

ASK SHIPS TO JOIN CONVOYS

British Seek Neutral Patronage

Odds 472 to One Claimed For Boats Using System

London, Feb. 21 (AP)—Authorities said today that although the German submarine and mine warfare had sunk five British and 15 neutral ships in the week ending February 18, the odds were still 472 to one against the sinking of any ship that avails herself of a British convoy.

It was admitted that Germany's unrestricted U-boat warfare had reached serious proportions, but the record of the convoy system in bringing 8,969 ships safely to port and losing only 19 provided a strong measure of conviction.

The losses for the week ended February 18 were the largest of the war. However, it was said that at least four, and possibly six U-boats were sunk in that time, as evidence that the British navy was not idle.

The government is rushing plans, already announced in commons, to arm all British trawlers and merchantmen against attacks such as occurred along the east coast yesterday, when German planes raided shipping from the Firth of Forth to the coast of South Essex, apparently in retaliation for the Altmark incident. Many trawlers and fishing boats were bombed and machine-gunned, although few casualties were reported.

Eleven survivors of a Norwegian ship, said to be the Steinast torpedoed off the west coast of Eire last Thursday, landed on an island off Eire last night after having drifted five days in an open boat. Thirteen other members of the crew, who took to another boat, were missing.

The survivors said their boat had been taken in tow by a sail lifeboat, in which the other 13 crew members rode, but the Hawser broke and they drifted apart. The 11 sighted land several times but were too exhausted to make the rocky shore. Islanders saw them and pulled them in. All were suffering from exposure and two had pneumonia.

Two Brothers Foremost Butterfly Collectors

Pittsburgh (AP)—Ralph Chermack shares his bedroom with about 90,000 moths and butterflies. His brother, Frank, has almost as many in his room.

The insects—all dead, represent what is probably the largest private collection of its kind in the United States, and the brothers' combined collection even outnumbers those on exhibit at Carnegie Museum here.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



IN ANCIENT ROME SOLDIERS WERE DRAFTED AT INTERVALS DURING THE YEAR TO FIGHT LOCUSTS!



ANSWER: Twenty-four. Published in 1836.

Grade School Tourney May Be This Week-End

Plans for a grade school ski tournament in which youngsters of Bend can compete in slalom and downhill races are being considered by Skyliner officials as a week-end event. Jere Gillis, in charge of tournament activities for winter sports enthusiasts here, reported this morning.

If snow conditions are favorable, the meet will be held this week-end at the Skyliner grounds, location last week of a junior meet in which outstanding young skiers of Oregon took part. The meet planned for this week-end will make it possible for grade school youngsters to place in use some of the knowledge they obtained from the instructors in charge of the Bend Ski patrol schools.

Final plans for the proposed grade school meet will be outlined later in the week.

Ninety per cent of Finland's dentists are women.

Penn May End Rowing Events on Schuylkill

Philadelphia (AP)—Coach Russell (Rusty) Callow and his University of California rowing squad reportedly have considered abandoning the muddy Schuylkill river, traditional course of Penn crews, and moving across the Delaware river to Camden.

Philadelphia recently withdrew its bid for the 1940 national rowing championships, and the mud flats of the Schuylkill, coupled with threats of flood waters this spring, were said to have led to the consideration of the move to New Jersey.

Callow admitted that he had considered at various times having workouts on the Delaware, but rougher waters there are not conducive to good practice. A 1 1/2-mile course has been constructed by the Camden county park commission along the Cooper river.

No official comment on the plan has been made at the university.

Bulletin Want Ads Bring Results.

SOVIET READY TO BREAK LINE

News Dispatch Tells of Decision

Russians Claim Strength Of Mannerheim Great As Maginot

Moscow, Feb. 21 (AP)—The Soviet press today displayed an official news agency dispatch declaring that the red army had "now decided to break the Mannerheim line" in a drive that "presages the end of the Finnish war."

The dispatch, carried by the Tass agency, was dated Kovno and quoted objective military experts as saying that the Mannerheim line was as strong as the German Siegfried line or the French Maginot line and that its destruction was "a most difficult task from the military standpoint."

The most important battle of the war was believed imminent in the Viipuri sector of Finland.

Information available here indicated that the red army expected a quick showdown at Viipuri, which for centuries has been a military gateway to the east, as a result of the Russian mopping up operations against the Gulf of Finland end of the main Finnish defenses (the Mannerheim line).

The Russians claimed occupation of Koivisto fortress, on the Gulf of Finland coast, which had been the main anchor point at that end of the Finnish line.

(At Helsinki, a Finnish war communiqué said that attacks on the central and Lake Ladoga sectors of the new Finnish defense positions had been repulsed in heavy fighting yesterday, when 17 to 25 Russian planes were shot down. Tainale, on Lake Ladoga, is the eastern "anchor" of the Mannerheim line and the scene of severe fighting.)

