



The Outbreak of WWII

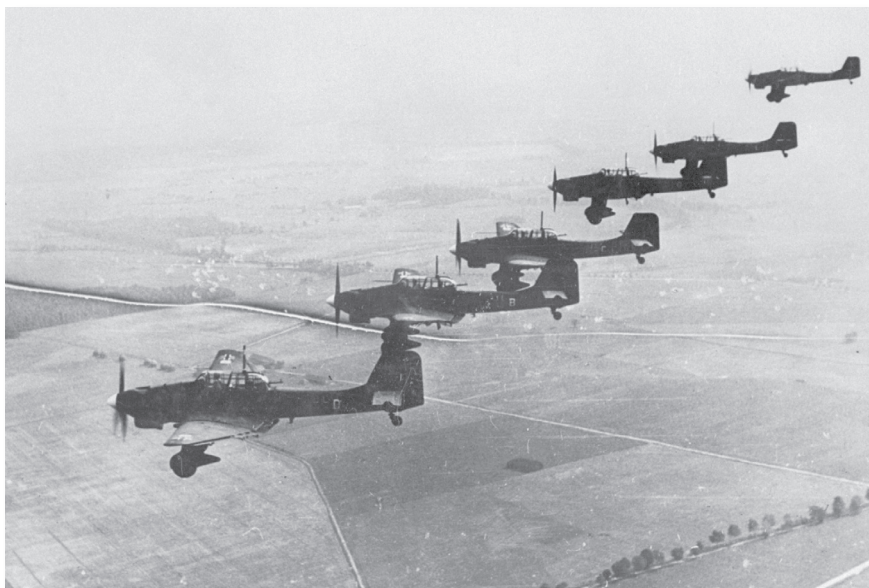
ETERNAL ECHOES

Teach and Learn About the Holocaust

The Outbreak of WWII

The War Begins

On September 1st, 1939, the German army invaded Poland. During the invasion, Dąbrowica and nearby Sarny became severely hit by air raids of the German Luftwaffe. However, the infantry did not reach the region.

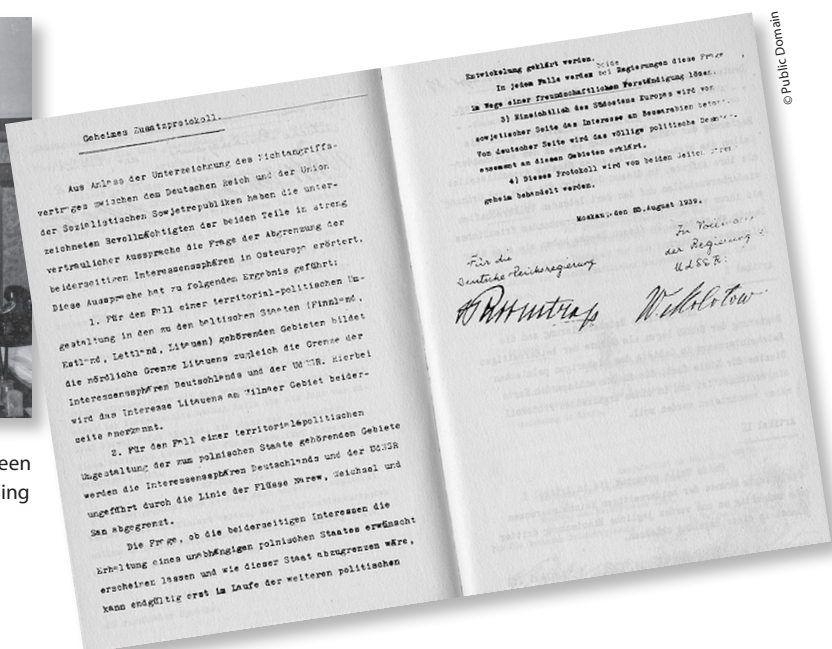


German Luftwaffe attacks Poland.

On August 23rd, 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and the Soviet Union, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Vyacheslav Molotov, had signed a pact where the two states guaranteed that they would not attack each other. The pact included a secret additional protocol stating how the territories of Poland as well as Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania were to be divided between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The Dąbrowica district belonged to the Soviet sphere of interest and the Red Army invaded the region on September 17th, 1939.



Foreign Minister Ribbentrop signs the Non-aggression Pact between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Molotov and Stalin are standing behind him.



The German version of the secret additional protocol of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

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In some towns both the Jewish and Ukrainian minorities greeted the Soviet soldiers enthusiastically. It is hardly surprising that many Jews, in a situation where they were forced to choose, generally preferred Soviet to German occupation. The anti-Jewish policies of the Nazis were well known and feared. In addition, within the Ukrainian minority, there were those who hoped for positive changes, such as greater autonomy, under the new rule.



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Residents of a town in Eastern Poland assembled to greet the arrival of the Red Army during the Soviet invasion of Poland in 1939.

With the German occupation of Western and Central Poland, and the establishment of the General Government in central Poland on the 26th of October 1939, a wave of refugees fled to the east and reached the region of Dąbrowica.



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German and Soviet Union invasion of Poland.

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