

OMAHA GUIDE OF THE YEAR 1939

COMPILED BY JOHN D. GRANT

EUROPEAN WAR



MARS GOES TO WORK—French poulu puzzles over street sign in captured German village.

Hitler Still Grabbing

MARCH

- 12—German troops mass near border of Slovakia.
13—Czechoslovakia submits to Hitler's demands for further break-up of the Czech state.
14—Slovakia formally secedes from Czechoslovakia and becomes independent state under German protection.
15—Hitler seizes Bohemia and Moravia, completing subjugation of Czechoslovakia.
16—Hitler absorbs Slovakia. Hungary annexes part of Carpatho-Ukraine.
17—Poland refuses German demand for pathway to East Prussia.

APRIL

- 4—Poland joins British in war alliance.
7—Germany pushes drive to take Danzig. French fleet guards Gibraltar. British fleet sails to Malta.

MAY

- 7—Nazi plan plebiscite in Danzig.
8—Pope invites five powers to Vatican parley to settle Polish-German dispute.
20—Germany fortifies its eastern frontier against Poland.

JUNE

- 1—Hitler pledges Germany will support Jugoslavia's border.
20—German troops move to encircle Poland.
21—Britain appeals to Germany to settle dispute by negotiations.

JULY

- 6—Warsaw reports 5,000 Polish families in East Prussia are forced to move away from border.

AUGUST

- 13—Germany and Italy establish policy on Danzig; Polish attitude called unworkable.
14—Germany takes military possession of Slovakia.
21—Germany announces nonaggression pact with Russia.
22—German troops massed near Polish corridor.
23—Germany and Russia sign nonaggression pact.
24—Britain and Poland sign war alliance. Japanese cabinet abandons Rome-Berlin lineup.
25—Poland asks British help under new mutual aid pact.

Germans Invade Poland

- 1—Germany opens war on Poland.
2—Britain and France declare war on Germany. British ship Athena torpedoed off coast of Ireland, 1,400 aboard, 43 lost.
3—Germany blockaded by British navy.
4—Germans shell Warsaw; government and citizens flee.
5—President Roosevelt proclaims U. S. neutrality.
6—Poles appeal to Britain to rush aid. France invades Germany; British troops arrive.
7—Nazi torpedoes sink five ships.
8—French planes bomb Siegfried line.
9—German counterattacks halt French on western front; German planes in Poland.
10—Russia rushes reserves to Polish border.
11—German forces shut a vise on Warsaw.
12—Big British army lands in France without loss.
13—Polish defense cracks; Nazis move eastward.
14—Russian troops invade Poland to "protect minorities."
15—Warsaw decides to fight on after three-day talks.
16—Poland's defenses collapse under Nazi pressure.
17—Russian army drives 50 miles into Poland.
18—Report Red purge of former officials in Poland.
19—French repulse wave after wave of Nazi shock 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 20-day siege.
22—Estonia signs alliance with Russia.
23—Britain denies warning by foes to stop war.

RUSSIA FACES WEST—Dictator Josef Stalin, having completed a pact with Germany, conquers part of Poland and moves into Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania—and then into Finland.

- 1—Chinese dictator "purges" government and 200 "peace party" leaders.
2—Japan's cabinet resigns over Polish ultimatum.
3—Spanish rebels report capture of Arles.
4—Lithuanians and Czechoslovaks fight along border.
5—Spanish rebels take Tarragona in Madrid.
6—Madrid rushes fresh troops to defense of Barcelona.
7—French defeat Barcelona called to dig trenches.
8—Spanish rebels bomb Barcelona.
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FEBRUARY

- 1—Spanish loyalist army of 200,000 flees to France to escape trap.
2—Japan refuses to give up mandated Asia Germany lost in war.
3—Two hundred thousand move past pier of Pope Pius in St. Peter's.
4—Pope Pius hurried to tomb beneath St. Peter's cathedral.
5—Spanish loyalists offer to surrender.
6—France occupies African area once ceded to Italy.
7—Italy moves to place colony Libya on war footing.
8—General Franco hands Britain final terms for peace with Spanish loyalists.
9—Britain and France decide to recognize Franco government in Spain.

