

offered successful resistance at all places and the attacks were completely repulsed.

"In various sectors, numerous enemy tanks, armored cars, and cannon were destroyed.

"No naval engagements worth mentioning.

"In the air, enemy planes on Dec. 8 bombarded Laeskelä, Vaertsilä, Valamo, and Mantsinsaari. The bombing caused no damage worth recording. At Suistama, enemy flyers machine gunned civilians, wounding several.

"Our own air force performed several reconnoitering flights and bombed enemy troop concentrations and columns. Our air defenses shot down three enemy planes."

Earlier today 30 British Blenheim bombers were reported to have arrived to augment the Finnish air forces. Previously it had been reported that 50 Italian planes had been received. Other military equipment was said to be arriving from other countries.

#### 600 Die in New Avalanches.

KIRKENES, Norway, at the Finnish Frontier, Dec. 9 (AP)—Thundering avalanches loosened by Finnish dynamite charges were reported today to have caused mountainous waves which drowned between 600 and 800 members of unsuccessful Russian landing parties in icy Arctic waters off northern Finland.

Reports reaching here from across the border said masses of steep hillsides on the edges of fjords near Petsamo and Linahamari were sent tumbling into the water with such force that the boats of the Red army landing parties were swamped.

The Finns were said to have employed similar tactics previously in repulsing landing attempts by the invaders. Many of those surviving the man made waves were reported captured.

East of Petsamo, the reports said, Russian tanks attempting to cross frozen lakes plunged into holes cut in the thick ice by the Finns. Crews were reported to have perished in the plummeting tanks.

Greater numbers of Norwegian troops were understood to be massing along this section of their frontier, 200 miles above the Arctic circle. Civilians were moving south as a precaution.

#### Moscow Claims Advances.

MOSCOW, Dec. 9 (AP)—The Red army tonight reported that Russian troops had made advances ranging up to 50 miles today in Finland.

The Moscow radio broadcast a communique of the Leningrad command which said the Russians also penetrated the main Finnish defenses along the Taipale river on the Karelian isthmus.

The longest advances were reported in Central Finland where soviet forces were said to have pushed ahead in the Ukhta, Porosero, and Petrosavodsk sectors.

In the arctic, the communique said, the soviet forces were smashing Finnish resistance about 31 miles south of Petsamo. It asserted the task of clearing mines out of that far northern port had been completed.

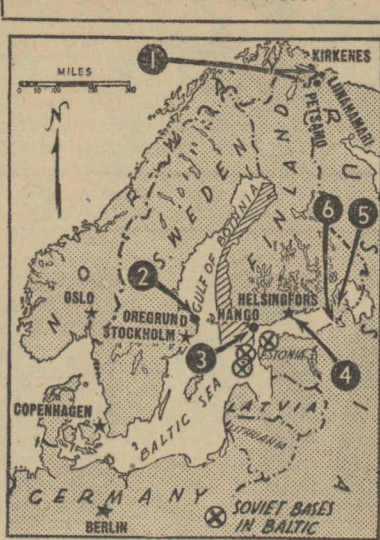
#### Text of Communique.

The communique follows: "During Dec. 9 soviet troops engaged in destruction of bases and centers of resistance in the area 50 kilometers (about 31 miles) south of Petsamo. Clearing berths in the port of Petsamo of mines completed.

"In the Ukhta Repola, Porosero and Petrosavodsk directions soviet troops advanced 70-80 kilometers (about 45-50 miles) west of the state frontier. Having occupied the town of Suomussalmi, soviet troops continue to advance in the direction of Kivlakjura (Laataja).

"On the Karelian isthmus soviet

#### War in Finland



1. Six to eight hundred Reds reported drowned when Finns create avalanches and swamp Russian boats. 2. Sweden mines waters off Oregund. 3. Hango reported bombed by Russian flyers. 4. Thirty British bombing planes reported received in Helsingfors. 5. Russians and Finns both claim successes in fighting on Karelian front. 6. Kronstadt reported bombed by Finnish flyers.



