

“The 17th of September”

I stake my all upon a single cast

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Albert Speer "Memories"

The matter of war and peace has reached a decisive phase. The way it will be solved depends on us only. If we accept a German non-aggression pact, it will allow Germans to attack Poland. We will have a chance to stay aside then. It will allow us to wait for a best time to join a conflict or to reach a target in the other way. So the choice is clear - we should accept a German offer.

Josef Stalin

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No sooner had the pact been announced than aides-de-camp were replaced by political officers of the Reich.

The unique bright northern light was spreading red light over Untersberg while we were standing with Hitler on the terrace of Berkhof in the night. Our faces and hands were unnaturally reddish. Suddenly Hitler said: "It foresees a lot of blood."

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Stanisław Swianiewicz "In the shadow of Katyn"

(3) off *On the 1. September the German army invaded Poland. Seventeen days later two Soviet fronts attacked the back of Polish Army from the East.*

The Soviet government considers as a sacred duty to help its brothers Ukrainians and Belarussians living in Poland.

(4) off *The Soviet attack paralysed the Polish Army and made efficient resistance impossible. In spite of that fact the Polish Army was fighting obstinately with Germans and Soviets till the first days of October.*

We don't want the war but we will defend ourselves.

It is not in vain that we strengthen defence.

We will crush the enemy on his land.

We will strike a blow saving our blood.

The striped border stone number 777 with a Soviet emblem appeared in front of us. It is interesting, where will be the state border, our border stones in the future? Kovalov put his hand on my shoulder: "Why are you dreaming so officer? What would you say if we took this border stone to our new border?"

That is right. Let it indicate our new state border. We took it into the car of our sixth division of cavalry. The border stone number 777 was set in the vicinity of Ostroleka.

Andriej Jeremienko "Remember the war"

Fulfilling the will of English imperialists Polish government drew the society into the disastrous war. Artificial Polish state came to the end after ten days.

After 18 days of the war the High Command of Wehrmacht could announce the end of military campaign in Poland.

The commander of land forces general colonel von Brauchitsch is decorating the most worthy soldiers with medals.

The formal and pompous German officer listened to my words about the necessity of withdrawing German units on the other side of the San. "Jawohl" - he growled in reply."

The temporary demarcation line was set up.

Iwan Tiuleniew: "During three wars"

(5) off In Brest on the Bug Wehrmacht and the Soviet Army organised the march-past in honour of both aggressors' armies. Generals Guderian and Krivoschejn took the salute.

The officers of the III armoured division have received the invitation from general Krivoschejn, the commander of Soviet armoured brigade. Krivoschejn proposed a toast to our both commanders, coming from people. The meal was served in the tent of the general who was coming down from the old tsar's army, speaking French fluently and who had been decorated with Lenin's order. General asked to forgive him not to having invited ladies. He gave us his new address in Moscow and invited us to visit him after the victory over capitalistic England.

Georg Schmidt "The report from the hell"

I will show you our theatre

Are we to annoy our enemy being afraid to shed his blood in consideration of human feelings?

Either will we be looking for the enemy's army in order to destroy it? We can do that by taking the army to prison, by its absolute extermination or using these both ways.

Michail Tuchaczewski "Selected writings"

I remember only the one naive man, who was seeing a possibility of transferring us over the Soviet border but only for a few days. They will bathe you in the baths, show our theatre and send you back.

Józef Czapski "On the inhuman land"

(6) off Newsreels that time were as influential as television nowadays. They were shown in cinemas before the film.

They were a powerful tool of propaganda especially in the III Reich and the Soviet Union. Newsreels were creating the picture of the world and emotions. They were often using the language of hate and lies.

Lvov already belongs to Soviets.

What were people asking us on the streets?

When will we be dividing the land?

Will it be parity?

Is it true that the education is free?

Is it possible to get married in our country?

Do we kiss or not?

Will we be able to pray?

We weren't laughing. We were answering seriously. The authority will be looking like the people want. If anyone wants to pray he can do that but the aristocrats will not come back.

