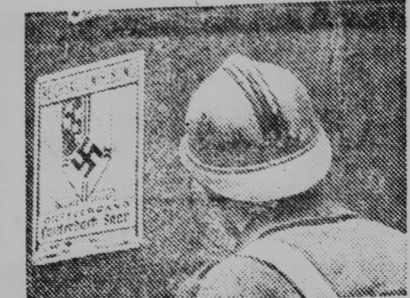


CHRONOLOGY OF THE YEAR 1939

Compiled by JOHN D. GRANT
EUROPEAN WAR



MARS GOES TO WORK—
French poez puzzles over street sign in captured German village.
Hitler Still Grabbing

MARCH

- 1—German troops mass near border of Poland.
- 2—Czech government submits to Hitler's demands for the return of the Sudetenland.
- 3—Slovakia declares independence from Czechoslovakia.
- 4—Hitler absorbs Slovakia, Hungary annexes part of Carpatho-Ukraine.
- 5—Germany puts pressure on Poland.
- 6—Poland refuses German demand for railway to East Prussia.

APRIL

- 1—Poland joins British in war alliance.
- 2—Germany pushes to take Danzig.
- 3—French fleet guards Gibraltar. British fleet sails to Malta.

MAY

- 1—Nazis plan plebiscite in Danzig.
- 2—Pope invites the powers to Vatican conference to settle European dispute.
- 3—Germany fortifies its eastern frontier against Poland.

JUNE

- 1—Hitler pledges Germany will support Yugoslavia's border.
- 2—German troops move to encircle Poland.
- 3—Hitler appeals to Germany to settle dispute by negotiations.

JULY

- 1—Warsaw reports 3,000 Polish families in East Prussia are forced to move away from border.

AUGUST

- 1—Germany and Italy establish policy on Danzig; Polish attitude called unbearable.
- 2—Nazis declare Danzig must return to Germany before August 27.
- 3—Germany takes military possession of Slovakia.
- 4—Germany announces nonaggression pact with Russia.
- 5—German troops mass near Polish corridor.
- 6—Germany and Russia sign nonaggression pact.
- 7—Britain and Poland sign war alliance.
- 8—Japanese cabinet abandons Rome-Berlin link.
- 9—Poland asks British help under new mutual aid pact.

German Invade Poland

- 1—Germany opens war on Poland.

SEPTEMBER

- 1—Britain and France declare war on Germany.
- 2—British ship Athenia torpedoed off coast of Ireland; 1,400 aboard, 43 lost.
- 3—Germany blockaded by British navy.
- 4—German shells Warsaw; government and citizens flee.
- 5—President Roosevelt proclaims U. S. neutrality.
- 6—Nazis appeal to Britain to rush aid.
- 7—Poles torpedoes sink five ships.
- 8—French planes bomb Siegfried line.
- 9—German counterattacks halt French on western front.
- 10—Russia refuses reserves to Polish border.
- 11—German forces shut a vise on Warsaw.
- 12—Big British army lands in France with 200 tanks.
- 13—Polish defense cracks; Nazis move eastward.
- 14—Russian troops invade Poland to "protect minorities."
- 15—Warsaw decides to fight on after truce talk fails.
- 16—Poland's defenses collapse under Nazi pressure.
- 17—Russian army drives 50 miles into Poland.
- 18—Report red purge of former officials in Polish Ukraine.
- 19—French refuse wave after wave of Nazi big air troops.
- 20—French defeat Germans in two big air battles; bombard whole length of Siegfried line; bomb Zeppelin works.
- 21—Warsaw surrenders to Germans after 32-day siege.
- 22—Britain defies warning by foes to stop war.

