

CHRONOLOGY

OF THE YEAR 1939

COMPILED BY JOHN D. GRANT

EUROPEAN WAR



MARS GOES TO WORK—French pilots puzzle over stunt 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 breakup of the Czech state.

APRIL

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

MAY

7—Nazis plan plebiscite in Danzig. 8—Pope invites five new cardinals to Vatican parley to settle Polish-German dispute.

JUNE

1—Hitler pledges Germany will support Yugoslavia's border. 2—German troops move to encircle Poland.

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 unbearable. 15—Nazis declare Danzig must return to Germany before August 27.

SEPTEMBER

3—Britain and France declare war on Germany. 4—British ship Athenia torpedoed off coast of Ireland.

OCTOBER

1—Britain calls 250,000 more troops. 4—Daladier says France will fight until victorious.

NOVEMBER

3—Norway frees City of Flint and interns German prize crew. Finland defies Soviet threat; reply to fight.

DECEMBER

1—Finns disable Russian cruiser with 500 aboard. 2—Finns capture Finnish port.

23—British destroyer sunk, 40 missing. 24—German bombers raid Shetlands, no damage done.

25—Eight more vessels sunk; total for six days, 25. 26—France and Britain claim 20 air victories in three days on western front.

27—British cruiser damaged in port by blast from mine submarine. 28—Berlin claims bombers hit four British warships; London denies.

29—Two hundred eighty-seven die in British armed ship. Germans fight back British planes attempting to raid Kiel.

30—British fights for a new Europe, Chamberlain says. 31—Finns kill four Russian soldiers.

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32—General Franco orders return of property which Spanish republic took from foreigners. King Alfonso.

33—President of Bolivia assumes dictatorial powers. General Guevara.

34—Serbians sign pact with Croats, ending Yugoslavia's biggest internal problem. King Peter.

35—Paraguay elects General Estigarribia, Chaco war hero, president.

36—Lithuania dismisses foreign commissar of Russia.

37—King and queen of Great Britain sail for Canada.

38—Moscow short of food; army ordered to save on motor fuel.

39—Twenty million dollars reported paid to Hitler to release Baron Louis Rothschild.

40—King and queen start on tour of Canada. One hundred Jewish youths injured in clashes with police in Jerusalem.

41—Donne quintuplets greet queen with hug and kiss as British sovereigns visit Toronto.

42—German troops in Spain leave for home. Bill setting up dictatorship over industry introduced in British parliament.

43—New border war develops between Japan and Russia in Manchukuo.

44—Bombs in mail in England injure seven persons.

45—Japan presents Britain with new demands as troops tighten blockade at Irish Republic.

46—King and queen given tremendous reception on their return to England.

47—600 German bombers attack on Mongol border; shoot down 25 planes.

48—France falls two newspaper executives, charged with receiving pay from Germany.

49—Political police purge city of Socialists.

50—Japanese promises Britain will stay out of Japan's war in China.

51—Four bombings in England blamed on Irish Republican army.

52—Britain offers to mediate Japanese-Chinese war.

53—Spain executes 53 persons for complicity in slaying of civil guard officer.

54—German food shortages rouses public.

55—French cabinet decree ends Communist party in France.

56—Britain seeks trade pact with Russia. Constantine Argeanu appointed premier of Rumania.

57—Delegates of 21 republics at an inter-American neutrality conference fix a safety zone around two Americas.

58—Japanese admit loss of 18,000 men in fighting on the island of Iwo Jima.

59—Chinese halt Japanese drive in Hunan province; report 10,300 slain.

60—Russia expelled from league of nations. Britain and Russia sign trade agreement.

61—British coast artillery sinks Russian destroyer.

62—Germans scuttle Graf Spee outside Montevideo harbor rather than risk fight with British ships waiting outside.

63—Red forces storm Finns' mountain positions.

64—Germans claim 24 out of 44 British planes shot down in battle over Heligoland.

65—British claim sinking of German cruiser and damage to two others.

66—Japan faces scarcity of food this winter. Peru opens great new port facilities to Chile.

67—Italy quits league of nations.

68—Slovak mob wrecks shops and newspapers in Bratislava, Hungary.

69—British threaten to abolish self-rule in India.

70—Hitler narrowly escapes death in storm at Doorn.

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73—Yankee Clipper flies from Long Island to Europe, opening trans-Atlantic air service.

74—Boss Pendergast of Kansas City given 15 months in federal prison for income tax evasion.

75—House approves farm appropriation bill for 1940.

76—Fritz Kuhn, Nazi leader, indicted in New York on theft charges.

77—Yankee Clipper returns from Europe.

78—Senate passes bill lifting long term bonded national debt limit above \$30,000,000.

79—Contract for 24 warships costing \$350,000,000 awarded by navy department.

80—Former Judge Manton found guilty of bribery.

81—House rejects plan to make Hyde Park some a memorial to President Roosevelt.

82—King George and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain enter United States at Niagara Falls; officially welcomed by Secretary of State Hull.

