Either stop hostilities and withdraw German troops from Poland or we will go to war

BRITAIN GIVES LAST WARNING

‘An ultimatum we will reject,’ says Berlin

HENDERSON SEES RIBBENTROP

‘Now we set our teeth and see it through’

—THE PREMIER

CONSCRIPTION UP TO 41

A MIDNIGHT COMMUNIQUE FROM BERLIN REVEALED THAT SIR NEVILLE HENDERSON, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, CALLED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LAST NIGHT AND HANDED VON RIBBENTROP A FINAL WARNING FROM BRITAIN. Von Ribbentrop said he must veto the communication to Hitler for a reply, but authoritative sources in Berlin declared in advance that the warning was “an ultimatum which was doomed to special rejection.”

The British Note accused Germany of “an aggressive act of force threatening the independence of Poland.” It concluded—

“While the British Government are prepared to give His Majesty’s Government assurances that the German Government has suspended aggressive action, the Poles today were warned yesterday, London was in local darkness last night.”

ON THE HOME FRONT

Poles stop advance

“Warsaw bombed”

Reports from Warsaw and Paris early today said that the Poles are everywhere stemmering the German advance. A Polish spokesman said: “At no point in our defence has the German army broken through. Our lines are, where they are, practically on the frontiers.”

The Polish radio warned that before nightfall that further advances have been made on Polish cities and towns, including Warsaw, Krakow, Poznan and Przemysl, many of the places being hit by the Poles.

80 YEARS SINCE THE INVASION OF POLAND
The day Polish science came to a brutal halt

It was clear to the occupier that the condition for effective Germanisation of Poland was the elimination of the Polish intelligentsia, and tolerance ended. During the war, several concentration and extermination camps were established for this purpose, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, and others. Poland's scientific community was targeted; its leaders were detained, its members were deported, and its facilities were destroyed. The scientific community was forced to disband, and its research and publications were banned. The day Polish science came to a brutal halt was September 1, 1939, when the German invasion began.

Polish science was plundered and devastated. Scientists, including over 1,000 professional researchers, were arrested and tortured. The societal infrastructure that had supported scientific research in pre-war Poland was destroyed. The universities, research institutions, and scientific societies were disbanded, and their archives were destroyed.

Polish science was a target of the occupation. The occupying forces enacted laws and regulations that restricted scientific activities and research. Scientific institutions were forced to merge with German counterparts, and their leaders were replaced with German administrators. The scientific community was subjected to intense surveillance and censorship. Scientific publications were banned, and the flow of scientific knowledge was disrupted.

The day Polish science came to a brutal halt was also a day of resistance. Polish scientists, including those who were detained in concentration camps, continued to engage in scientific research and resist the occupation. Despite the adversity, the scientific community worked to preserve knowledge and continue scientific activities. The day Polish science came to a brutal halt was a day of intense catching up after the war, finding no opportunities to pursue their scientific ambitions.

Polish-British relations were very special.

On September 3, 1939, Germany invaded Poland from the east, while Nazi Germany, sealed the country from the west by the invasion of Poland's neighbour, the Soviet Union. The outbreak of World War II resulted in the deaths of over 80 million people, including over 6 million Polish Jews. It was the beginning of the war that would change the course of world history.

Polish-British relations were strong. Polish pilots fought alongside the British in the Battle of Britain, and the Polish Army fought alongside the British in the Battle for France. The Polishcryptologists played a key role in deciphering German codes and breaking the enigma code.

The day Polish science came to a brutal halt was a day of intense catching up after the war, finding no opportunities to pursue their scientific ambitions.

How the Poles on the beach of Normandy saved Canadians – a unknown fragment of the war

Polish Britain relations were very special.

On September 3, 1939, Poland was invaded from the east by the Red Army, while Nazi Germany invaded from the west. The outbreak of World War II resulted in the deaths of over 80 million people, including over 6 million Polish Jews. It was the beginning of the war that would change the course of world history.

Polish-British relations were strong. Polish pilots fought alongside the British in the Battle of Britain, and the Polish Army fought alongside the British in the Battle for France. The Polishcryptologists played a key role in deciphering German codes and breaking the enigma code.

The day Polish science came to a brutal halt was a day of intense catching up after the war, finding no opportunities to pursue their scientific ambitions.