MARCH

- 1—College of cardinals convenes in Rome to elect a pope.
2—France requests Mussolini to withdraw Italian troops from Spain.
3—Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli elected pope on third ballot; takes name of Pius XII.
4—Communist leaders flee Madrid zone; General Mija, new loyalist chief, declares "worthy peace."
5—Gandhi won political victory for democracy in India, forced by four-day fast; accepts invitation for consultation with viceroys.
6—300,000 witness coronation of Pope Pius XII.
7—Lithuania returns Memel to Germany.
8—Madrid offers to surrender to General Franco.
9—Madrid surrenders, ending Spanish civil war.

APRIL

- 1—Britain offers to retreat Rumania.
2—Japanese kill 8,000 Chinese in three battles.
3—Albert Lebrun re-elected president of France.
4—Italian troops invade Albania.
5—Massing of troops near Gibraltar draws Italian troops from Spain.
6—Serbian sign pact with Croats, ending Jugoslavia's biggest internal problem.

- 19—Germany charges Munich man with being cellar explosion; arrests two.
20—British agents ready to fight.
21—Britain declares unrestricted blockade of Germany in reprisal for illegal arms warfare; forbids neutral nations to trade with Germany.
22—British destroyer sunk, 40 missing.
23—Nazi bombers raid Shetlands, no damage done.
24—French report torpedo boat sank two more vessels sunk; total for six days, 25.
25—France and Britain claim 20 air victories in three days on western front. Exiled Polish government begins functioning in France.
26—Bulgaria permits British to establish propaganda center in Sofia.
27—British cruiser damaged in port by German torpedoes.
28—French repulse German attack east of Moselle river.
29—Berlin claims bombers hit four British warships; London denies.
30—Six nations protest British ban on German trade.
31—Two hundred eighty-seven die in sinking of Polish liner Pilsudski and British airship.
32—Germans fight back British planes attempting to raid Kiel canal.
33—British fight for a new Europe, Chamberlain says.
34—Finnish guns kill four Russian soldiers.
35—Russia demands Finns remove soldiers from border; Finland offers to negotiate border issue; Russia threatens war.
36—Russia denounces nonaggression pact with Finland; Finland declares Russian reports of border attacks false.
37—Germany claims British cruiser sunk by submarine; Britain denies.
38—Russian troops invade Finland after breaking off diplomatic relations; Finns stunned by break.
39—Russians claim 10-mile advance into Finland; bomb Helsinki; declare Finns attacked first. Finnish cabinet resigns after declaring war on Russia.

- 1—Finnish disable Russian cruiser with 500 aboard.
2—Russians capture Finnish port.
3—New cabinet takes over Finnish government.
4—Finnish sink five ships of four nations.
5—Finnish rebel regime cedes territory to Russians.
6—Regular Finnish government orders evacuation of all southern towns.
7—British tankers sunk, two German ships sunk and liner beached.
8—British planes attack German naval base and score hits on German warships.
9—British shatter Red troops in Arctic battle.
10—League of nations summoned to hear Finnish appeal for aid.
11—Britain puts blockade against German exports into effect.
12—German pocket battleship sinks British steamer Doris Star in South Atlantic.
13—Finnish flyers inflict heavy casualties on Soviet troop concentration.
14—Finns repulse Russian army of 200,000 in three fronts.
15—Russians to blockade Finnish coast; warn shipping.
16—British fighting planes beat off German raiders.
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 liner Bremen runs British blockade to home port.
21—British ships disable and chase German raider Graf Spee into South American port.
22—Graf Spee expelled from league of nations.
23—Uruguay gives Graf Spee 72 hours to make repairs.
24—Finn coast artillery sinks Russian destroyer.
25—Germans scuttle Graf Spee outside Montevideo harbor rather than risk fight with British ships waiting outside.
26—Huge Red forces storm Finns' mountain positions.
27—Germans claim 34 out of 44 British planes shot down in battle over Heligoland.
28—Britain claim sinking of German cruiser and damage to two others.

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

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

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14—German liner Bremen held up at New York for search.