OCTOBER

- 1—Britain calls 250,000 more troops.
- 2—Deladier says France will fight until victorious.
- 3—Hitler makes peace proposals to Britain and France; seeks armistice.
- 4—Hitler sets aside arena in Poland for Germans to be transplanted from other countries.
- 5—French premier spurns Hitler's peace terms.
- 6—French civilians ordered to leave danger zone near Soviet frontier.
- 7—Britain refuses peace based on Nazi conquests.
- 8—British battleship Royal Oak sunk by sub; 823 lost.
- 9—Nazi raid navy base in Scotland; 16 killed.
- 10—German planes raid Scapa Flow; Iron Duke training ship damaged.
- 11—British report another Nazi air raid over Edinburgh.
- 12—British report U-boats sunk.
- 13—Germans capture American ship City of Flint and take it to Soviet port.
- 14—Four British, one Greek ship sunk by Germans.
- 15—Nazi sea raiders slip through blockade; prey on shipping.
- 16—Belgians demand British cease blockade.
- 17—American ship City of Flint, turned over to Germany by Russia, sails from Russia.
- 18—Germans claim 115 foreign ships sunk since war began.
- 19—Soviet demands false new crisis in Finland.

NOVEMBER

- 1—Norway fires City of Flint and interns German prize crew. Finland defies Soviet threat; ready to fight.
- 2—Belgium and Holland offer to mediate peace between warring nations.
- 3—Hitler escapes plot; blast in Munich pier cellar kills 6 and injures 60.
- 4—Dutch open defense dikes; clash at border with Germans.
- 5—French repulse German attacks.
- 6—Four more merchantmen sunk in sea warfare.
- 7—Germans shoot nine Czech students, seize 1,200 and close academies for three years.
- 8—Dutch liner hits German mine in North sea; sinks with 140 lives.
- 9—Four more ships sunk by German mines off England.
- 10—Germans extend war at sea; 10 vessels sunk since November 18; 133 dead or missing.
- 11—Germany charges Munich man with beer cellar explosion; arrests two British agents.
- 12—Britain declares unrestricted blockade of Germany in reprisal for illegal mine warfare; forbids neutral nations to trade with Germany.
- 13—British destroyer sunk, 40 missing.
- 14—Nazi bombers raid Sheerness, no damage done.
- 15—French report torpedo boat sank two ships.

NOVEMBER

- 1—Eight more vessels sunk; total for six days, 25.
- 2—France and Britain claim 20 air victories in three days on western front.
- 3—Exiled Polish government begins functioning in France.
- 4—British cruise ship damaged in port by blast from mine or submarine.
- 5—Berlin claims bombers hit four British ships; London denies.
- 6—Six nations protest British ban on German trade.
- 7—Two hundred and seventy-seven die in a British raid on enemy air bases in France.
- 8—British planes attempt to raid Kiel.
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DECEMBER

- 1—Finns dismiss Russian cruiser with 500 aboard.
- 2—Russians capture Finnish port.
- 3—New cabinet takes over Finnish government.
- 4—Russia rejects peace offers from Germany.
- 5—Regular Finnish government orders evacuation of all government towns.
- 6—Sweden tightens its defenses.
- 7—British planes attack German warships and score hits on German warships.
- 8—Finns shatter Red troops in Arctic battle.
- 9—League of nations summoned to hear Finnish appeal for aid.
- 10—British planes block against German exports into effect.
- 11—German pocket battleship sinks British steamer Durie Star in South Atlantic.
- 12—Finnish flyers inflict heavy casualties on Soviet troop concentration.
- 13—German repulse Russian army of 200,000 on three fronts.
- 14—Russians to blockade Finnish coast.
- 15—British fighting planes beat off German raids.
- 16—Finns repel offensive on Karelian isthmus.
- 17—Finns report Russian attacks repelled on all fronts.
- 18—League of Nations requests Russia to cease hostilities against Finland.
- 19—Russia rejects league of nations proposal to mediate conflict with Finland.
- 20—German army Bremen runs British blockade to home port.
- 21—British ships disable and chase German raider Graf Spee into South American port.
- 22—Russia expelled from league of nations.
- 23—New Japanese Graf Spee 72 hours to make repairs.
- 24—German coast artillery sinks Russian destroyer.
- 25—Germans scuttle Graf Spee outside Montevideo harbor rather than risk collision with British ships waiting outside.
- 26—Huge Red forces storm Finns' mountain high ground.
- 27—Germans claim 34 out of 44 British planes shot down in battle over Heligoland.
- 28—British claim sinking of German cruiser and damage to two others.

