

Patriot Project



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A Teaching American History Grant

The following is information synthesized from the World War II information boards created by Patriot Project Participants on September 11, 2010. Additional information/sources may be added in some cases.

Poland Invaded by Germany

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The German invasion of Poland began on September 1, 1939, and proved to be a “campaign from the book.” Coming from East Prussia and Slovakia along with Germany, the German Wehrmacht or army defeated the Polish in only ten days. The Polish Air Force was defeated on the ground after the first day. The Panzer divisions cut through the Polish forces at will and isolated them for the later disarming. September 15th led to the Polish Resistance collapsing. The Polish government fled to Romania and France where they organized their government in exile. Warsaw was able to hold out for a month after.

Hitler, so happy with his victory over Poland, was impatient to turn to the Western Allies at once. His generals felt that their army was not ready however, and disagreed. When Britain and France declared war on Germany, the German people had no huge patriotic events in Berlin as there had been at the beginning of World War I. On October 9, 1939, Hitler issued orders for the preparation of Operation Yellow, which would involve taking over the Netherlands and Belgium. The beginning of World War II had happened.

Key leaders involved

Fedor von Bock	German commander for Army Group North
Gerd von Rundstedt	German commander for Army Group South
Ferdinand Catlos	Slovakian commander for Army Bernolak
Mikhail Kovalev	Soviet Union commander for Belorussian Front

Semyon Timoshenko

Soviet Union commander for Ukrainian Front

Timeline

September 1, 1939	Poland invaded by Germany
September 8, 1939	Germany at the outskirts of Warsaw
September 10, 1939	Polish commander ordered a general retreat
September 14, 1939	Soviet forces attacked
September 28, 1939	Warsaw defeated
October 6, 1939	Poland surrendered
October 28, 1939	Poland divided among Germany, Soviet Union, and Slovakia

Estimated Battle Casualties

	Killed	Wounded & Missing	Totals
Germany	16,343	33,800	50,143
Slovakia	37	125	162
USSR	1,475	2,383	3,858
Poland	66,000	133,700	199,700
	Total		253,863

Sources

- <http://www.wikipedia.org>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk>
- <http://www.thinkquest.org>