

(The latest news from Finland is an absolute denial that the Red army has broken through the main line of Finnish fortifications, what is called -- the Mannerheim Line.) Dispatches from Helsinki declare outright that the Red army attack has not even approached the main defenses across the narrow neck of land, ~~that is called~~ the Karelian Isthmus. (The stories tell how the Reds are trying to push along the few roads that lead through the forests -- heavy tanks in the van, followed by Bolshevik infantry.

The Finns lurk in the dense woods and fire on the Soviet columns with automatic weapons.) Their woodland shelter gives them concealment from Red warplanes flying overhead. Such is the battle picture we get, as the tiny nation continues

its astonishing resistance against the Communist colossus.

The Finns today officially charge that the Red are using poison gas.

Swedish military observers ~~give us an explanation~~

declare that the Soviet motorized equipment is not adapted to operate

on the snow and ice terrain of Finland in winter -- tanks

and armoured cars impeded by deep snowdrifts.) And Soviet

aviation too is handicapped because of ice -- ice that forms

on the wings of Red army planes and forces them down.
Moreover Finland is so near the Arctic, and the winter days are so short -- with little time suited for aerial activity. This is said to put the Soviet air corps in a tough spot. The ~~Soviet~~ ^{Stalin} Government is not soft in taking excuses. The Moscow Reds are said to be irked because the Red army air raids thus far have not been so successful. And today a Swedish newspaper prints a report that twenty-one Red army pilots have been shot by the OGPU, executed for sabotage or refusal to obey orders.

In the Far North of Finland, above the Arctic Circle, war stories hark back to primeval America, ^{and} describe the fighting ~~in~~ these two reminiscent words -- "Indian fashion." Small parties hunting each other out amid polar snow and ice.

That Far Northern Finnish news brings us one odd touch of color. Among the refugees crossing the border into Norway today was a tribe of Lapps. They trekked across, Santa Claus fashion -- with their reindeer; ~~they~~ refused to take shelter in houses with the other ~~ix~~ refugees and camped out ^{a la Lapp} ~~in their~~ ⁱⁿ Lapland, ~~fashion.~~

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An incident to remind us of those curious Arctic tribes --

~~the Lapps~~ ^{now} involved in the present turmoil. The thunder

of a modern war catches up with Santa Claus ^{and his reindeer,}
~~as Xmas approaches.~~

It might seem as if the surprise fight that Finland
is putting up has awakened the world -- perhaps the giant

and much-vaunted Red army can be resisted, held off by a tiny

nation. And that revelation might seem to be inspiring ~~to~~

various nations to send ~~xxx~~ armament to Finland. Even ~~Nazis~~

Nazi Germany is chipping in, as we heard last night -- though

this seems to be a case of the Nazis just filling routine

armament orders, not stopping these. ~~Various nations sending~~

~~weapons to help Finland resist.~~ ^{TF} France is mentioned today.

And the fifty or sixty war planes that Italy has flown to

Finland are being ^{further} reinforced by sky squadrons sent from

~~Finland~~ England. ~~Today brings further reports of British,~~

~~planes for Finland.~~

But what about aviators? It doesn't seem likely

that the small Finnish army would have ^{many} trained war pilots.

But here the news brings us a surprise -- a report that Finland

has five thousand well-trained military aviators.

That many in active service right now -- and others in
reserve.

FOLLOW FINLAND

○

Nations hurrying arms to Finland may be incited by reports from Soviet Russia - that the Red Utopia is an armed camp, five ^M billion men ready for war! Heavy troop concentrations not only against Finland but also on the borders of Roumania and Turkey. The menacing picture might seem to indicate that the Soviets are prepared to strike out in various directions, taking advantage of the war between the Allies and Nazi Germany, for a grab on all sides, to spread the empire of Red Communism.

Today the calamitous European scene appears as if it might be on the verge of a transformation - with Red Russia looming as the Number One menace, which the Allies may be forced to fight. And the focus of it all is the little nation of Finland, ^{batling} ~~fighting~~ for its life - and giving the Red army a real test, which other nations are watching with profound interest.

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Three Scandinavian nations made joint plans today in an effort to bring about the end of the struggle so near their own borders. The Foreign Ministers of Sweden, Norway and Denmark have issued a statement declaring that their governments will make a determined effort ~~1~~ for peace negotiations between Finland

and the Soviets. The effort will be made through the League of Nations.

