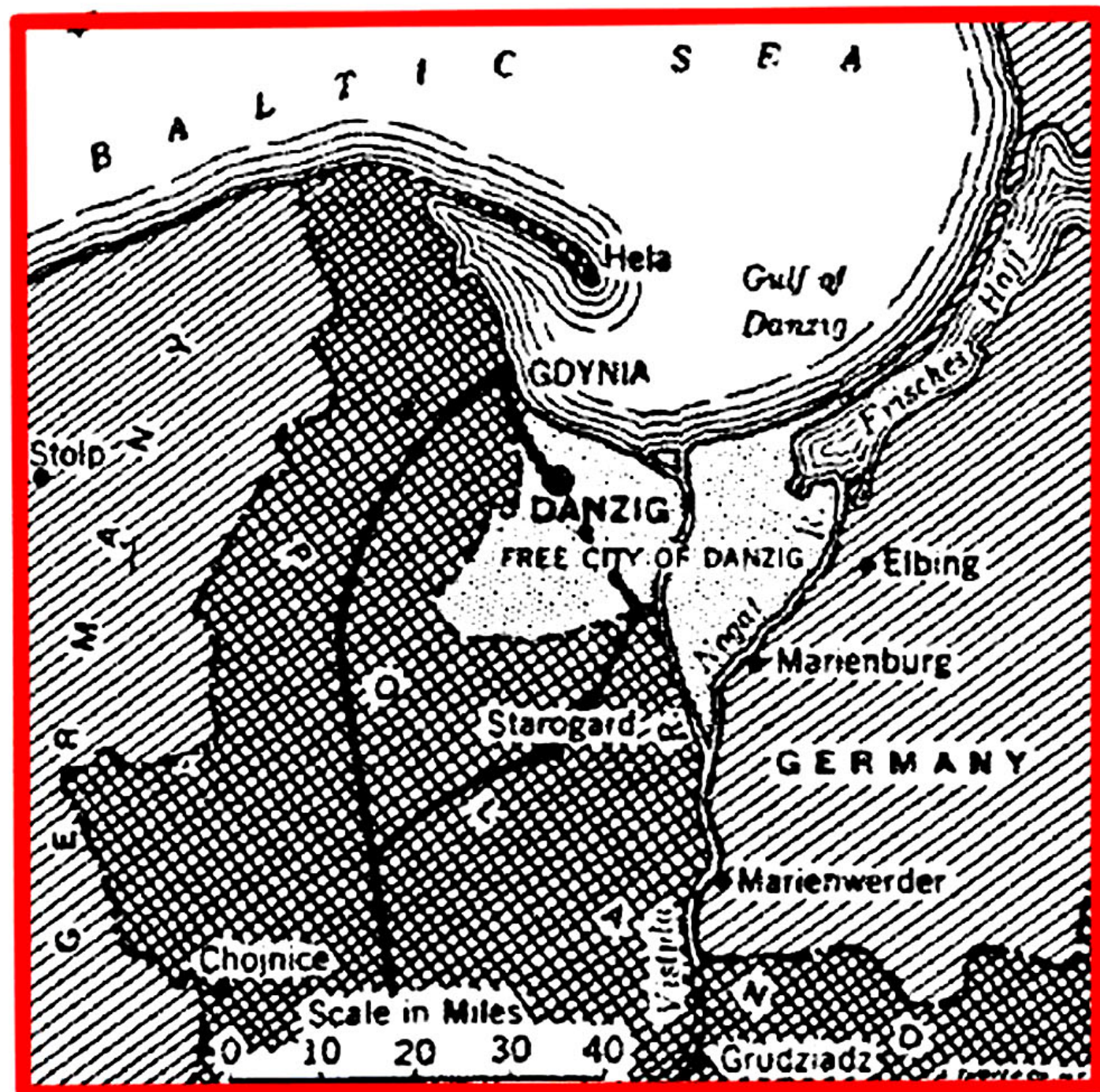


DEFIANT DANZIGER: Greiser Greeted by Goose-Steppers on His Return From Geneva



LITERARY DIGEST Map

Gdynia, accessible by rail (black line), will be Poland's chief port if Danzig goes to Germany

Snapping the Nazi salute, 200 goose-stepping members of Hitler's SS (Guard Troop), clad in trim black uniforms, triumphantly greeted Dr. Arthur Karl Greiser, Senate President of the Free City of Danzig, as he arrived from his nose-thumbing trip to Geneva last week.