Now it was difficult for us to delude anymore. The first column of prisoners of war was getting longer and longer. Quite a number of us was losing consciousness on the way. We came to the border on Zbrucz. There was a very high wooden cross on one side. On the other - a miserable town.

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Comrade Chrustschov, the Secretary of Ukrainian Communist Party, the member of Ukrainians Front Command has come to Przemyśl.

On 29. of September Ribbentrop came back with the German and Russian treaty about border and friendship which was supposed to confirm the fourth partition of Poland. Ribbentrop told Hitler that he had never felt as good as between collaborators of Stalin. After the negotiations Stalin outlined the area on the border of extended Russian zone and gave it as a huge hunting-grounds to Ribbentrop.

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There is delightful Romania on the other side of Tscheremosh (Czeremosz) River. This is a bridge. Mr Beck fled by car over this bridge.
On the San, on the new border - Old Przemyśl.

We do not deserve that favour

At the foot of the monument to Mickiewicz

Polish nationalists were swearing hate
to Ukrainians and the Jews.

We are announcing the words of Lenin and Stalin here.

Each occupied area becomes Soviet territory. There will be the authority of workers and peasants on them. We are enlarging this way our area as the navel station and the socialistic region.

Michail Tuchaczewski "Selected writings"

The writers of Soviet Ukraine and Soviet Russia
are making their way towards grave
of great Ukrainian writer, democrat Ivan Franko.

Twelve thousand of workers,

Polish, Ukrainians and the Jews

are following them as the sign of everlasting Stalin's friendship between
societies.

I was lying. I was communist but I wanted to believe. Once it was such a celebration. The anniversary of the death of Ivan Franko on the Lytchakovski

graveyard. Polewka made a speech. He was a great speaker, tribune, demon, outrageously bad man, brute, sadist but at the same time with such a sensitive soul. Those red banners on the graveyard. And here Mickiewicz, Franko. My God, everything was known. But I must to say it had an effect. Then the iron broom came, terror. And later I was in factories. I saw hungry workwomen who were fainting during work.

Aleksander Wat "My century"

Unemployed inhabitants of Lvov are going to work to the Soviet Union.

(9) off People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs arrested many people: The members of non-communist parties, youth and sports organisations. Policemen, former policemen, the functionaries of prisons, officers and non-commissioned officers of non-Soviet armies, refugees, emigrants, the representatives of foreign companies, civil servants, former officials, workers of the Red Cross, ecclesiastics, the nobility, landlords, merchants, bank clerks, manufacturers, the owners of hotels and restaurants and people being in contacts with foreigners.

At least five thousand of arrested people were killed soon.

The castles of old aristocratic Poland are being cleared.

There will be hospitals, schools and peasant's houses here.

The act of regular justice.

The goods grabbed by aristocrats are coming back to people.

The things left by aristocrats who ran away to Romania were divided between people.

We have brought them the new law. The law of free people.

The constitution of great Stalin.

We were talking about our history, cheerful creative life, about the right to education, work and the rest.

People were listening to us like spellbound.

The new Soviet territories were preparing themselves to elections.

On the mouths of people there were words of friendship between societies, the Soviet authority, the union with great family of Soviet people.

(10) off On the 22. of October 1939 counterfeited elections were prepared and carried on the areas annexed to the Soviet Union.

93% of voters went to the polls in Ukraine. In Belarus over 96%. Less than the half of entitled voted during the last elections for Polish Parliament. The real masters of those lands were chosen: workers, peasants, working intellectuals.

Why did I vote for you? As you are ours - the fighting daughter of people. I can say today: Long life to Stalin who "gave us the birth".

(11) off After the elections many allegedly spontaneous actions were organised. They were pronouncing in favour of incorporation eastern lands to the Soviet Union.

The new day has come. The night of capitalism is behind us. There are red banners in front of us. The working class of the Soviet Union gave us a helping hand.

Neither capitalist nor gendarmerie will come back. As the Red Army will be standing on our borders. We gained a favour of proletariat of the Soviet Union.

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