

On the day of his Reichstag speech on September 1, the Führer addressed the Wehrmacht with the following appeal:

To the Wehrmacht!

The Polish state has refused the peaceful settlement of neighborly relations I sought; instead, it has appealed to arms.

The Germans in Poland are being persecuted with bloody terror, driven from their homes and farms. A series of border violations intolerable for a great power proves that the Poles are no longer willing to respect the German Reich border. To put an end to this insane activity, I have no other means than to use force against force from now on.

The German Wehrmacht will wage the fight for the honor and the right to life of the resurrected German people with fierce determination.

I expect that every soldier, mindful of the great tradition of eternal German soldiery, will fulfill his duty to the very end.

Always and in all situations, remain aware that you are the representatives of National Socialist Greater Germany! Long live our people and our Reich!

Berlin, September 1, 1939.

Adolf Hitler.

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