

### The importance of autumn 1939 for the climate research

The autumn of 1939 has a unique importance for climate research. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1939, climate statistics was free from any "external" influence. The winter of 1938/39 had been the warmest in the past few hundred years. Since the end of the WWI, Europe had become warmer every year. In the 1930's, no abnormal phenomenon (which could have had an impact on the 'natural course' of climate) had been

recorded either in Europe or in a wider region. In fact, the period between January and August 1939 had been slightly wetter than the average but, otherwise, thoroughly normal. Things changed only when WWII started. The impact of naval warfare on climate and nature occurred very suddenly. Oceanic and atmospheric matters run according to physical laws, but react to brutal forces. An excellent example is the autumn of 1939, when Northern European waters were suddenly confronted with the action of 1000 naval ships, which came up with a devastating force, powered by newly developed military means, like shells, torpedoes, sea mines, and aerial bombs.

Last four months of 1939

