

Finns Will Obtain 44 of Latest Type U. S. Planes

Navy Waives Claim To Fighting Ships To Allow Delivery

Aid more substantial than sympathy or money restricted to civilian needs was assured for embattled Finland today.

Officials here confirmed that the little republic, fighting desperately against Russian invaders, had completed arrangements to obtain 44 of the latest and speediest American fighting planes. They will be used to meet the attack of Russian bombers.

The planes will be obtained from the Brewster Aeronautical Corp., New York, which said the Navy had waived its claim to the planes. Instead, it was said, the Navy will take delivery later of improved ships of the same type.

Seek Other War Materials.

While these are the only planes thus far obtained, negotiations are continuing with other plane manufacturers for additional ships with which to fight off the Russians. The Soviet army has a tremendous superiority over the Finns in air strength.

At the same time, it was learned that Finnish authorities in this country were completing arrangements for the purchase of munitions and were still seeking other vital war materials.

The munitions, it was said, are being supplied by private manufacturers. The amount was described as "very substantial."

Are Latest Type.

The planes which the Finns will buy here are the latest and most effective type of fighting ship developed by the Navy. They were ordered by the Navy after a competition among American manufacturers. While details regarding them were withheld, it was reported here that they are faster than the Russian land planes against which they will be pitted.

It was stated that the Navy itself was not supplying the planes to Finland. The Finnish authorities conducted their negotiations direct with the company officials, as they are doing with other plane and munitions manufacturers in this country.

Officials also stressed that any delay in delivering these planes to the Navy will be in the interest of getting better ships. While some of the planes have already been delivered, it was pointed out that they are still in the experimental stage and further improvements in their fighting qualities may be expected.

Will Need More Credit.

The planes will be paid for with substantial credits the Finnish government has in this country. While the Finns have cash balances for immediate purchases, it has been stressed by their representatives here that additional credits will be necessary if the war is prolonged.

The Reconstruction Finance Corp. and the Export-Import Bank have established a credit of \$10,000,000 for Finland for the purchase of foodstuffs and civilian supplies. None of this credit may be used for the purchase of war supplies.

Helsinki

(Continued From First Page.)

sighted near Lappeenranta, 35 miles northwest of Viipuri, but no bombs were dropped. Intense artillery warnings were sounded at Porvoo, east of here, and at Kerava, to the north. Military authorities believed Helsinki was the objective.

Destruction of 36 tanks during the day was reported in last night's Finnish communique, which said an attack was pushed back on a 12-mile front on the Karelian sector between Muolajarvi and Valkjarvi.

"At Taipale Lake the enemy tried to concentrate in force for an attack, but were dispersed by artillery fire," the communique said, adding that five tanks were destroyed.

The Russian Army communique at Leningrad said Soviet troops occupied the town of Pitkajarvi, about 53 miles south of Petsamo. Intense artillery action was reported on the Karelian Isthmus. It reported a number of warships of the Baltic fleet shelled coastal batteries of the Bjorkoe district, Gulf of Finland seaport.

The only enemy warships sighted during the day were destroyers in the Gulf of Finland.

Motorized Russian Forces Pushing Finns South

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 19 (AP)—A motorized Soviet Russian Army rolled south along Finland's Arctic highway, it was reported today, on the heels of retreating Finnish forces.

Advices reaching Copenhagen were that the Finns lost a battle yesterday near Pitkajarvi, about 53 miles southwest of the Arctic port, Petsamo, on the Pasvik River separating northernmost Finland from a narrow neck of Norwegian territory.

An official Moscow report that Pitkajarvi itself had been captured had not been confirmed by Finnish sources, but observers at Norwegian border points said the Finns were burning buildings, apparently in preparation for abandoning the town.

Vanguard Near Grensefors.

The Kirkenes correspondent of the newspaper Politikkens said the Russian vanguard was nearing Grensefors—southernmost border station in South Varanger—and was likely to pass that point before night.