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4—Bishop Abernethy sent to prison for food hoarding.
5—War department orders 65,000 semi-automatic rifles.
6—C. C. Green, elected president of A. F. of L. for sixteenth time.
7—Brazil orders \$70,000 rail equipment from America.
8—President closes American ports to submarines of warring nations.
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5—Old age pension plans defeated in Ohio and California.
6—A. A. Smith makes loans to cotton growers on new crop.
7—Navy sends marines to Hawaii to strengthen defense.
8—Fifteen U. S. oil tankers transferred to Panamanian registry.
9—Roosevelt deman Lewis, head of C. I. O., resume peace negotiations with A. F. of L.
10—Dr. Smith, former president of L. S. U., given 8 to 24 years for university scandals.
11—Louis Levy, New York lawyer, disbarred in Mantion scandal.
12—Al Capone, gang leader, released from federal prison; enters Baltimore hospital.
13—Dr. Smith, former L. S. U. president, attempts suicide in prison.
14—General Motors found guilty in antitrust suit; 17 individuals acquitted.
15—Michigan legislature government protection to Chrysler employees who want to work.
16—Britain names reported to be heavy buyers of copper.
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3—Former Judge Manion found guilty of bribery.
4—House rejects plan to make Hyde Park home a memorial to President Roosevelt.
5—King George and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain enter United States at Niagara Falls; officially welcomed.
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.
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9—House votes drastic limitations on future operations of A. F. of L.
10—House passes bill for home.
11—House passes tax bill of 1,844 millions; retains nuisance taxes, but revises levies on corporations.
12—Senate committee boosts pork barrel bill from \$83,848,100, as passed by House, to \$407,635,000.
13—Senate restores 37 millions previously cut from army appropriation bill.
14—Farm bill boosted 225 millions by the house.
15—Fraud barred at Louisiana university.
16—Gov. Leche slays crown prince, Lieut. Gov. Long is sworn in in Louisiana.
17—\$600,000 fraud laid to President Smith in the Philippines.
18—Senate adds 73 million to relief bill and passes it.
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20—Senate lets Roosevelt's money rule die by preventing legislation to extend.
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- 1—Proportion of civil service employees reduced under President Roosevelt.
2—U. S. court upholds wage-hour law in Montgomery Ward case.
3—Supreme court voids cities' ban on handbills.
4—President suggests special taxes for half billion increase in defense appropriations.
5—President summons budget director to discuss departmental cuts.
6—Morgenthau declares next congress must lift legal debt limit.
7—Chrysler company and C. I. O. agree on basis of peace after auto plants are tied up 53 days.
8—Jury finds German-American band leader Fritz Kuhn guilty on forgery and theft charges.
9—Roosevelt sends sharp note to Russia asking that bombing of cities stop.

- 1—Curtiss plants speed building of war planes.
2—Winnie Ruth Judd, insane Arizona, again escapes from prison in Arizona.
3—Fritz Kuhn, band leader, sentenced to prison for two and a half years.
4—Upward trend seen in several lines of business.
5—Secretary Hull protests British blockade.
6—Roosevelt orders a special naval district in Caribbean.
7—RFC grants \$10,000,000 loan to Finland.
8—U. S. Supreme court bars evidence gained by wire tapping.
9—Twelve naval captains promoted to be rear admirals.
10—ICC approves trainload rail rate reduction.
11—Garner announces candidacy for Democratic presidential nomination.

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8—Fifteen U. S. oil tankers transferred to Panamanian registry.
9—Roosevelt deman Lewis, head of C. I. O., resume peace negotiations with A. F. of L.
10—Dr. Smith, former president of L. S. U., given 8 to 24 years for university scandals.
11—Louis Levy, New York lawyer, disbarred in Mantion scandal.
12—Al Capone, gang leader, released from federal prison; enters Baltimore hospital.
13—Dr. Smith, former L. S. U. president, attempts suicide in prison.
14—General Motors found guilty in antitrust suit; 17 individuals acquitted.
15—Michigan legislature government protection to Chrysler employees who want to work.
16—Britain names reported to be heavy buyers of copper.
17—Court upholds C. I. O. over A. F. of L. in union fight.

- 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—Former Judge Manion found guilty of bribery.
4—House rejects plan to make Hyde Park home a memorial to President Roosevelt.
5—King George and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain enter United States at Niagara Falls; officially welcomed.
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 visit.
9—House votes drastic limitations on future operations of A. F. of L.
10—House passes bill for home.
11—House passes tax bill of 1,844 millions; retains nuisance taxes, but revises levies on corporations.
12—Senate committee boosts pork barrel bill from \$83,848,100, as passed by House, to \$407,635,000.
13—Senate restores 37 millions previously cut from army appropriation bill.
14—Farm bill boosted 225 millions by the house.
15—Fraud barred at Louisiana university.
16—Gov. Leche slays crown prince, Lieut. Gov. Long is sworn in in Louisiana.
17—\$600,000 fraud laid to President Smith in the Philippines.
18—Senate adds 73 million to relief bill and passes it.
19—House passes administration defeat of neutrality bill; endorses embargo on arms shipments.
20—Senate lets Roosevelt's money rule die by preventing legislation to extend.
21—House passes neutrality bill barring arms shipments.