JUNE

- 1—Attempt made on life of Marina, duchess of Kent, by man who fired shotgun at her.
- 2—German police round up Polish Jews for internment.
- 3—Bombs in mail in England injure seven persons.
- 4—Assassinate the British ambassador to China discovered.
- 5—Japan presents Britain with new demand for Soviet troop concentration.
- 6—Attempt to assassinate King Carol of Rumania frustrated.
- 7—Atlantic Clipper flies to Europe in 23 hours and 50 minutes.
- 8—King and queen given tremendous reception on their return to England.
- 9—Bombs in heart of London injure 20.
- 10—Soviet repulse Jap air attack on Mongol border; shoot down 23 planes.
- 11—Japan report shooting down 98 Soviet planes in battle over Outer Mongolia.
- 12—Moscow fights bread riots and strikes as food shortage grows.
- 13—German war council hastens military preparations.

JULY

- 1—Julian Besteiro, last chief of Spanish loyalist government, sentenced to 30 years in prison.
- 2—France jails two newspaper executives, charged with receiving pay from Germany.
- 3—Danzig political police purge city of Socialists.
- 4—Chamberlain promises Britain will stay out of Japan's war in China.
- 5—Four bombings in England blamed on Irish republicans.
- 6—All Spaniards ordered to work 15 days per year for state.

AUGUST

- 1—Britain offers to mediate Japanese-Chinese war.
- 2—Spain executes 53 persons for complicity in slaying of civil guard officers.
- 3—Sudden German food shortage rouses public.

SEPTEMBER

- 1—French cabinet decree ends Communist party in France.
- 2—Bulgaria seeks trade pact with Russia.
- 3—Constantine Argeanu appointed premier of Rumania.

OCTOBER

- 1—Delegates of 21 republics at an inter-American neutrality conference fixed a safety zone around the Americas.
- 2—Japanese admit loss of 18,000 men in fighting Russians.
- 3—Chinese halt Japanese drive in Hunan province; report 10,300 slain.
- 4—Soviet returns Russia to Lithuania.
- 5—Britain and Russia sign trade agreement.
- 6—Pope Pius in encyclical asks dictators.
- 7—Thousands arrested as Czechs and Nazis battle in Prague.

NOVEMBER

- 1—Slovak mob wrecks shops and newspapers in Bratislava, Hungary.
- 2—British threaten to abolish self-rule in India.
- 3—Ex-killer narrowly escapes death in storm at Doorn.

DECEMBER

- 1—Japan faces scarcity of food this winter.
- 2—Peru opens great new port facilities to Callao.
- 3—Italy quits league of nations.

NECROLOGY

- 1—Pius PAPA XI.
- 2—POPE SCUMBS—The devout kneel in prayer before casket containing the body of Pope Pius XI.
- 3—Prof. Herman Oliphant, treasury department counsel, in Washington.
- 4—Col. Jacob Ruppert, owner of the New York Yankees.
- 5—Former Sen. Joseph I. France of Maryland, in Baltimore.
- 6—William B. Yeats, Irish poet and playwright, in France.

MARCH

- 1—Howard Carter, who found King Tut's tomb, in London.
- 2—Premier Joseph Lyons of Australia.
- 3—James Hamilton Lewis, U. S. senator from Illinois.
- 4—S. V. Kline, mystery-story writer, real name Willard H. Wright.

APRIL

- 1—George F. Harding, Republican national committee man for Illinois.
- 2—Premier Joseph Lyons of Australia.
- 3—James Hamilton Lewis, U. S. senator from Illinois.
- 4—S. V. Kline, mystery-story writer, real name Willard H. Wright.

MAY

- 1—Dr. Charles Mayo, famous surgeon.

JUNE

- 1—George Peabody Gardner, financier, in Boston.
- 2—Miss Grace Abbott, noted welfare worker and University of Chicago professor.
- 3—Ford Maddox Ford, British author.

