



# Blitzkrieg: The Nazi Invasion of Poland

WWII begins: September 1, 1939

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpYpbiIZDGw&feature=related>





# GERMAN INVASION OF POLAND SEPTEMBER 1, 1939

0 100  
MILES

Invasion Routes

- Greater Germany
- Soviet Union



## T-4 Program: Euthanasia October 1939

- Named after the address where the program operated: Tiergartenstrasse 4, Berlin
- Hitler authorized Children's Euthanasia program
  - Starved to death or lethal injections
    - Some used for experiments
- Hitler further authorized a program for adults
  - Huge process involving doctors, professors, social workers, nurses, and other health professionals.
    - Targeted institutionalized adults with mental illnesses and disabilities
    - Formula: 1000:10:5:1

- Every 1000 people
  - 10 needed psychiatric treatment
    - 5 of those were institutionalized
      - 1 of every 5 qualified for euthanasia
        - It was murder
    - 65-75 thousand people targeted for death
      - Had little to do with the actual health of the person
- Red + sign = death
- Blue - sign = live
- Those doctors who could not participate were excused. There were plenty who were happy to do the work.



- Experimented with various killing methods
  - Injections and poison
  - Faster means were necessary
    - First successful gassing
      - Grafeneck Palace, Wurttemberg
      - Hospital for physically handicapped
        - Converted into a killing center



- In Poland September 1939:
  - Germans began shooting Polish mental patients
  - By November 1 they had murdered almost 4000
- Elsewhere in Poland
  - SS execution squads murdered residents of mental institutions in order to empty buildings they needed for their own use!
  - “Kaiser’s Coffee”
    - Special labeled van used as a mobile killing unit.
      - Carbon monoxide gas fed from the van back into the back of the van to asphyxiate the passengers.