

The End of the Sitzkrieg

Now marks the end of a phony war. Chamberlain has stepped down, and Hitler has stepped up. We no longer have the choice between appeasement and action. However, under the direction of Britain's new prime minister, Winston Churchill, Britain will surely be guided out of the tumult whose stench wrecks in our esteemed country. I, Lord Beaverbrook, have been elected leader of the Ministry of Aircraft Production in the midst of the intensifying circumstances, and plan to carry out a course of action which will end Nazi occupation in the free lands of Europe.

While I am a conservative and previously supported Chamberlain's policy of appeasement even during the Nazi invasion of Poland, in light of the consequences of the Munich conference, it has now come to my understanding that Hitler is a force which must be reckoned with. One must understand that only recently coming out of the Great War, the international community still has the scars of wounds inflicted by the deaths and damage amassed and therefor has fiercely avoided a rehashing of those events. It has been Germany, though, that felt those scars the deepest. Thanks to the Treaty of Versailles, which blamed the Germans for the Great War and forced a series of reparations which severely damaged their economy, Hitler has been able to rise up amongst a fervent people impassioned by an ideology which would demonstrate Germany's power against opposing European forces. In 1938, when Hitler invaded Sudetenland in the name of expanding the German state and uniting the Aryan people, we held the Munich conference which ultimately guaranteed him his desired portion of Czechoslovakia [1]. Chamberlain, and admittedly I also, believed that by satisfying the lighter of Germany's demands we could effectively pacify the situation. It wasn't until the Nazis invaded Norway and began sinking British supply ships that I, along with a countless number of the British population, declared vile the idea of passivity and since then have begun a movement for decisive action against the German state [2].

With the British country in full gear for war, Churchill's decision to elect me a member of the cabinet undoubtedly comes from my long-held ability to unite people into action. My current abilities take root in my involvement in the Great War, in which I was put in charge of the Canadian War Records Office in London where I chronicled Canadian involvement on the Western Front [3]. There, I creatively utilized photographers, artists and filmmakers who drafted material which was used as propaganda to encourage members of my Canadian country to join the war efforts. I additionally established an Overseas Press Center and arranged for meetings with journalists as well as influential leaders of the time to spread the word of the war and its noble cause [4].

Since then, I've realized the power of news coverage and have even come to own the most powerful and widely circulated newspaper of our time: *The Daily Express*. I bought interest in the paper in 1916 and, in saving it from its probable demise, quickly came up with a "tabloid" style of newspaper which included flashing headlines, sensational stories, and even a crossword puzzle which has helped to make it the most popular newspaper in the world [5]. With this alone, I hold the power the guide the minds of our current civilization and the ability to steer Britain to freedom with the click of a typewriter.

While some may point out my copious affairs with the most ravishing ladies of British notability as a fallacy of my being, I must point out to them that these were more a testimonial of my extremely magnetic personality than a show of my willingness to give into indulgence. It has been pointed out several times that I have the power to make those with which I converse with

feel like the most important person in the entire world. In this great game of manipulation and deceit which we all like to call war, my abilities are an extreme asset to the British cabinet as they stand. In fact, Churchill's notice of my dynamism and potential to motivate people has been cited as the reason he saw potential in me to be the leader of aircraft manufacture [6]. In an interview on our intimate relationship, the old chap exclaimed, "Some people take drugs. I take Max."

With my vital and vibrant energy necessary to get Britain through its finest hour well cited, I must now begin to detail the ideas I have.

The first thing that we need to do is to get our very own people to back us using the most powerful force in the entire world: propaganda. It's not just the soldiers, but the mothers, fathers, and families whom we need in order to increase the magnitude of our war efforts. That's why I propose the plan Pots and Pans for Planes, in which we ask families to donate their utensils to be repurposed into material for aircraft. Because I'm the owner of the extremely successful British newspaper, *The Daily Express*, I can help to market the plan. After serving in the Ministry of Information in the Great War, I've come to realize how important it is to create a tangible way for homebodies to participate in the war effort. If we want to win this war, we have to make sure that our people are winning it with us.

Second, I believe we must make one last attempt at reconciliation with the Reich before we begin decisive attacks by offering to send the German population onto man-made islands in the Atlantic Ocean. It's obvious that Hitler's reason for invading surrounding European nations is to satisfy *Lebensraum*, or the need to create living space for Germans [7]. Rumor has it that his true reason for doing so is because of Germany's highly disorganized agricultural sector in which the responsibility for food production is divided up into small farms, thus creating a need for lots of land in order for the country to be self-sufficient. Instead of participating in international trade, like our great country Britain, to increase internal development, Hitler has decided to ensue a regime which would resettle Germans into Poland, Ukraine, and Eastern Russia and starve its inhabitants so that the Germans could eat. By rallying international support and channeling funds into the League of Nations for the creation of these islands, I strongly believe that we can avoid the death of thousands, perhaps millions of civilians.

If Hitler refuses this deal, our great cabinet has no other choice but to engage in a hands-on war against the Nazi regime. Should we choose to invade Germany directly, I propose the plan Trick or Treat. First, I recommend we utilize British radio stations to broadcast fake plans for an attack on Germany. With the knowledge that Germany will surely be listening to our radios, as they always have been, we will wait for them to move into the site of our attack, and then move in with a sneak attack from the outside using our infantry as well as our RAF forces. The most notable part of my plan involves the use of treats, however. I believe that instead of using bombs for these sneak attacks, we must replace our artillery with the likes of food and desserts instead. Not only will this decrease the amount of casualties expected in orthodox warfare, but it will increase German expenditure on sanitation services. It will additionally inspire a new military standard which will not seek death, but instead only damage to provoke thoughtfulness instead of the usual spite which catalyzes countries into action against their foes. Furthermore, the sheer surprise and confusion by the treat bombs will undoubtedly be followed by a period of discussion and therefore mitigation between the allies and Germany. I strongly believe that by partaking in this Sweet War, we can terminate hostilities, promote discussion, end Nazi encroachment on our free continent, and win the war for all.

Works Cited

- [1] <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005070>
- [2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_Campaign
- [3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Aitken,_1st_Baron_Beaverbrook
- [4] <http://www.gwpda.org/bio/a/aitken.htm>
- [5] <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/974835.stm>
- [6] <https://winstonchurchill.hillsdale.edu/great-contemporaries-max-aitken-lord-beaverbrook/>
- [7] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q78COTwT7nE>