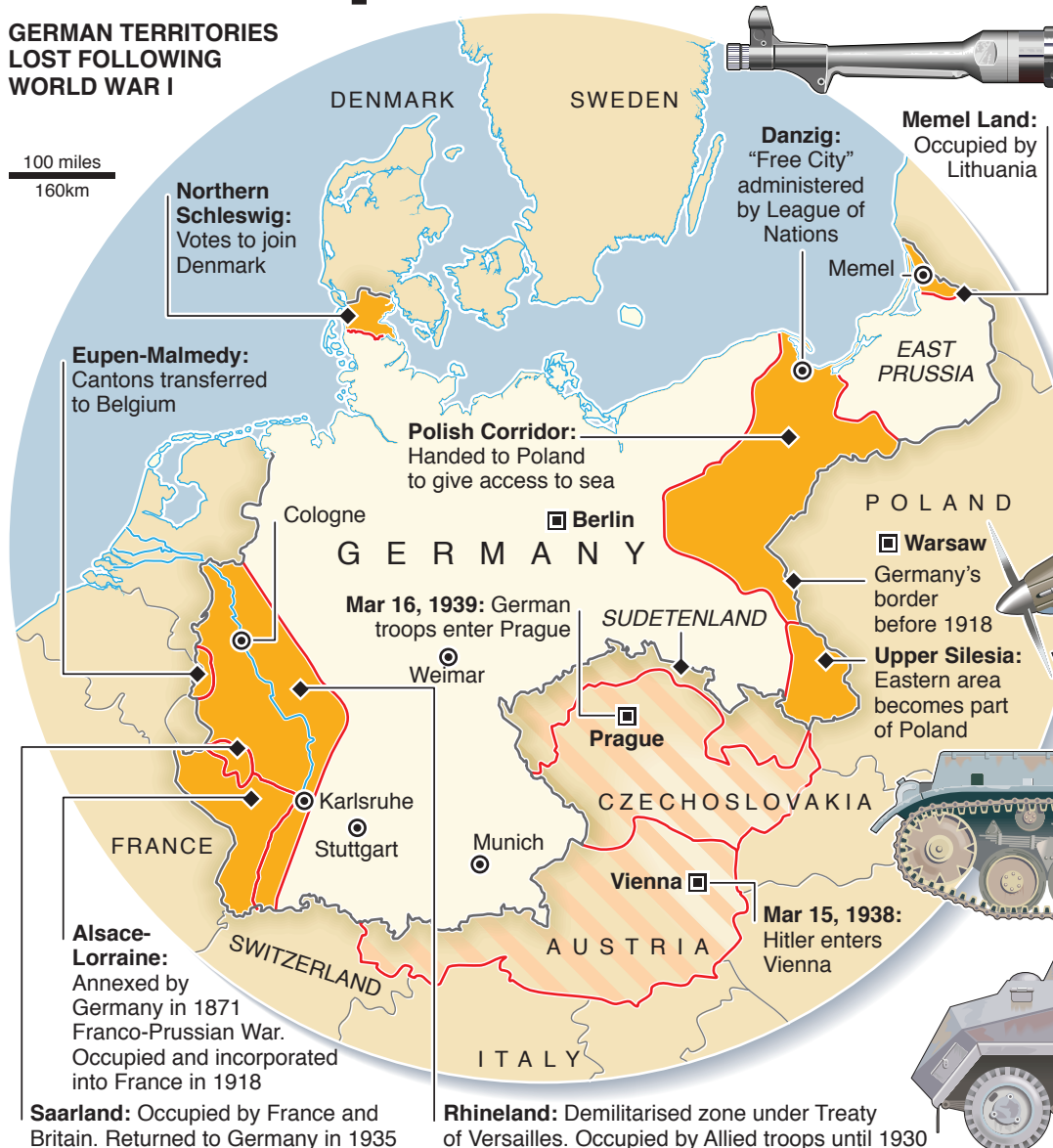
World War II – which erupted in September 1939 with Hitler's invasion of Poland – began as a fight to retake territory lost under the Treaty of Versailles which ended World War I. Germany's vengeance was fuelled by national humiliation, punitive war reparations and the worst economic crisis of the 20th century