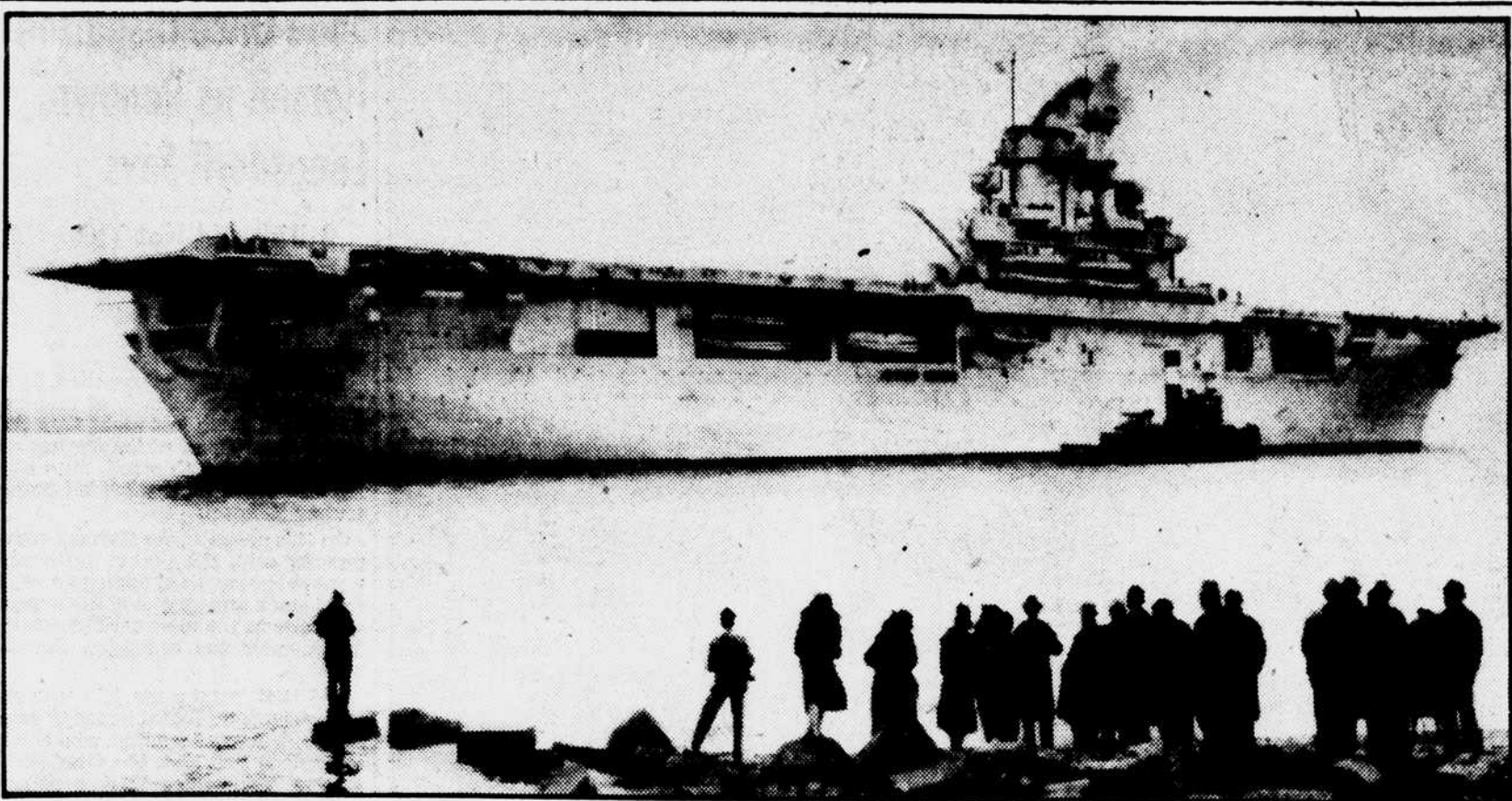
This would place Russian troops for more than 100 miles along Norway's northernmost frontier.

A more serious threat to the Finns was seen in an unconfirmed report in Stockholm that the Red Army had broken through the Kuolajarvi front in Central Finland and reached Kemijarvi, which is linked by rail to Tornio on the Gulf of Bothnia.