According to the Finns, most of the soviet Russian troops they have encountered have been from the Kirghiz soviet socialist republic, which is a constituent republic of the soviet union, said a dispatch from Kirkenes, Norway, Friday. The Kirghiz republic is in central Asia and approximately 2,300 miles from Finland.

troops, having broken thru the main Finnish defense lines in the area of the river Taipaleenjoki (Taipale), are advancing with battles in the direction of Kexholm."

#### Ski Attack Reported.

LONDON, Dec. 9 (AP)—A Reuters [British news agency] dispatch from Helsingfors today said white clad Finns on skis had attacked Russians on a two mile front in the extreme north, taking their foes by surprise and inflicting heavy losses.

#### Report Hango Bombed.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec. 9 (AP)—Press dispatches received today said Hango, strongly fortified port on Finland's southwestern coast, had been bombed by Russian warplanes.

#### Ocean Vessel Movements.

Departed. From. For. Stavanger, New York... Bergen. Excalibur, New York... Genoa. Vulcania, New York... Rotterdam. Vulcania, New York... Naples.

## BLOCKADE OF SEA BEGINS TO PINCH NEUTRAL NATIONS

### Unemployment Increases as Trade Wanes.

BY LARRY RUE.

(Chicago Tribune Press Service.)

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Dec. 9.—Despite the economic problems confronting both countries, life seems to be still normal in Belgium and the Netherlands. Both countries have lost more than 50 per cent of their overseas trade as a result of the British-French blockade of Germany and both need new revenue because of the additional burdens of mobilization and other emergency measures; decreased tax returns due to waning business and incomes, and increased unemployment.

In Brussels one still can buy anything from imported fruits to caviar, but prices of some commodities have been increased. There is a feeling of anxiety, however, as to when reactions to the blockade will take effect.

#### Distribute Ration Cards.

No one is able to guess whether this will be sudden or gradual. The Belgian government already is distributing food rationing cards. What products will be affected has not yet been decided.

Holland is rationing sugar and beans, but everything else may be purchased on the open market. While the export of foods, textiles and chemicals from the low countries is prohibited, trade still is going on with Germany. Although the new two-way blockade of German imports and exports has delayed signature of a French-Belgian economic treaty, the provision in the proposed pact for exchange of French iron ore for German coke already is being carried out.

Scandinavia Feels Pinch. COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec. 9 (AP)—With naval hostilities and blockades on all sides, the Scandinavian countries felt the pinch of war today as Finland defied Russia's blockade of its coasts.

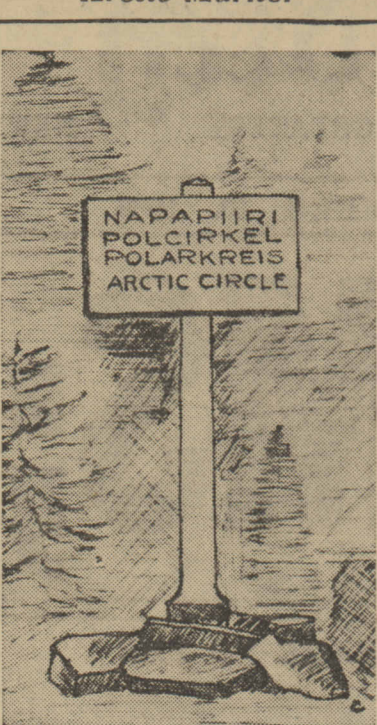
The Russian blockade lacks both legal and practical significance, Finland declared. Finnish circles pointed out that the Gulf of Bothnia between Finland and Sweden had already been closed to the soviet fleet by mines and fortifications on the Aaland Islands.

Reports from Stockholm indicated, however, that two or more Russian submarines were operating in the Bothnian gulf. The Russian blockade brought a new menace to hard pressed Swedish shipping. Stockholm is almost directly opposite new Russian naval bases in Estonia and the Gulf of Riga.

Danish and Norwegian trade also felt the effects of the Russian move. Until now they have enjoyed a measure of freedom in their Baltic operations.