Two red army columns have been advancing on Viipuri—second largest Finnish city—in operations that steadily narrowed the Russian salient. They are now reported within four and six miles of the Finnish city.

Correspondents with the red army reported operations which hinted that they were confident of success on or before the red army anniversary on February 23. This appeared due to reported success in clearing Finnish troops from the Koivisto area.

Further Russian confidence were reflected in a dispatch carried by the official news agency Tass from Kovno, and prominently displayed in all newspapers.

The dispatch said the Soviet army had now made itself familiar with the terrain in which it was fighting and with conditions in Finland and had "now decided to break the Mannerheim line—a most difficult task from the military standpoint."

The dispatch added: "The Finnish fortifications, according to military experts, are not weaker than the Siegfried and Maginot lines (in Germany and France). Denting of the Mannerheim line gives evidence of unprecedented force and incomparable organization and presages the end of the Finnish war."

900-YEAR-OLD OAK FALLS
Cardiff, Wales (AP)—A 900-year-old oak, officially recorded as the largest in Europe, crashed to the ground in Powys Castle Park, Welshpool, Montgomeryshire. It had rotted at the roots.



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"Destry Rides Again"



Marlene Dietrich and James Stewart in "Destry Rides Again" at The Capitol

INDIAN BIRTHRATE IS ABOVE AVERAGE

Some Tribes Have Rate of 55 Per 1,000

Salt Lake City, Utah (AP)—The Indian is no longer the "vanishing American," for his birthrate is increasing faster than the white man's, western Indian service officials disclosed here.

The Indian birthrate in Utah alone is three times the national average for all races and in other parts of the United States is even higher. C. C. Wright, superintendent of the Utah and Ouray agency at Fort Duchesne, Utah, said:

The birthrate among the Utes and Piutes under jurisdiction of the Indian service is 55.4 per 1,000 population, while the national average for all peoples is 16.7 per 1,000.

Death Rate Lowered
Another cause for the Indian's revival as a race was attributed to modern science. While the white man's death rate remains about the same from year to year, improved methods of sanitation, care of maternity cases, control of children's diseases and improved economic conditions are slashing the Indian's death frequency.

SCANDINAVIA WATCHES WAR

Economic Losses to Countries Great

None of Profits of Last War Expected; Loss Is Larger

By Peter C. Rhodes
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Copenhagen, Feb. 21 (AP)—The Scandinavian nations, surrounded by wars which have crippled their exports, raised living costs, and reduced their merchant fleets, today are following divergent policies aimed at one end—neutrality and integrity.

Thus while there is no common line of action, the war has fused Norway, Sweden, and Denmark into a Scandinavian bloc which extends moral and voluntary aid to Finland, but refuses direct military help.

With more than five months of the western Europe war completed, the Scandinavians have learned to expect none of the profits they received from the last war, and more than the losses of 1914-1918.

Sweden has shown the greatest efforts to establish, for the first time in more than a century, a large modern army with complete and up-to-date equipment. The project is a severe strain on national economy, but has been supported almost unanimously by the Swedish press.

Norway, likewise considering the future possibility of a victorious Soviet army camped on its frontiers, at present shows a tendency to make similar increases and improvements in her armed forces. Denmark, on the other hand, has made no appreciable attempts to increase her standing army.

A rare show in the heavens will be visible the last week in February and first week in March, when the brightest five planets may be seen in the western sky.

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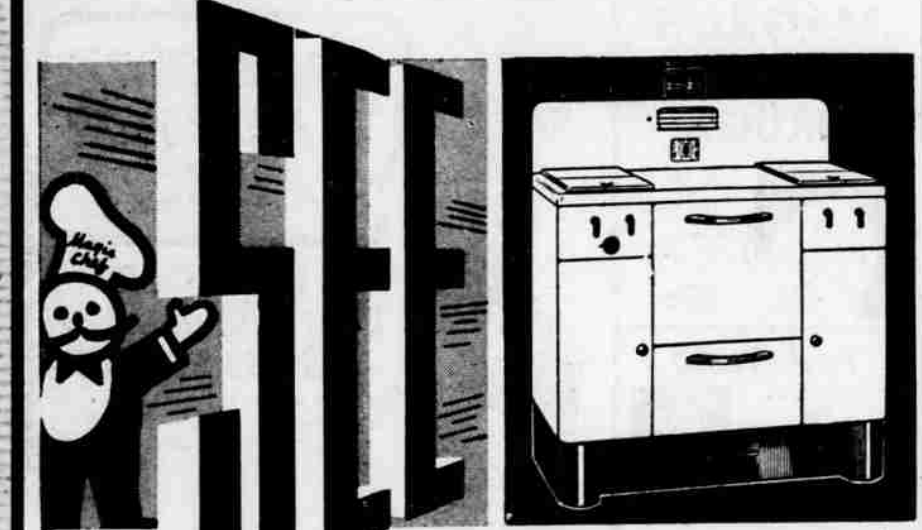
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