

The World Observer

August 30th, 1939

20 cents

Europe on the verge of war

The crisis in Europe culminates to dramatic heights as Hitler, in an ultimatum made yesterday, demanded a Polish plenipotentiary to take up talks in Berlin today. Meanwhile German Wehrmacht forces arrive daily at the Polish-German border (see picture) where the Polish Army, already mobilized early this month, has taken a defensive posture all along the frontier. Germany claims the Free City of Danzig and an extra-territorial rail and roadway through the "corridor", the strip of land connecting Poland to the Baltic Sea, and cutting off German territory East Prussia from the German mainland.



German soldiers marching to the Polish border

History

One year on the European Continent. Events preceding the current situation.

30 September, 1938

Munich Conference (Agreement): Britain (Chamberlain) France (Daladier) and Italy (Mussolini) grant the Sudetenland to Germany, going into effect 1 October. Anglo-British guarantee for Czechoslovakia.

14 March, 1939

Slovakia declares her independence from Czechoslovakia.

15 March, 1939

Germany troops occupy Czechia to establish a German "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia". England and France declare their guarantee to Czechoslovakia as void, because "the state of Czechoslovakia has ceased to exist".

22 March, 1939

Germany occupies Memel area.

28 March, 1939

End of the Spanish Civil War. Madrid surrenders. General Franco new head of state. US government recognizes the Franco government on 1 April.

April, 1939

Great Britain and France guarantee armed assistance to Greece and Rumania, should these be attacked by Germany or Italy.

Formal Anglo-French guarantees given to Poland.

7 April, 1939

Italian troops invade Albania. Germany cancels the 1934 Non-aggression Pact and the 1935 Anglo-German Naval Agreement.

14 April, 1939

President Roosevelt demands a guarantee of non-aggression for 31 named states from Hitler and Mussolini. These states are Arabia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Palestine, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Syria Turkey and Yugoslavia.

22 May, 1939

Germany and Italy sign the "Pact of Steel".

23 August, 1939

Germany and the Soviet Union sign a non-aggression pact in Moscow.

25 August, 1939

England and Poland sign assistance agreement.

26 August, 1939

German declaration of neutrality for Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark and Switzerland.