Should the Russian Army reach Rovaniemi, 50 miles to the east, where highways and connecting railways run to the Swedish border, Helsinki's land communications with Sweden would be cut off.

Modern Equipment Used.

Earlier reports from the northern front said the Russian troops were poorly trained and their equipment inadequate. Advices today, however,



QUINCY, MASS.—NEW UNITED STATES AIRPLANE CARRIER—Builders' trials began yesterday for the new airplane carrier Wasp, shown above as she left her Fore River yard dock to cruise off the coast for a week. In conformity with naval

custom, dimensions and other specific descriptions of the ship were not disclosed. During launching of the Wasp last April two naval airplanes crashed in midair, killing four men, while flying over area. —A. P. Wirephoto.

The War in Europe—Day by Day

Despite Hullabaloo Over Graf Spee, No Code of War Calls for Needless Sacrifice of Fighting Men

By DEWITT MacKENZIE, Associated Press Foreign Affairs Writer.

Intruding for a moment in the Anglo-German argument over who won the air-battle—were the Nazis justified, or were they not, in scuttling their pocket-battleship Graf Spee?

What with all the hullabaloo over the question one might think they were bound by honor to line up and cry "We who are about to die salute you," and then go out to certain death with the Anglo-French fleet.

There really need be no dispute over that, for there is no code of war which calls for needless sacrifice from fighting men.

War isn't a tournament in which men joust for the entertainment of spectators, but a dull, bloody business. Soldiers and sailors have to give their lives when necessity calls, but they aren't expected to let any false notions of gallantry lead them into throwing themselves away.

There's no more reason why a sailor or a soldier should sacrifice his life just to make of himself what Tommy Atkins would call a "bloomin' dead ero," than there is for a fireman to jump off the top of a skyscraper for a similar cause.

Interment Alternative.

I think most naval men will say that the scuttling of the warship was entirely legitimate, though not all would agree that this was the best solution of the difficulty. There was the alternative of interment.

Had the Graf Spee tried to run the gantlet Sunday evening it might possibly have slipped through the waiting enemy ships outside

Montevideo harbor. But it would have been caught shortly, because other warships were lying in wait for it further afield.

Such a gesture would have cost not only the warship but many or all of its crew of close to a thousand. Probably there wasn't a man aboard who wasn't prepared to make the big sacrifice if the call came.

Still, Herr Hitler, who gave the order for the sinking, could have found no justification for sending these young men to their deaths just for "glory" and propaganda purposes. What think you the German people would have said of such a thing? Certainly it would have taken a lot of explaining.

Precedent for Action.

Having gone through a good part of the World War with the British and French, on both land and sea, I'll lay a tidy bit that there wasn't a sailor on the ships lying in wait for the Graf who wasn't glad he didn't have to take a hand in sending a thousand German boys to the bottom.

As regards the proposition of allowing the Graf Spee and her crew to be interned at Montevideo for the duration of the war, there is at least one solid argument against it. Supposing Uruguay a little later should be drawn into the conflict on the Anglo-French side, as happened in the World War?

The Graf Spee could then be seized and turned over to the allies to be used against the fatherland.

Anyway, the Nazis had a notable precedent for such a scuttling. One of the most famous events of this sort in history occurred in 1919 when the German fleet, which had been

surrendered to the allies after the World War, was scuttled by its own men at the British naval base at Scapa Flow.

Ten battleships, 5 light cruisers and 30 destroyers were sunk. A lot more were beached.

Heavy Blow to Reich.

Admiral von Reuter of the German Navy, who was in command of the ships with skeleton crews, said he acted in obedience to orders given by the Emperor early in the war that there should never be any surrender of German warships. One wonders what the aged Kaiser thought of the sinking of the Graf Spee, as he heard the news in his exile-castle in the hamlet of Doorn, Holland.

There is another argument for sinking the Graf Spee. The loss of this new pocket battleship, of which so much was expected, was bound to be grievous for the German public in any event. Many observers believe they will be much better satisfied that the vessel was destroyed by the hands of her own crew.

The loss of this fine, new fighting ship won't do the morale of the German people any good, at best. It is a terrible blow to pride and to the strength of the navy, for there are only two more of these ships left—the Deutschland and the Scheer, both of which are supposed to be rowing in search of merchantmen to sink.