- 1—Senate adopts conference report on reviving President's money rule.
2—W. P. Buckner given two years in prison on Philippine railway bond charge.
3—President gives Paul V. McNutt of Indiana job as head of the newly created Federal Security Administration.
4—Senate votes to fix payroll tax at 1 percent.
5—President signs bill giving war department power to hide secret new equipment from public.
6—House passes bill to curb bureaucrats in politics.
7—Senate committee shelves President's \$800,000 housing program.
8—Nation-wide lottery swindle using name of Will Rogers exposed.
9—One killed, seven shot, in battle over nonunion labor at Boonville, Ind.
10—President signs trade treaty with Japan.
11—Francis B. Sayre nominated for high commission in the Philippines.
12—Senate lops \$1,615,000,000 from spending bill and passes it.

- 1—Army's flying fortress flies coast to coast in 9 1/2 hours.
2—House kills President's lending-spending bill.
3—House slashes \$161,000,000 from final spending bill.
4—Senate passes third deficiency bill of 189 millions.
5—Agreement reached on social security amendments cutting pay roll tax \$900,000,000 in next three years.
6—Congress adjourns after appropriating more than \$2,000,000,000.
7—Former Governor Leche of Louisiana and two others indicted in hot oil scandal.
8—President advances Thanksgiving day one week, naming November 23.
9—W.P.A. raises \$500,000 for \$5,000,000 a month.
10—New York fair asks bondholders for \$4,820,000 to meet debts.
11—U. S. and Canada sign new pact for air service.
12—Louisiana oil czar, Dr. J. A. Shaw, witness against ex-Gov. R. W. Leche, kills self.
13—President pleads for peace; cables Hitler, Poles, and king of Italy.
14—German liner Bremen held up at New York for search.

- 1—Liner Bremen allowed to depart from New York.
2—Roosevelt establishes naval patrol along Atlantic coast.
3—President lifts quota on sugar to curb prices.
4—Steel plants and railroads call back their workers.
5—Congress called for September 21.
6—Borah opposes repeal of arms embargo as likely to put American into war.
7—Soviet purchasing agent tells of payment of \$100 million connected with Democratic national committee.
8—At a conference of Republican and Democratic leaders, Roosevelt urges repeal of neutrality act.
9—Congress convenes in special session to consider repeal of neutrality act.
10—American Legion convenes in annual session in Chicago.
11—Sudden dissolution of war resources bill causes surprise.
12—Administration's neutrality repealer bill sent to the senate.
13—Powerful naval fleet ordered to Hawaii.

- 1—Debate on repeal of neutrality act begins in senate.
2—Army places an order for 329 high-speed, light aircraft.
3—Bergdoll, draft dodger, sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison.
4—Bishop Abernethy sent to prison for food hoarding.
5—War department orders 65,000 semi-automatic rifles.
6—C. C. Green, elected president of A. F. of L. for sixteenth time.
7—Brazil orders \$70,000 rail equipment from America.
8—President closes American ports to submarines of warring nations.
9—New house bill bans financial aid to warring nations.
10—Roosevelt sets three-mile limit for fishing.
11—Indiana endurance flyers descend after 535 hours; new record.
12—Senate adopts emergency amendments to neutrality bill.
13—Government sends 236 railroads under federal control; enters Baltimore.
14—Senate votes, 63 to 30, to repeal arms embargo provision of neutrality act.
15—Bill sent to the senate.
16—Carl Bevis, Missouri flyer, kidnapped and slain in his own plane by Ernest Pyle, arrested.
17—California flyers land after 728 hours in air—new record.
18—U. S. assesses Germany 50 billions for Black Tom and Kingsland blasts during World War.
19—United Motors reports raise \$3,000,000 for political fight in 1940.
20—President asks 276 million for added defense.

- 1—House votes against embargo on arms and goes to conference.
2—Congress passes neutrality repealer bill.
3—President signs repeal bill and bars war zones to American shipping.
4—Supreme court rules state cannot sue for HOLC mortgages.
5—Old age pension plans defeated in Ohio and California.
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