Complaisantly, the blond, thirty-nine-year-old leader smiled at the crowd of some 500 Nazis gathered outside the railway station and, amidst roaring cheers, told them: "Germany is back of us. I am sure that at Geneva I gave expression to what was in the heart of the people of Danzig."

Pleased that his speech before the League of Nations Council had created a Nazi scare in Europe, Greiser demanded that the League's High Commissioner for Danzig, Sean Lester, be dismissed for "interfering in the city's internal affairs."

Eight hours later, baldish, calm Lester arrived at the same station. Dismissing his automobile and the reported fear of a Nazi assault, the Irishman strolled the 150 yards to his official residence, a stone's throw from the Senate building. Also back from Geneva, Lester found Nazi tempers fanned to white heat by his report that the captain of the German cruiser *Leipzig* had snubbed his office by failing to make the official call.

Poland Aroused—That same day Dr. Casimir Papée, Commissioner for Poland which is League-appointed to administer Danzig's foreign affairs, returned from a one-day air trip to Warsaw. He warned Greiser that Poland would oppose all change in Danzig's political status and frowns upon Nazi persecution of the opposing parties.

Reminded of Poland's rights and her ten-year non-aggression treaty with the Reich, Greiser reconsidered his rash action and made vague promises. A few hours later, however, he retaliated by lengthening the decreed suspension of the strong Socialist newspaper, *Danziger Volksstimme*, to another two months.

Bitterly resenting Lester's custodianship of Opposition rights, Greiser and his Nazi followers especially decry the High Commissioner's January report to the League, in which he called attention to Nazi terrorism and violation of the Free City Constitution. Lester had also dubbed Albert Forster, Nazi district leader, a fanatic who believes that every German should offer unconditional loyalty to Hitler.

Another Leader—Danzig Nazis felt the remarks keenly because they regard Forster as even more powerful than Greiser, his official "front." Forster, a Bavarian by birth, is a member of the German Reichstag and is officially set down as "a leader of the Danzig division of the National Socialist Party."

Lester's main concern was safeguarding the Danzig minorities—Social Democrats, Centrists, German Nationalists, Communists and Polish Parties—against Nazi attacks, which have been frequent since Hitler came into power and his party became entrenched in Danzig about three years ago.

To strike terror into the heart of the Opposition, which issued a manifesto repudiating his Geneva speech and affirmed their adherence to the League and the present Constitution, Greiser convoked a secret meeting of the Senate. With the memory of the Opposition's vote, last year, against a change in the City's status still fresh, the Nazi Senate majority laid down plans to suppress their organizations, ban their newspapers and ostracise the League's High Commissioner, thereby insulting the League itself.

As deeply concerned about doings in Danzig is Poland's laconic Foreign Minister Joseph Beck, who maintains a policy of even balances between Germany and Russia, his most troublesome neighbors. To checkmate Red propaganda on his Russian borders, he leans heavily on German friendship, knowing that Danzig's position on the mouth of the traffic-laden Vistula makes compromise necessary.

Nazi Patience—Neither Beck nor Hitler is anxious to come to a break over Danzig. Hitler, a sworn enemy of Soviet Russia, advises his Danzig Nazis to forbear from mentioning their intention of completely abandoning League control for secession to Germany. Their ostensible complaint is that the League's Commissioner should limit himself to settling disputes between Poland and Danzig, instead of protecting the rights of the Opposition.

Reaffirming the Government's firm position, the Polish official daily, *Gazeta Polska*, finds that while the régime has no "intention of being drawn into the conflict over internal political quarrels at Danzig, we will not tolerate any violation of our treaty rights in the Free City." The Polish National Party's *Kurjer Warszawski*, however, frankly admits: "A great catastrophe may still be averted if Poland shows her thoughts and will with such clarity and determination that all the world will know that we have no sympathy with revisionist activity."

In Germany the *Voelkischer Beobachter*, organ of the Nazi Party, was guarded. "Germany," it said, "hopes that the League will be in a position to deal with the Danzig issue in such a way as to clear up conditions."