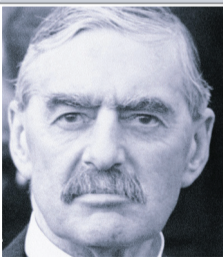


German troops invaded Poland in September 1939, triggering World War II.

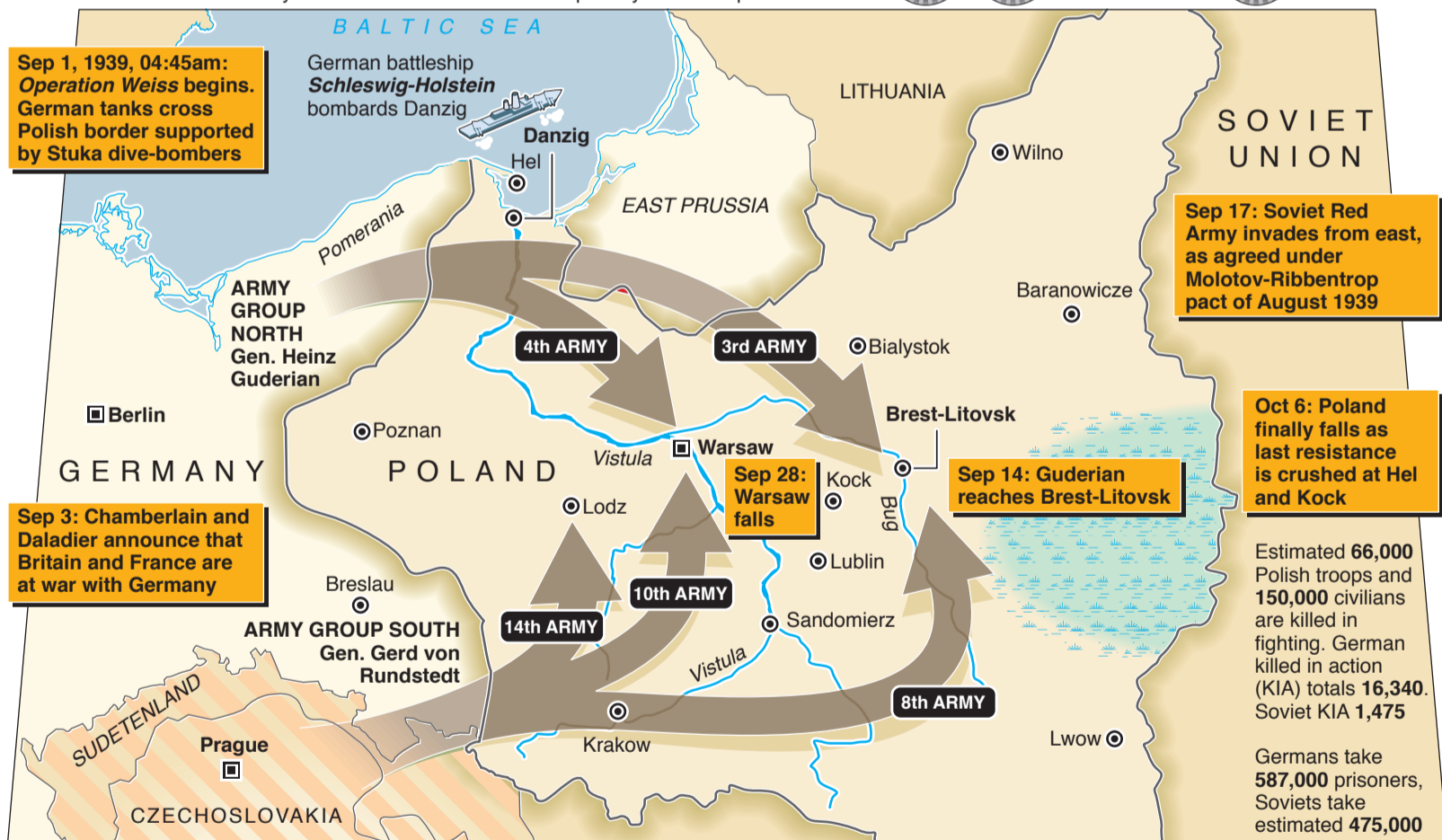
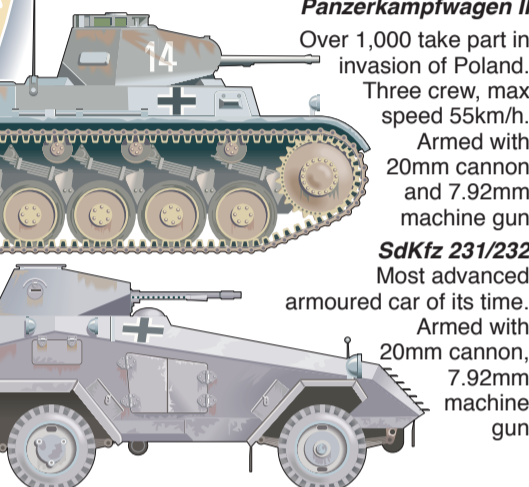
Since 1933 Hitler had been determined to recoup territory lost after World War I, to unite all German-speaking peoples into one Reich, and to expand eastwards, creating a vast new empire in Europe

- **Nov 1918:** New *Weimar Republic* established
- **1919, Treaty of Versailles:** War reparations – equivalent to €350 billion 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 one 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, 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 Prague
- **Aug 31:** Gambling that Britain and France will continue policy of appeasement, Hitler orders invasion of Poland



How Europe stumbled into war

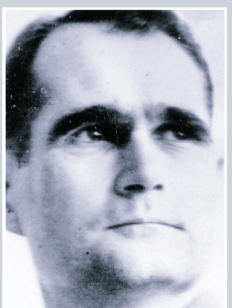
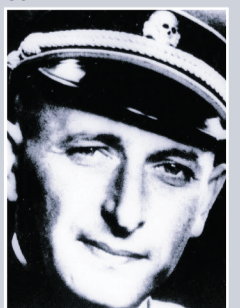
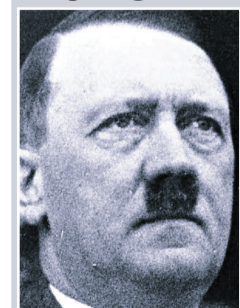
GERMAN TERRITORIES LOST FOLLOWING WORLD WAR I



1945: Downfall

Nov 1945-Oct 1946: Twenty-two leading Nazis are tried at International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, Germany

Judges representing Allied powers sentence 12 to death by hanging and seven to terms of imprisonment. Three are acquitted



Adolf Hitler
Fuehrer and Chancellor of Nazi Germany. **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