

Do we take shelter? Evaluating “high stakes” information

Broadcast 1: War is on the way

Thursday, September 5, 1940, 9 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time

[Standard ham radio operator statement]

Ernie: George Eight Ack London, G 8 A L, this is Vic Edward Three Eddy Fox calling. Come in please.

Sheila: Vic Edward Three Edward Fox, This is George Eight Ack Love returning, Hello Ernie.

Ernie: Hello, Sheila. How are you?

Sheila: I'm fine. How are you?

Ernie: I'm okay, although everyone here is talking as if a war with Germany is only days away. Same in Canada. My dad has been sending clippings from The Globe and Mail all summer and he believes that war is just around the corner.

Sheila: My mother agrees with him. Look what happened on Saturday: Germany invaded Poland and on the radio say that are that our Parliament has already declared that unless Germany withdraws, Britain will fulfill its obligation to Poland.

Ernie: Things are definitely ramping up. I'm itching to sign up although my parents and grandparents won't like it. But I can shoot a .22 as well as the next guy and want to do my part.

Sheila: My brothers feel the same way. But Mama is very worried and doesn't want to think of the possibility of losing them.

Ernie: Mothers! No sense of adventure. If war is declared, it looks like we won't be able to communicate on the radio. I still get the newsletter for the Canadian amateur radio operators and word is that the government is going to shut them down—can't be spreading any information to the enemy.

Sheila: Yes, and apparently inspectors are all ready to visit hams across England and confiscate their equipment. But I think we can stay in touch.

Ernie: Oh yeah, how's that?

Sheila: Can't say more now but will write.

Ernie: Great and, in the meantime, I can keep improving my Morse. Listen to this:
[play Morse code.] Great, eh?

Sheila: Needs more practice. I have to sign off now, but I'll write soon. George Eight
Ack London clear.

Ernie: Seventy-Three, Vic Edward Three Eddy Fox clear and closing down.