JULY

- 1—Claude A. Swanson, secretary of the navy.
- 2—Havelock Ellis, scientist and philosopher.
- 3—Rep. Sam D. McReynolds of Tennessee.
- 4—Hitler appoints Franz von Papen ambassador to Turkey.
- 5—Russia faces famine; 80 per cent of grain crop destroyed.
- 6—General Franco orders return of property from Spanish republic took from former King Alfonso.
- 7—President of Bolivia assumes dictatorial powers.
- 8—Serbians sign pact with Croats, ending Yugoslavia's biggest internal problem.
- 9—Paraguay elects Estigarribia, Chaco war hero, president.

AUGUST

- 1—Charles Donnelly, president of Northern Pacific railway.
- 2—Charles M. Schwab, steel magnate.
- 3—Sigmund Freud, originator of psychoanalysis.
- 4—Floyd Gibbons, war correspondent.
- 5—Carl Laemmle, pioneer movie producer.

SEPTEMBER

- 1—U. S. Supreme court denies appeal of miners convicted of Illinois bomb outbreak.
- 2—Coal conference agree on new contract with operators.
- 3—Fritz Kuhn, Nazi band leader, indicted in New York on theft charges.
- 4—Dr. Ernest Bergdorf returns to the United States from Germany and is made military prisoner.
- 5—Presbyterian assembly approves joint committee to study looking to merger with Protestant Episcopal church.
- 6—Yankee Clipper returns from Europe.

NOVEMBER

- 1—Opie Reed, famous author.
- 2—Dr. Livingston Farrand, president emeritus of Cornell university.
- 3—Pierce Butler, U. S. Supreme court justice.
- 4—Sam Simpson, Chicago business leader.
- 5—Dr. J. A. Naismith, inventor of basketball.

DECEMBER

- 1—Alfred Granger, prominent architect.
- 2—Princess Louise, duchess of Argyll, old living lord of Scotland.
- 3—Count Von Bernstorff, German ambassador to U. S.
- 4—Manuel de Falla, composer of the United States from Germany and is made military prisoner.
- 5—Presbyterian assembly approves joint committee to study looking to merger with Protestant Episcopal church.
- 6—Yankee Clipper returns from Europe.

DOMESTIC

- 1—Senate passes bill lifting long term bonded national debt limit above \$300,000,000.
- 2—Contract for 24 warships costing \$350,000,000 awarded by navy department.
- 3—President approves bill to end tax bribery.
- 4—House rejects plan to make Hyde Park into a memorial to President Roosevelt.
- 5—King George and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain visit United States at Niagara Falls; officially welcomed by Secretary of State Hull.
- 6—King and queen of Great Britain welcomed to Washington by President Roosevelt; attend state dinner at White House.
- 7—House votes big slash in payroll taxes; benefits are increased.
- 8—King and queen sail to U. S. visit.
- 9—Senate votes \$225,000 to department of commerce to employ experts.
- 10—U. S. monetary gold stock passes 16 billion mark.
- 11—House votes drastic limitations on future operations of TVA.
- 12—King and queen sail for home.
- 13—House passes tax bill of 1,844 millions; retains nuisance taxes, but revises levies on corporations.
- 14—House approves 100,000 bushels pork barrel bill from \$83,848,100, as passed by the house, to \$407,855,600.
- 15—Widespread WPA graft charged in Louisiana; Governor Leche resigns.
- 16—F. Ryan Duffy nominated for federal judgeship in New York.
- 17—Fraud barred at Louisiana university.
- 18—Governor Leche steps down and Lieutenant Governor Long is sworn in in Louisiana.
- 19—\$800,000 fraud laid to President Smith by Louisiana legislature.
- 20—Senate adds 73 million to relief bill and passes it.
- 21—House hands administration defeat of neutrality bill; endorses embargo on arms shipments.
- 22—House lets McNamara's money rule die by preventing legislation to extend.
- 23—House passes neutrality bill barring arms shipments.