In the United States - new moves to help the Finns!

The Red Cross speaks up through the mouth of its Chairman - Norman Davis. He had a conference with President Roosevelt today and then said that the American Red Cross may launch a drive for a Finnish Relief Fund. It would be a public subscription for a special fund to aid the little Republic of the north. Norman Davis said that contributions to aid the Finns are already flowing into Red Cross headquarters. "I don't think there is any question about the people wanting to help Finland," Norman Davis declared, ^{and} ~~"The sentiment is~~
~~amazing."~~ ~~And he~~ added, "The sentiment is amazing!"

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Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau said today that negotiations are under way for a loan to Finland, a loan to be made by the Import-Export Bank. ^{And} It is revealed that the idea of such a loan was broached by the Finns before the invasion began.

WESTERN FRONT

The Western Front claims a headline today, with reports of skirmishing all along the line. It's all so quiet on the Western Front these days, that skirmishes by patrols flare into the news. The French report sixty of these minor clashes between outposts. They say that in some cases attacks on the French patrols were made by German parties, each as numerous as a

company of troops, ^{or} about a hundred men. *In the World War they ^{or} attacked by the tens of thousand.*

This skirmish news ~~on the Western Front~~ brings us one of those human-interest war stories. It features the names of two men who for years were prominent in European bicycle news - two bike racers, a Frenchman and a German. Time after time Robert Oubron worked the pedals as hard as he could, spinning against Carl Stoepel. Bitter rivals on the track, good friends off their bikes.

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Today's story tells of a sniping duel in ~~No-~~
No Man's Land, with ^{or} ~~the~~ French patrol taking three German prisoners. One of the Germans was shot through the hand. It was at night, and only when they got to a dug-out could the captors and their prisoners get a good look at each other. One of the Frenchmen and one of the Germans stared with astonishment. "Oubron!"

shouted the German. "Stoepel!" cried the Frenchman. The two

been shooting at each other
bike racers had ~~met~~ on the field of battle. ~~Stoepel was the~~

And now they embraced. Stoepel was the
German shot through the hand and it was Oubron who bandaged

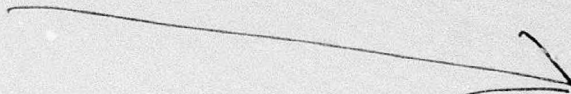
the injury - fixed up the hand that so often ^{*had*} held the handlebar

when the two cyclists had raced against each other!

AIRPLANES

There was a lot of air activity in the war zone today. A British report tells of German flying boats that came winging to the Firth of Forth and got into a fight with a patrol of the Royal Air Force. The Nazi war planes were driven off, says London.

Berlin tells of air fights over the North Sea near the coast of the Netherlands, and relates a melodramatic incident. It tells that in the heat of ~~the~~ battle, one German pilot deliberately rammed a British plane, drove his own sky craft into the Britisher, and both went spinning down to crash in the sea. The crew of the German plane is reported to have been picked up by a neutral ship.



planes - 2

~~SHIPS~~
Also a battle of planes against ships
is reported by

^ Norwegian fishermen who declare that today, twenty miles off

the coast of Norway, they saw a squadron of German aircraft

attacking several British war vessels - the planes bombing,

the ships shooting with anti-aircraft fire.

SHIPS

Today's news of the war on the sea gives a heavy list of destruction - ships sunk by mines or torpedoes. The principal victim was a neutral vessel - another instance of how the Nazi sea campaign is bearing down on the shipping of neutrals.

A Dutch liner bound from Antwerp to Java, was blown up in the English Channel. She had sixty-seven persons aboard.

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A Belgian ship was nearby and all were rescued save six. *Later the Belgian ship with the survivors ran aground on the English coast!*
Another victim was a British armed trawler. Interesting,

because the vessel was named - the WASHINGTON, a British naval craft with that very American name! Interesting also because the WASHINGTON is said to be the first victim of mines dropped by a German war plane yesterday - mines dropped in the estuary of the Thames.