- Nov 1918: New Weimar Republic**
- 1919, Treaty of Versailles:** War reparations – equivalent to €310 billion euros today – imposed on Weimar Republic, to be paid in instalments until 1988. Thirty-year-old corporal **Adolf Hitler** joins newly formed **German Workers' Party (DAP)**
- 1921:** Hitler changes name of DAP to **National Socialist German Workers' Party** or **Nazi Party**. Organises paramilitary **Sturmabteilung** (SA or stormtroopers) – thugs to protect Nazi meetings
- 1920-23, Hyperinflation:** Weimar starts printing money to pay reparations. By November 1923 loaf of bread costs 200 billion marks
- 1923-29, Roaring Twenties:** Hitler jailed for organizing failed Munich **Beer Hall Putsch**. On release he reorganizes 100,000-strong Nazi Party as "shadow government", attracting industrialists and socialites. American **Dawes Plan** helps stabilize economy, prosperity follows
- Oct 29, 1929, Black Tuesday:** New York Stock Market crashes. Within months thousands of German companies go bankrupt
- 1930, Great Depression:** Over three million German workers are jobless and on breadline. President **Paul von Hindenburg** calls elections. Pledging restoration of German glory, Nazis become second largest party in 577-seat **Reichstag**, with 107 seats
- 1932:** Nazi Party wins 230 seats in July election. Coalition with **German National People's Party** gives Hitler control of Reichstag. Unemployment soars to over six million, or 30% of workforce
- 1933:** Backed by bankers and industrialists, Hitler is made Chancellor of coalition government
- Feb, Reichstag fire:** Communists blamed for destruction of Reichstag. Emergency powers used to round up thousands of Communists and Jews. **Dachau concentration camp** opens
- Nov:** Nazi Party wins 93% of vote in election in which all other ballots are counted as "invalid".
- 1934, Death of Hindenburg:** Hitler becomes **Fuehrer und Reichskanzler**. Labour unions abolished, strikes banned and ambitious public works projects started – unemployment plummets. **Hitler begins secret rearmament for war**
- 1935:** Conscription introduced, Jews deprived of citizenship, Swastika adopted as national flag
- 1936, Berlin Olympic Games:** Hitler seizes opportunity to demonstrate Nazi efficiency to world
- Mar 1938, Anschluss:** Hitler takes over Austria. "Link-up" is first step in creating **Greater Germany**
- Sep, Peace in our Time:** Hitler demands German-speaking **Sudetenland**. British Prime Minister **Neville Chamberlain** (right) and French PM **Edouard Daladier** agree to annexation in return for Fuehrer's promise of peace
- Nov, Kristallnacht:** Coordinated attack on Jewish property, 30,000 Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps
- Mar 1939:** Hitler's troops goose-step into
- Aug 31:** Gambling that Britain and France will continue policy of appeasement, Hitler orders invasion of Poland

