

POLAND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Invasion of Poland, (September Campaign, or 1939 Defensive War in Poland; alternatively the Poland Campaign [Polenfeldzug] or Case White [Fall Weiss] in Germany), was a joint invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany, the Free City of Danzig, the Soviet Union, and a small Slovak contingent, and marked the beginning of World War II in Europe.

The German invasion began on 1st September 1939, while the Soviet invasion commenced on 17th September 1939. The campaign ended on 6th October with Germany and the Soviet Union dividing and annexing the whole of Poland under the terms of the German-Soviet Frontier Treaty. The newly occupied territory, designated the Second Polish Republic, was split into three zones: the General Government or General Governorate (German: Generalgouvernement, Polish: Generalne Gubernatorstwo, Ukrainian: Генеральна губернія) in its centre, the Polish areas annexed by Nazi Germany in the west and Polish areas annexed by the Soviet Union in the east.

This arrangement persisted until 22nd June, 1941 when, with Operation Barbarossa (Unternehmen Barbarossa), Germany attacked Soviet forces and drove them out of the country. The General Government was expanded to include the District of Galicia, and created by Nazi Germany on 1st August 1941 after the opening of Operation Barbarossa. The German General Government controlled Poland until the country was liberated by Soviet and Allied forces in September 1944.

Generalgovernment Red Cross NB1-4. 1940 set “honouring” the Red Cross wartime efforts, with a surcharge going to the German Red Cross funds.