JANUARY

- 1—Former Gov. Frank Murphy of Michigan takes oath as U. S. attorney general.
- 2—Harry Hopkins sworn in as secretary of commerce.
- 3—Seventy-sixth congress convenes.
- 4—President sends to congress \$10,000,000 for relief of foreign refugees.
- 5—Felix Frankfurter nominated for U. S. Supreme court.
- 6—Comedian in prison 22 years, is pardoned.
- 7—Comedian Jack Benny indicted in smuggling case.
- 8—Three Muscia brothers plead guilty in drug company swindle.
- 9—President asks congress to ask 552 millions more for defense.
- 10—Expenses of government in a dozen departments slashed.
- 11—President asks extension of social security benefits.
- 12—Attorney general Frank Murphy as attorney general and Felix Frankfurter as associate justice of Supreme court.
- 13—Senate asks legislation to end tax free public salaries and to levy on all incomes.
- 14—Senate upholds 150 million slash on WPA appropriation.
- 15—George B. Saxe, comedian, fined \$8,000 in gem-smuggling case.

FEBRUARY

- 1—Senators demand Roosevelt lift veil of secrecy on foreign alliances.
- 2—Bill providing decreased funds for relief sent to President.
- 3—Senate rejects nomination of Floyd H. Roberts to be federal judge in Virginia.
- 4—President makes new demand for 130 millions more for WPA after signing appropriation bill with that amount cut.
- 5—House passes bill making state and municipal employees subject to income tax.
- 6—Justice Brandeis retires from the U. S. Supreme court.
- 7—Home Mr. Nathan's faction of U. A. W. wins court victory over C. I. O.
- 8—House approves \$76,000,000 defense bill.
- 9—Senate committee nips scheme for unlimited plane buying.
- 10—House rejects Guam fortification by decisive vote.
- 11—House gets bill for limited governmental reorganization.
- 12—Academy awards go to Spencer Tracy and Bette Davis.
- 13—Federal court upholds price fixing milk law.
- 14—James J. Hines, Tammany chief, convicted of violating loyalty laws.
- 15—U. S. Supreme court rules sit-down strikes illegal.
- 16—Nineteen indictments returned in Kansas City crime cleanup.

MARCH

- 1—Ex-Judge Martin T. Manton indicted by federal grand jury in New York as bribe taker.
- 2—Martin faction of auto union bars Communists, Nazis, and Fascists from membership or office.
- 3—Senate increases army airplane authorization to 6,000.
- 4—Senate passes \$338,000,000 army extension bill.
- 5—House passes bill giving President restricted authority to reorganize departments.
- 6—Harold D. Smith of Michigan named federal budget director.
- 7—Bill before New York senate to bar Reds from public office.
- 8—President again demands 150 millions more for WPA.
- 9—Lieut-Gov. Lauren D. Dickinson sworn in as governor of Michigan to succeed the late Sigmund D. Fitzgerald.
- 10—U. S. puts penalty tariff on German imports.
- 11—U. S. government refuses to recognize Hitler's seizure of Czechoslovakia.
- 12—W. O. Douglas named associate justice of the U. S. Supreme court.
- 13—James J. Hines, Tammany leader, sentenced to serve four to eight years in prison.
- 14—U. S. Supreme court holds federal and state governments may tax salaries of each other's employees.
- 15—House cuts 250 million parity fund from agricultural appropriation bill and passes it.

APRIL

- 1—U. S. recognizes Franco government in Spain.
- 2—C. I. O. union ordered to pay Apex company \$711,930 damages for sit-down strike.
- 3—Jack Benny, radio comedian, fined \$10,000 for smuggling.
- 4—W. O. Douglas confirmed for Supreme court.

MAY

- 1—U. S. denounces Italian invasion of Albania.
- 2—Czechoslovak sets up puppet government in Albania.
- 3—British and French fleets reported massed off coast of Greece.
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- 28—British and French fleets reported massed off coast of Greece.
- 29—British and French fleets reported massed off coast of Greece.
- 30—British and French fleets reported massed off coast of Greece.

OCTOBER