

FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 1940

Russians Slash at Stubborn Finns in Snow Near Viipuri

Reds Attack Desperately On 22d Birthday of Army and Navy.

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the Soviet Government has ordered night air raid blackout training at Baku, center of the Russian oil industry, and that previously orders had been issued for blackout practice at Tashkent, Erivan, Archangel and Leningrad.

The real significance of this news seemed to be shown by the situation of the areas affected.

Baku, on the Caspian Sea, is 290 miles from the Turkish frontier. Thence export oil is sent across country to Batoum on the Black Sea.

Tashkent, in the Uzbek republic, is 300 miles from the Afghanistan frontier.

Article 1 Broadcast

Erivan, capital of the Armenian republic, is but about 15 miles from the Turkish frontier.

Archangel is on the White Sea, 300 miles east of the Finnish Arctic frontier and Leningrad, at the southern end of the Karelian Isthmus, is general headquarters for the Russian armies in Finland.

The Pravda editorial was broadcast by the Moscow Radio.

It was noted that the editorial, apropos of the "heroism of the thousands on the Finnish front, which will be praised in the songs of the people," commented:

"There is much more ahead of you. The duty of every Red soldier, Red sailor, commander and political commissar is to continue extensive military training and to be ready at any time for new battles in any climatic condition."

Pride in Army Stressed

The editorial, published on the 22d anniversary of the formal establishment of the Red Army and Navy was entitled:

"Red Army pride of our nation." It extolled the achievements of the Army in Finland and called 1939 a year of decisive military tests for the defenders of the Soviet Union.

An Army communique said that in the Karelian Isthmus "Soviet troops, repulsing the enemy," occupied 21 Finnish defensive fortifications in all.

Once Russian Division Now Litters Many Acres

WITH FINNISH ARMY NORTH-EAST OF LAKE LADOGA, Feb. 23 (U. P.)—The 18th Russian Division from Jaroslav still lies on the field here, a litter of twisted metal and dead men covering many acres. Russian relief columns, arriving too late to rescue the 18th, are sharing a similar fate. The Finns are mopping up now, hampered only by Russian airplanes.

The annihilation of the 18th Division is weeks old now, but still one of the Finnish Army's proudest accomplishments.

The Finnish general on this front said that at one point in the road, where 500 Russians' bodies carpet the snow, the Russians were warned by loud speaker that they would be destroyed unless they threw their rifles over their shoulders and knelt in token of surrender. The Russians replied with machine gun fire, the general said and a little later the Finns mowed them down with machine guns.

"Practically no one escaped," the general said. "We gave them a chance to surrender."

CLAIM RFC OFFICIALS SUGGESTED LOAN BAN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (U. P.)—The House began consideration today of amendments to the bill extending the reciprocal trade program for three years and may reach a final vote before adjourning. General debate on the bill ended Wednesday.

Republicans held little hope of defeating the bill. There will, however, be an open test when a motion is made to recommit the bill to committee—tantamount to killing it.

Meanwhile the House Banking Committee rejected a proposal to give Finland a \$30,000,000 war loan with which to purchase arms or any other American commodities it needs.

The proposal was made by Rep. William J. Miller (R., Conn.), a World War veteran.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

Here Is the Traffic Record

DEATHS TO DATE

County	City	Total
1939	4	5
1940	4	7
Total 22		

Injured 9 | Arrests 26

Dead 4 | Accidents 13

THURSDAY TRAFFIC COURT

Cases Convic- Fines

Violations tried paid

Speeding 7 6 \$33

Reckless driving 3 3 21

Failure to stop at through street 7 7 10

Disobeying traffic signal 8 7 5

Drunken driving 0 0 2

All others 12 12 2

Total 37 35 \$71

MEETINGS TODAY

Exchange Club, luncheon, Hotel Severin.

Optimist Club, luncheon, Columbia Club noon.

State Press Assn. convention, Hotel Lincoln.

Child Welfare League of America, luncheon.

Indiana State Life Underwriters, meeting, Claypool Hotel, 4 p.m.

Indiana Engineering Council, luncheon, Hotel Lincoln, Saturday.

MEETINGS TOMORROW

Hoosier State Press Association, conven-

tion, Hotel Lincoln.

E. G. Atkins & Co. Pioneers, ban-

quet, Hotel Severin.

Big Four Route Veterans' Association, Indianapolis Life Insurance Co., lunche-

on, Claypool Hotel, noon.

Indiana Engineering Council, Sales

Conference, meeting, Claypool Hotel, 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Indiana Engineering Council, conven-

tion, Hotel Lincoln, Saturday.

BIRTHS

Claris Ruby Kelley at Coleman.

Vaughn Pauline Benjamin, at City.

Lawrence Arnta Kramer, at St. Vin-

cent.

William Elizabeth Matheson, at St. Vin-

cent.

Olive Kerr, at St. Vincent's.

Laodore Esther Sacks, at Methodist.

Dorothy Ellen Trusty, at Methodist.

BRITAIN BOMBS NAZI WARSHIPS AT HELGOLAND

German Plane Is Reported Shot Down During Raid Off Essex Coast.

(Continued from Page One)

two submarines of the Scottish coast Wednesday. Sea conditions made it difficult to observe the result of the attacks, but the crew expressed belief that both submarines had been damaged, at least, and might possibly have been destroyed.

It was announced that the naval trawler *Fifeside* had been sunk by German airplanes Tuesday, and that it was feared two officers and 19 men were lost. One man survived. The naval trawler *Solent* returned to port after driving off attacking planes.

British Blockade Russian Arctic Port of Murmansk

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Feb. 23 (U. P.)—British warships concentrating from positions all along the Norwegian coast, are blockading the Russian Arctic port of Murmansk, it was reported today.

The newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* reported that the blockade was intended to prevent German steamships, which had taken refuge in Murmansk harbor, from escaping along the Norwegian coast and to stop any German ships which might try to take munitions to Russia or the Finnish Arctic area of Petsamo, which the Russians hold.

It had been confirmed that British warships had been seen off Petsamo. *Berlingske Tidende* reported that a big squadron was now off the Arctic Coast.

Reports that Admiral N. G. Kuznetsov, Russian Navy Commissar, had flown to Murmansk were accepted in Scandinavia as probably correct. It was reported also that Russia was hastily diverting troops who could be spared from Finnish fronts to reinforce its army in the Arctic.

Activity in the Far North came a day ahead of one of the most important Scandinavian diplomatic conferences on record—the meeting here tomorrow of the Danish, Norwegian and Swedish foreign ministers.

Aid to Finland and a possible joint protest to Germany against its submarine and airplane attacks on neutral shipping in the North Sea were prime problems on the program for discussion. It was forecast that the foreign ministers would affirm official neutrality in the Russo-Finnish war and would discuss the advisability of a joint move to protest the German campaign, to demand payment for ships already sunk and Scandinavian lives lost, to reaffirm the policy of free movement of belligerent ships in Scandinavian waters, and to form convoys for Scandinavian shipping.

AWAIT HOUSE VOTE ON TRADE PROGRAM

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Chains of Love



DECISIVE PHASE SEEMS NEAR IN BATTLE OF OIL

Nazi Economic Expert Heads For Bucharest Where Allies Seek to Curb Exports.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS Times Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—Monday may see the beginning of a decisive phase in the struggle for oil, the most vital of all war commodities.

Dr. Karl Clodius, German economic expert, is scheduled to begin negotiations in Bucharest for a larger share of Rumanian oil. Already Germany has used pressure, but in vain. Britain and France have blocked the Nazi moves, so a showdown seems imminent.

All this is far more important than might appear on the surface. Experts generally agree that the Western Front is permanently deadlocked. The Nazis can hardly expect to break through the Maginot Line and the Allies are up against an equally impenetrable Westwall.

So a decision must be sought elsewhere—either around the ends of these powerful lines of defense, via Holland and Belgium or Switzerland, or by a victory at sea, in the air or in some other field such as the Balkans or the Near East.

Oil Vital to Both Sides

In any event, oil is vital to both sides. But to Germany it is an Achilles heel. She has little in the way of natural deposits. The bulk of her production is manufactured synthetically. And that is far from enough. She must have more, from the outside—from overseas, from Russia and from Rumania.

The Allies, therefore, are developing what their experts frankly call an "oil strategy." If they can cut off Germany's oil supply, they will win the war hands down. That is one of the chief purposes of their sea blockade. But this time the sea blockade alone will not suffice.

Unlike the World War days, Germany now has an open door to the East, via Russia. If she could count on a steady and increasing flow of oil from Russia and Rumania, this, added to what she herself produces, might suffice to keep the war going indefinitely.

Rumania Is Testing Ground

Hence the "oil strategy" of the Allies. If they could prevent any large supply of oil and similar necessities like cotton, rubber, food, wool and so on from reaching Germany from the South and East as well as from the West, Adolf Hitler's hope of victory would fade.

Rumania, therefore, may now become a testing ground. The Nazis are threatening her with virtual extinction unless she permits the shipment of the bulk of her output to Germany. The Allies on the other hand, have warned King Carol that if he yields they may withdraw their promise of assistance in case Rumania is attacked.

And King Carol desperately needs assistance. Rumania is menaced by both Germany and Russia, while Hungary and Bulgaria claim territory annexed from them by Rumania.

MILLION MEN ARMED

The Allies are prepared for trouble in the Balkans and the Near East, whether growing out of Germany's demands on Rumania or something else. More than a million men are under arms in that region, ready to march against Germany and/or Russia the moment the need arises.

Gen. Maxime Weygand, Marshal Foch's chief of staff in the World War, is in Syria at the head of some 250,000 of the fiercest and best-trained fighters drawn from every part of the French empire. In Palestine and at Suez are increasing contingents of British troops—English, Indian and Anza.

Egypt is fast building up her army. And last but by no means least in Turkey, stubbornly determined to prevent any change in the status quo anywhere in the region of the Dardanelles or Eastern Mediterranean.

Rumania is keenly aware of her danger and is mobilizing additional men. Should Herr Hitler use force against King Carol, it might set the whole Balkans and Near East ablaze. The Allies would almost certainly not only go to Rumania's aid, but strike at the Russian oil centers around Baku and Batum whence Russia derives practically her entire supply. The pipe lines carrying this oil are within two hours bombing time from British and French bases in Iraq and Syria.

OFFICIAL WEATHER

U. S. Weather Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS FORECAST—Rain to-night and tomorrow, possibly changing to snow tomorrow; warmer to-night with low of about 34; much colder tomorrow night.

Sunrise 6:27 Sunset 5:39

TEMPERATURE

6 a. m. 21 | 23 | 25

BAROMETER

6:30 a. m. 30:45

Precipitation 24 hours ending 7 a. m. 01

Total precipitation since Jan. 1 02

Deficiency since Jan. 1 02

MIDWEST WEATHER

Indiana—Moderate snow and rain in extreme northern and western portions to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Michigan—Cloudy followed by moderate snow to-morrow; warmer to-morrow.

Illinoian—Cloudy with frequent rain in central and portions to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Ohio—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Michigan—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Wisconsin—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Minnesota—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

North Dakota—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

South Dakota—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Wyoming—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Montana—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Utah—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Colorado—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

New Mexico—Snow to-night and tomorrow; warmer to-morrow.

Arizona