83—King and queen of Great Britain welcomed to Washington by President Roosevelt; attend state dinner at White House.

84—House votes big slash in payroll taxes; benefits are increased.

85—King and queen end U. S. visit.

86—Senate votes \$25 million to department of commerce to employ experts.

87—House votes drastic limitations on future treaties.

88—King and queen visit for home.

89—House passes tax bill of 1,844 millions; states nuisance taxes, but revises levies on corporations.

90—Widespread WPA graft charged in Louisiana; Governor Leche resigns.

91—F. B. I. nominates for federal bench in Milwaukee.

92—Fraud barred at Louisiana university. Governor Leche steps and lieutenant Governor Long is sworn in in Louisiana.

93—\$600,000 fraud laid to President Smith of the Louisiana university.

94—200,000 \$73 million to relief bill and passes it.

95—House hands administration defeat of neutrality bill.

96—Senate rejects Roosevelt's money rule die by preventing legislation to extend. House passes neutrality bill barring arms shipments.

97—Senate adopts conference report on re-organizing President's money powers.

98—W. P. Buckner given two years in prison on Philippine graft charges.

99—President gives Paul V. McNutt Indiana job as head of the newly created Federal security commission.

100—Senate votes to fix payroll tax at 1 per cent.

101—President signs bill giving war department power to hide secret new equipment.

102—House passes bill to curb bureaucrats in politics.

103—House committee shoves President's \$900,000,000 housing program.

104—Navy committee asks using name of Bill Rogers exposed.

105—One killed, seven shot, in battle over Honolulu, Hawaii.

106—United States scraps trade treaty with Japan.

107—Francis B. Sayre nominated for high commissioner to the Philippines.

108—Senate votes \$1,615,000,000 from spending bill and passes it.

109—Army's flying fortress flies coast to coast in 9 1/2 hours.

110—House kills President's lending-spending bill.

111—Senate passes third deficiency bill of \$19 million.

112—Agreement reached on social security amendment cutting pay roll tax \$900,000 in next three years.

113—Congress adjourns after appropriating more than \$13 billion.

114—Former Governor Leche of Louisiana and two others indicted in hot oil day conference.

115—Resident advances advertising day one week, naming November 23.

116—House passes bill of 2,000,000 workers in 1940.

117—Budget for 1940 fiscal year asks bondholders for \$4,820,000 to meet debts.

118—Chrysler company and C. I. O. agree on basis of peace after auto plants are tied up 83 days.

119—Winn finds German-American bund leader Fritz Kuhn guilty on forgery and theft charges.

120—Roosevelt sends sharp note to Russia asking that bombing of cities stop.

121—Curtiss plants speed building of war planes.

122—Winnie Ruth Judd, insane slayer, again escapes from prison in Arizona.

123—Fritz Kuhn, bund leader, sentenced to prison for two and a half years.

124—Upward trend seen in several lines of business.

125—Secretary Hull protests British blockade.

126—Roosevelt orders a special naval district in Caribbean; bars evidence gained by wire tapping.

127—Twelve naval captains promoted to be rear admirals.

128—ICC approves railroad rail rate reduction.

129—Garnier announces candidacy for Democratic presidential nomination.

130—Davy Day, welterweight, stopped Pedro Montañez in the eighth round.

131—Henry Armstrong, welterweight, defeats Ernie Rothrock, British champion, in 15 rounds.

132—Shaw wins Indianapolis auto race, aver-aging 115.038 miles per hour, Roberts killed.

133—Giants make five home runs in one inning for record; rout Reds.

134—Centennial birthday of baseball celebrated at Cooperstown, N. Y., where it originated.

135—You Gehrig, Mayo clinic physicians announce after check-up, has infantile paralysis; playing career ended.

136—Joe Louis stops Tony Galento in the fourth round.

137—Yankees break record with 13 home runs in two games on same day.

138—Alice Marble wins British tennis championship at Wimbledon.

139—American league wins all-star baseball game, 3 to 1.

140—Dick Metz wins St. Paul open golf championship with record score of 270.

141—Roscoe Turner wins Thompson trophy air race three times in Washington.

142—Tony Galento stops Nova in 14 rounds.

143—Bobby Riggs, Alice Marble win U. S. net tennis.

144—Yankees clinch American league pennant.

145—Joe Louis knocks out Bob Pastor in 11 rounds.

146—Billy Conn, light heavyweight champion, defended his title against Melio Bettina in 15 rounds.

147—Cincinnati Reds win National league pennant.

148—Frankie Frisch appointed manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

149—Yankees win world's baseball series in four straight games.

150—Bucky Lewis, Cincinnati pitcher, voted most valuable player in National league.