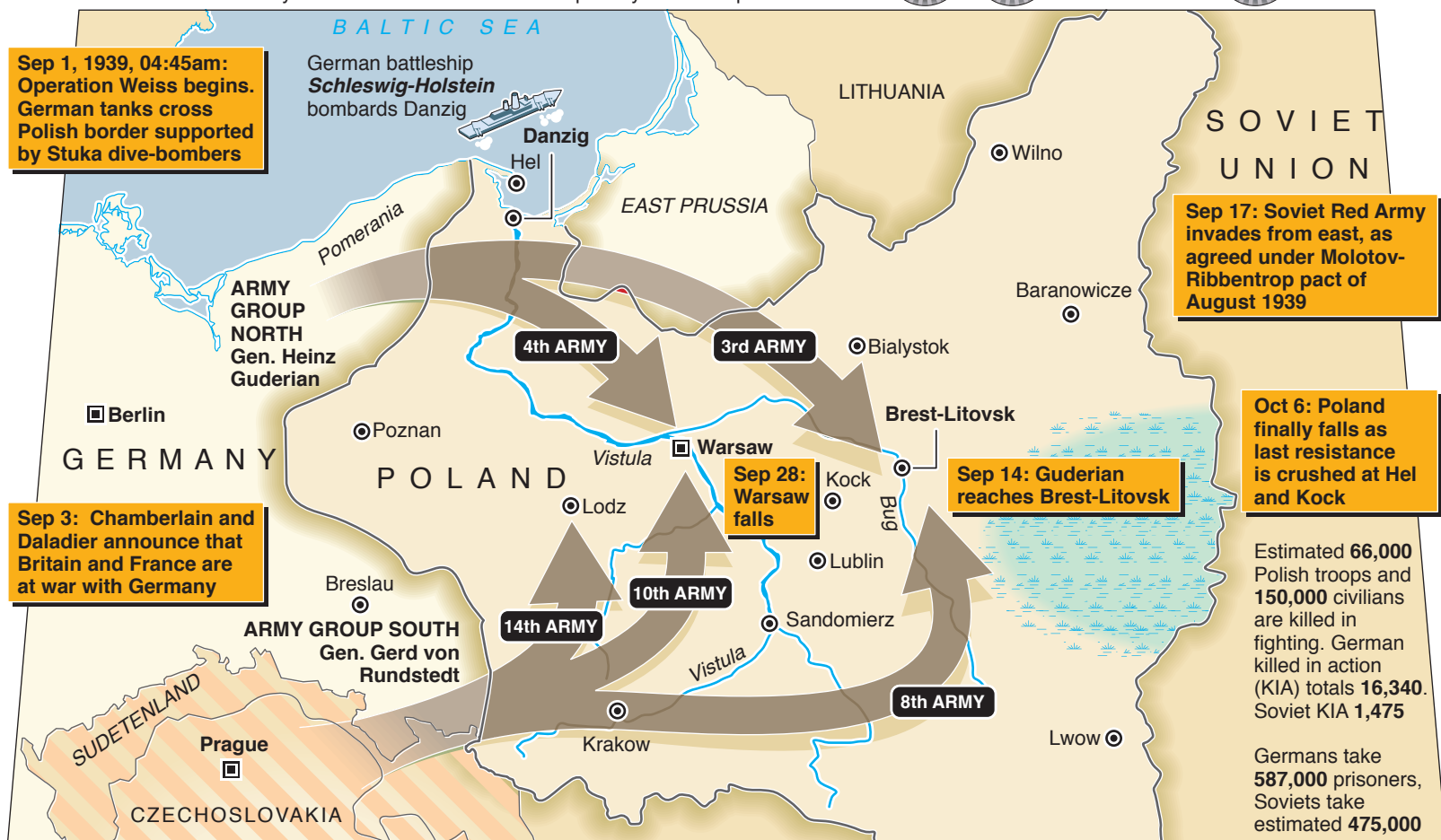
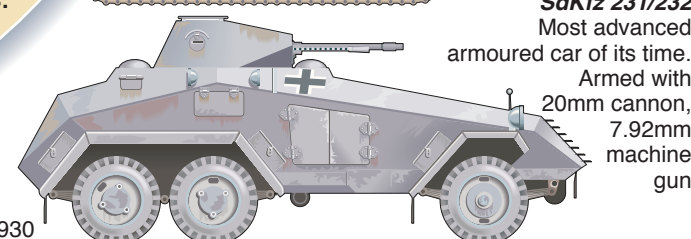
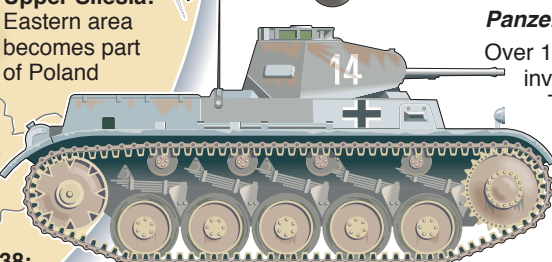


How Europe stumbled into war

GERMAN TERRITORIES
LOST FOLLOWING
WORLD WAR I

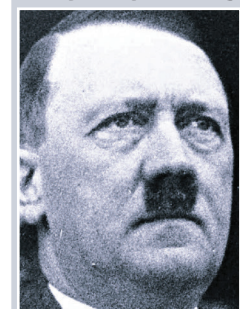


Blitzkrieg: Weapons that changed warfare



1945: Downfall

Since the end of World War II, 324 Nazis have been prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity: 82 defendants are sentenced to death, 197 imprisoned, and 40 are acquitted. Almost 65 years after the end of the war, as many as 5,000 Nazi war criminals are still believed to be alive and free



Adolf Hitler
Commits suicide
April 30, 1945



Joseph Goebbels
Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda.
Commits suicide
May 1, 1945



Martin Bormann
Hitler's private secretary and deputy Fuehrer.
Commits suicide
May 1, 1945



Heinrich Himmler
Minister of Interior. Coordinated killing of six million Jews.
Commits suicide
May 23, 1945



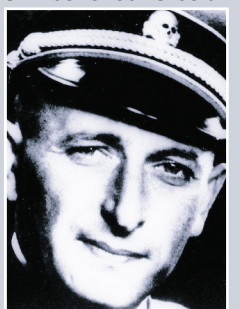
Hermann Goering
President of Reichstag, mastermind of Gestapo.
Commits suicide
October 15, 1946



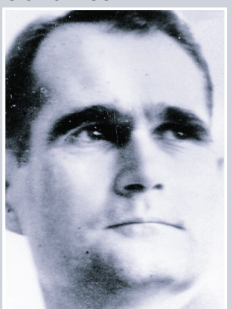
Joachim von Ribbentrop
Reich Foreign Minister.
Executed
October 16, 1946



Alfred Rosenberg
Chief racial theorist who justified Hitler's genocidal policies.
Executed
October 16, 1946



Adolf Eichmann
In charge of mass deportation of Jews. Captured 1960 by Israelis.
Executed
May 31, 1962



Rudolf Hess
Attempted in 1941 to negotiate peace with British.
Died in prison
August 17, 1987