Swedes Extend Mine Field. STOCKHOLM, Dec. 9 (AP)—Sweden

#### Arctic Marker



Drawing of marker which stands where the Finnish motor road to Arctic ocean crosses the Arctic circle. From top its four legends are in Finnish, Swedish, German, and English.



Map indicates route of the only motor road which touches the Arctic ocean. Arrow indicates location of Arctic circle sign.

extended its mine fields today to waters off Oregund, 80 miles north of Stockholm, making it necessary for vessels plying the channel opposite the Aaland Islands into the gulf of Bothnia to use Swedish pilots.

Germans Receive Red Note. BERLIN, Dec. 9 (AP)—Germany received for study today Russia's notification of the blockade of Finland. There was no immediate comment.

## UNIQUE HIGHWAY LINKS FINLAND TO ITS VITAL HARBOR

### Only One to Arctic Ocean Brings Petsamo Closer.

The only automobile highway in the world that reaches the Arctic ocean is in Finland. It connects Rovaniemi with Linahamari, a port north of Petsamo on the Arctic ocean, and is 330 miles long. It is a major extension of a road that previously ran only from Kemi, on the Gulf of Bothnia, north to Rovaniemi.

Being a government road, it is kept open the year round and busses make one trip on it each way daily, carrying passengers and mail. The bus driver, who also is the rural mail carrier, deposits and collects mail from the boxes along the way.

After Finland in 1917 declared its independence from Russia and finally won it, she was granted a wedge shaped section stretching from her old northern boundary to the Arctic ocean, the top of which forms Finland's vital 43 1/2 miles of Arctic seacoast. This tiny section is of vital importance to Finland because the shore there is swept by the warm gulf stream and Petsamo is ice-free the year round.

#### Highway Finished in 1929.

Immediately on receiving this territory, Finland built the modern town of Linahamari and began constructing the Arctic highway. This project was opened in 1929. The important 330 miles of road make possible direct and faster transportation from Helsingfors to Finland's Arctic coast.

Rail transportation in Finland goes

only as far north as Kemijarvi, and its terminal there is fairly recent. Until a few years ago the northern rail terminus in Finland was Rovaniemi. Previous arctic highways were rather sketchy.

Rovaniemi is three miles south of the arctic circle. Where the highway crosses this line stands a tall marker by the road informing the world of its location in four languages, Finnish, Swedish, German, and English.

#### Forests Parallel Highway.

On both sides of the highway stretch deep forests of pine, spruce and birch while widely separated farm buildings can be seen in the distance. Along the route are numerous tourist inns, open only in the season, but there also are many settlements where postoffice stations are open the year round. Gasoline filling and service stations are numerous.

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## Tail Wind Helps Clipper Beat Schedule by an Hour

Port Washington, N. Y., Dec. 9 (Special).—Aided by a strong tail wind, Pan-American Airways' Atlantic Clipper arrived here this afternoon an hour ahead of schedule.

Among the 33 passengers were Carl E. Berlin, who is here to obtain permission to recruit ambulance drivers and money for the American Volunteers' ambulance. He was also carrying a diplomatic pouch with papers from the American embassy in Paris for Secretary of State Hull.

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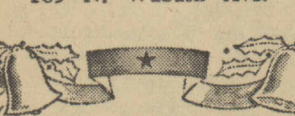
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**Chicago Sunday Tribune**  
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Vol. XXVIII, Sunday, December 10, No. 54

Published daily except Sunday. Tribune Tower, 488 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The Tribune company, publishers.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION PRICES:

Mail subscription prices in Illinois (outside Chicago), Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin: Daily Tribune only \$5.00 per year; with Sunday Tribune \$12.50 per year.

Zones 9 and 4 in states other than Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin: Daily Tribune only \$7.00 per year; with Sunday Tribune \$15.00 per year.

Zones 5, 6, 7, and 8 inclusive: Canada: Daily Tribune only \$12.00 per year; with Sunday Tribune \$25.00 per year.

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