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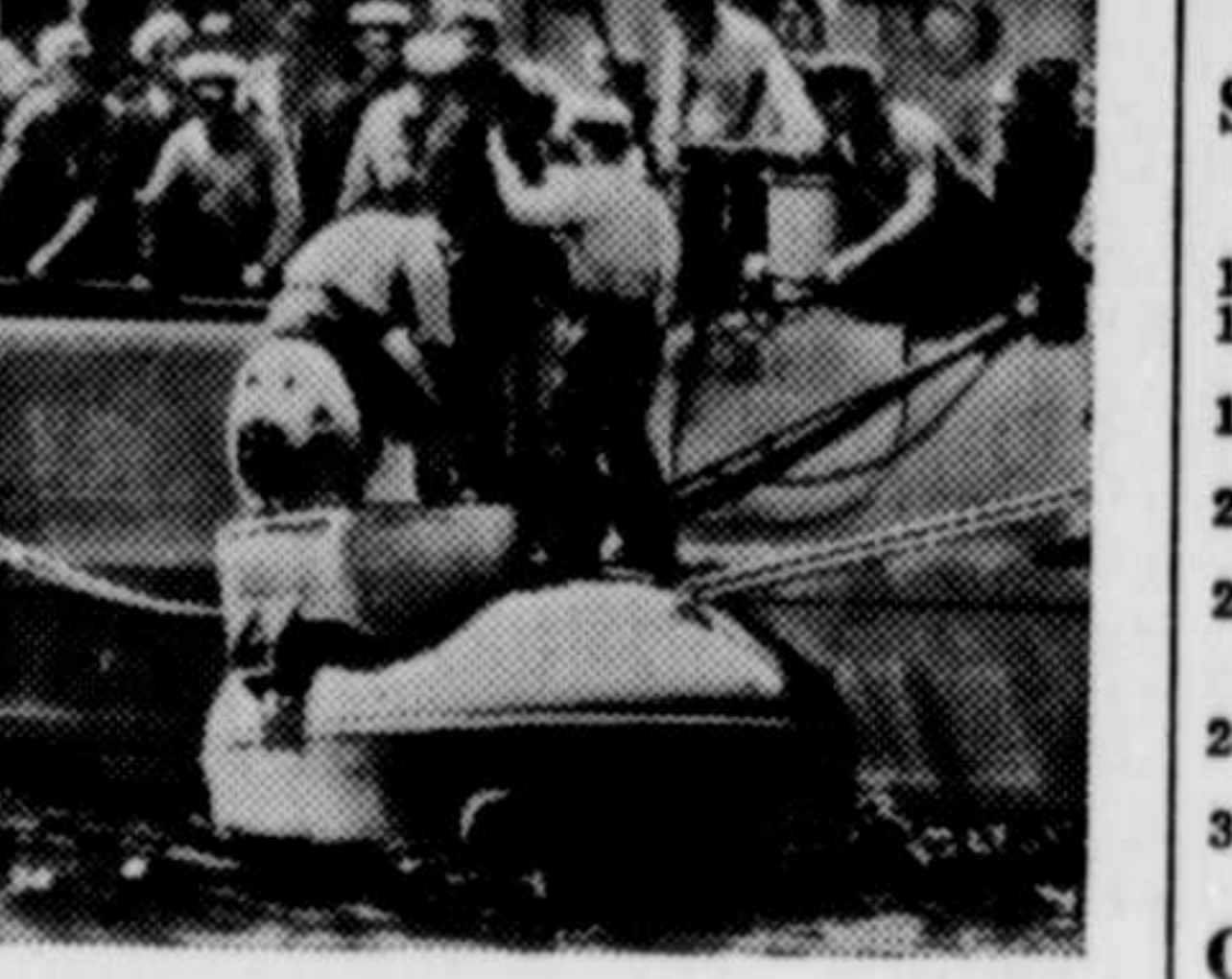
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DISASTERS



SQUALUS SINKS—U. S. navy's diving bell gets first real test rescuing 33 survivors from sunken submarine. Twenty-six others die.

21—The airliner Cavalier wrecked at sea off Cape May, N. J., three lost, 10 saved.

22—Columbus crashes on test hop at Los Angeles; pilot killed.

23—Thirty thousand killed, 50,000 injured in earthquake in Chile; towns wiped out in disaster.

24—Japanese submarine sunk in collision. Army mystery plane crashes after coast-to-coast flight at 340-mile rate.

25—Two hundred killed in explosion of munitions dump in Japan; 800 houses destroyed.

26—Ten killed in airplane crash near Tacoma, Wash.

27—Airliner crashes in Oklahoma killing eight.

28—Four navy fliers killed when planes collide in maneuvers.

29—Twenty-eight killed, 50 injured in train wreck in Mexico.

30—Avalanche in Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana cause 33 deaths and injuries to 300.

31—Fifty-nine trapped in sunken submarine Squalus.

32—Three rescued alive from Squalus, 26 dead.

33—Missing British submarine found mired in mud; 99 lost.

34—Twenty-two persons killed in Mexican theater fire.

35—Seventy-one lives lost in wreck of French submarine.

36—Ten dead, 63 injured in Minnesota tornado.

37—Fifty-three drowned, 47 missing, in flood in mountains of eastern Kentucky.

38—Military explosion and fire damage navy aircraft carrier Ranger.