

PATHFINDER

A NEWS REVIEW
OF WORLD AFFAIRS



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... Allies vs. Nazis

Western Europe's war was highlighted last week by words. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and German Chancellor Adolf Hitler set forth anew, but in characteristic vein, their countries' war aims.

In *Birmingham*, his home town, Chamberlain wound up a series of Cabinet "pep talks" with one of the sharpest fight speeches he has made since the war started. Flatly ruling out any peace with present German leaders, he called upon the German people to establish a government that could be "trusted." Germany, he said, was fighting for the destruction of Britain and domination of the world, while the Allies were fighting to prevent the achievement of that Nazi objective, as well as to restore the independence of the Poles and Czechs. Until the Allies have tangible evidence that Germany "has once and for all abandoned the thesis that might makes right," he declared, the war would go on and Britain had no fear of the ultimate outcome.

In *Munich*, Hitler quickly replied. Speaking to 2,000 of his most trusted followers—old veterans observing the 20th anniversary of the Nazi party's founding in Munich's famous Hofbrauhaus—and to the nation and the world by radio, he declared Germany would fight "until the terror of the plutocracies has been broken." Outstanding in his speech was the revival of the old World War battle cry of Imperial Germany — *Gott mit Uns*

WAR ABROAD

While Chamberlain and Hitler were exchanging their verbal darts, the war continued in low gear:

- *Sea:* In actual blows struck at sea, the score last week seemed about even, except for the neutrals, who lost another dozen ships. The Allies claimed the sinking of seven Nazi submarines, the seizure of two ore-laden German freighters and the sinking of two other Nazi vessels. Against this Britain lost two naval trawlers and seven merchantmen.

Meanwhile the Allies, as an aftermath of the dramatic rescue of 326 British seamen from the Nazi prison ship *Altmark* two weeks ago, decided to tighten their blockade around Germany. With the *Altmark* incident with Norway still unsettled, they began closing the gap through which the Nazis, by using neutral Norwegian waters, had been evading the sea blockade. To accomplish this the far-flung Allied contraband control was extended to the Arctic Ocean where British warships sent two German vessels to the bottom.

- *Air:* Improving weather brought a new spurt in air activity, but the sky conflict remained largely a sparring match between Allied and Nazi reconnaissance planes.

- *Land:* On the Western Front the first thaws of spring were accompanied by a slight rise in the fortress war's tempo. Scouting activities and artillery duels were intensified, but no large-scale operations were reported.