The effect on the morale of Britain, on the other hand, has been electric. It has put England into the seventh heaven at a time when she was suffering from a bad run of losses at sea.

Tarpaulins Shroud Deck On Wasp's Trial Trip

By the Associated Press.

QUINCY, MASS., Dec. 19.—Tarpaulins shrouding sections of her deck to protect secret equipment from prying eyes, the United States Navy's newest airplane carrier, the \$21,000,000 Wasp, steamed off the New England coast last night on a builder's trial trip.

Approximately 5,000 persons lined the shores of Fore River as the huge vessel, most modern of its type in the world, was eased by tugs into open water.

Officials of the Navy and of the Bethlehem Steel Co.'s Fore River plant, where she was built, declined to reveal her course or to give an exact description of the vessel.

At the time of her launching last April, she was described by Washington sources as having an overall length of 739 feet, a 110-foot beam and a displacement of about 14,700 tons.

Seventh-United States naval vessel to bear the name, the Wasp is expected to be turned over to the Navy next April.

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Ship Shelled by Sub, Nazi Captain Reports

By the Associated Press.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 19.—The master of the German ship Pinnau, 1,200 tons, arriving at the Swedish port of Fredriksskan yesterday, said a submarine, presumably of Soviet

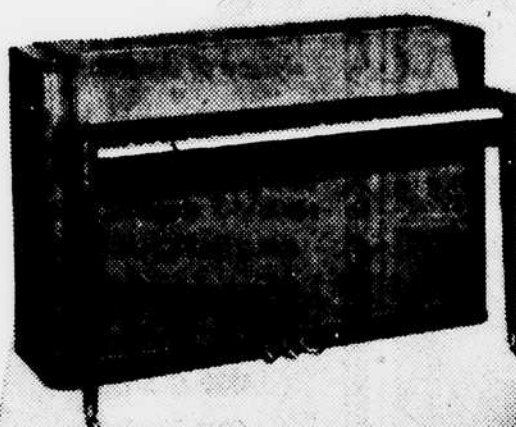
Russian nationality, fired 35 shells at his vessel in the Gulf of Bothnia. The ship, carrying coal, reached port slightly damaged. The master made a report to the German Embassy in Stockholm.

Crewmen said they believed the submarine was part of the Soviet fleet which is attempting to blockade Finland.

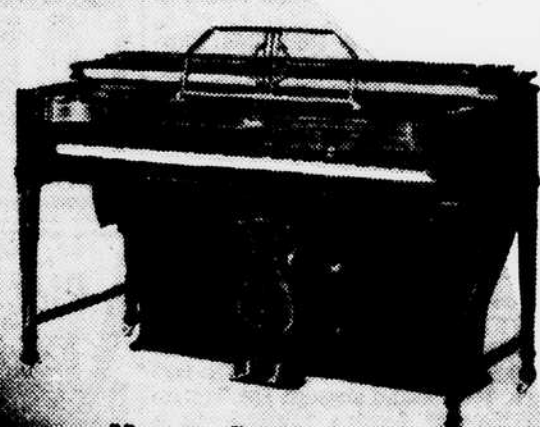
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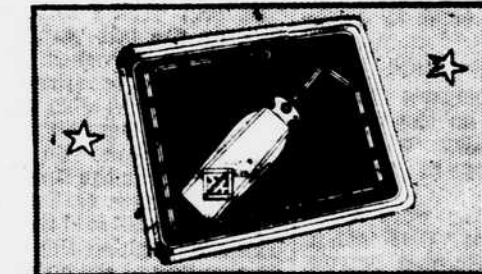
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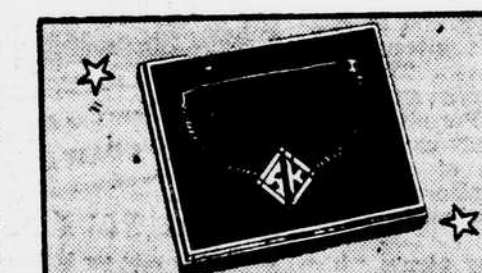
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