How the Poles on the beach of Normandy saved Canadians – a unknown fragment of the war

Polish Britain relations were very special.

On September 3, 1939, Poland was invaded from the east by the Red Army, while Nazi Germany invaded from the west. The outbreak of World War II resulted in the deaths of over 80 million people, including over 6 million Polish Jews. It was the beginning of the war that would change the course of world history.

Polish-British relations were strong. Polish pilots fought alongside the British in the Battle of Britain, and the Polish Army fought alongside the British in the Battle for France. The Polishcryptologists played a key role in deciphering German codes and breaking the enigma code.

The day Polish science came to a brutal halt was a day of intense catching up after the war, finding no opportunities to pursue their scientific ambitions.
DURING the Second World War, hundreds of thousands of Polish works of art, volumes and archives, fell victim to looting or were destroyed forever. Many prominent Polish museum workers and people of culture, as well as museum employees, paid the highest price – the price of their own lives – while attempting to protect national heritage. Despite 80 years passing since the outbreak of the war, Poland has not ceased the search for and retrieval of stolen cultural property.

The targeted and precise actions taken by the Germans on September 1, 1939, and later by the Russians after September 17, 1939, led to the elimination of cultural achievements and the Polish elite. In the German concentration camp Mauthausen, thousands of Polish artists, architects, journalists, writers, poets, musicians, composers, social and political activists, university professors and students were imprisoned. About 30,000 of them were murdered.

German and Soviet crimes were targeted against the Polish intelligentsia, Polish culture, identity, independence; in a word, Poland. In November 1939, the German SS troops carried out Sonderaktion Krakau. Cracow scholars were deceptively gathered at the Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonian University in order to be transported to concentration camps. Among the victims of the crime in Palmyra – executions carried out between December 1939 and July 1941 – there were also representatives of the Polish political, intellectual and cultural elite. Fifty prominent Polish scholars, professors from Lviv, their relatives and co-workers were murdered in July 1941. We cannot forget about the many outstanding Polish artists who died fighting in the ranks of the Home Army during the Warsaw Uprising or even as a result of military operations carried out by the occupiers. Among the 6 million Polish victims of the war, including 3 million Polish Jews, a great number of representatives of the Polish intelligentsia were murdered, among others a third of the Polish elite.

From September 1939, the German authorities inventoried, seized and transported entire museum collections deep into the Reich in a methodical and planned manner. The phenomenon of the perfect organisation of the Nazi machine of confiscation and relocation of Polish heritage was based on pre-war reconnaissance carried out by German art historians. The Red Army was next to plunder Polish cultural heritage. The so-called special trophy brigades (“trolejasje otряды”; trolejasje – captured) secured and sent works of art from Poland to the Soviet Union. To this day, monuments transported from Poland remain in Russian museums. The Russians also systematically stole works of art in Poland after the end of hostilities.

The first post-war estimates listed over 516,000 looted or destroyed Polish paintings and monuments, valued together at several tens of billions of dollars. We lost over half of our museum exhibits. One of the iconic lost works was undoubtedly Portrait of a Young Man by the famous Italian Renaissance painter Raphael Santi. Before the war, it belonged to the Czartoryski collection in Cracow. The painting was confiscated by the German occupation authorities and taken in 1944. Another lost work of the Italian Renaissance is the Lorenzo di Credi’s Adoration of the Child, which was located in the Wielkopolska Museum in Poznań before the war. In 1943, this artwork, along with most of the other stolen paintings, was transported to the forts in Kahlau and then further into Germany – the later Soviet zone of occupation. Unlike Raphael’s masterpieces, the current location of Adoration of the Child is known. It is on display in the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow. Poland is still demanding its return. Among the great works stolen from Poland during the Second World War, there are also paintings by representatives of the twentieth-century avant-garde, including Pablo Picasso. His Guitar collage was an element of the collection of the Municipal Museum of History and Art in Łódź.

In Polish museums and collections, there are still empty spots after the plundering which took place during the war. Polish historians and museologists, supported by the Polish state, are constantly working to recover Polish works of art and collections. They are regaining an increasing number of masterpieces. But this is still just a drop in the ocean. This story is not over yet.