One big craft that sank was the victim of neither mine nor torpedo - the British liner CHANCELLOR, lost in the North Atlantic. The CHANCELLOR was a member of a convoy, and got into a collision with another steamer in the group. One badly damaged, the other sunk - by the accident. *All hands saved*

~~A battle of planes against ships is reported by~~

HITLER

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A Paris newspaper prints today what are said to be some pleasant ideas that Hitler has about the United States. The author of the article is the former Nazi leader, Herman Rauschnigg, who was once President of the Senate of the City of Danzig. He tells how previous to the outbreak of the war, he had a long talk with Hitler in which the Nazi Fuehrer told him that he had ways to keep the U.S.A. from interfering in any European War. Hitler is quoted as telling Rauschnigg the following:- "The United States permanently sits on the edge of revolution," said Der Fuehrer, "and it would not be difficult to foment a few riots and troubles to keep them sufficiently occupied with their own affairs."

I wonder who told Hitler that! ^H The Fuehrer then went on to say something about France, which may also have had its application to the U.S.A. He said he intended to combine war with revolution, and stage a fake Communist revolt in France. Maybe Der Fuehrer intended to stage a fake Communist revolt over here, or perhaps a real Red revolution - now that he's lined up with Stalin and the Reds.

In Mexico city Leon Trotsky announced today that he might be willing to come to the →

*United States and testify before
the Dies Committee about
Stalinist activities in the U.S.*

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The murder of the German Consular official in New York was today connected with Nazi espionage. Dr. Walter Richard Engelberg, Secretary of the German Consul General, was beaten to death as he lay in bed in his Brooklyn apartment. The King County Medical Examiner now gives out a statement that Engelberg was connected with the German Intelligence Service. The Medical Examiner does not say how he came by this information. He adds that the crime was the doing of some enemy taking vengeance. "Engelberg," said he, "was in a line of business where a thing like this could be expected."

The spy angle is accompanied by word that J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is entering the case - the G-men on the job.

The New York police report that they have found a clue - a fingerprint, by which they hope to trace the murderer. The German Embassy in Washington is watching the case in behalf of the Berlin Government.

REPUBLICANS

The Republican National ~~Convention~~ ^{Committee} met in Washington today, with two subjects in the foreground - convention date and Dewey.

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It was immediately apparent that there was a good deal of sentiment in favor of a later convention date and a shorter campaign. ~~This was~~ ^{As had been} recommended by President Roosevelt a couple of weeks ago. Of course, any Republican ~~National~~ ^{Committee would} ~~Convention~~ ^{will} hold up its hands in horror at the thought of accepting any suggestion by a Democratic President. The G.O.P. ^{are} ~~won't take~~ ^{hardly in} any advise from F.D.R. ^{and} ~~of~~ the New Deal. But just the same, one line of thought was in evidence; - the President, in arguing for later convention dates for the two parties, stressed the point of economy. A shorter campaign would cost less money. That has an appealing sound to the Republican National Committee, which faces a seven hundred thousand dollar deficit left over from Nineteen Thirty-Six. And a shorter campaign this year would make it easier to finance what they expect to be - a stormy ^{ing} ~~ing~~ frontal attack against the New Deal.

Republican Chairman John Hamilton said that he was

against the long campaign. "A five month drag is just plain nonsense," said he. ^H No action is being taken, however. The question of a convention date will be settled by a future meeting of the National Committee.

On the subject of Dewey, there was plenty of praise about the speech the New York District Attorney made at Minneapolis last night - his blast about what he called "New Deal defeatism and despair." A characteristic statement was made by Republican Committeeman Harold Mason of ~~Vermont~~ Vermont.

"I think Mr. Dewey's speech was encouraging," said he. "It gave the G.O.P. a real boost on the come-back trail." (This - while the campaigning candidate for the nomination was lining up farm support in Minnesota today - working for a Minnesota-Dewey delegation at ^{next Summer's} ~~the Republican~~ National Convention.)

Last night's Dewey address drew a crackle of ~~his~~ jibes from Secretary of the Interior Ickes. Always crackling with jibes is Harold. He remarked that the candidate-starting-out-for-the-nomination showed that he could talk for twenty-five minutes

Better 25 mins than 2 hours, Harold! ~~That the~~ without saying anything, ~~to which Harold added a note of praise.~~ Then the Secretary added a note of praise.

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out
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You know how Ickes can praise. He described the Dewey pronunciamento in these words:- "About as good as you could expect from one of his age." Yes, Brother Ickes, it's too bad about poor Dewey - he's just an infant. He's only thirty-seven,

Harold, wouldn't you and
~~hardly more than adolescent. Just as I was saying to an ex-show~~
I like to be 37!
~~girl the other night - "Why you're only thirty seven."~~

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How about you, Hugh?