

ВТОРАЯ БИТВА ПРИ СУОМУССАЛМИ

Уничтожение русской дивизии в заснеженной Финляндии в фотографиях Эрика Калкрафта

SECOND BATTLE OF SUOMUSSALMI

Eric Calcraft photographs destruction
of Russian division in whitest Finland

Last week there arrived in the U.S. the extraordinary pictures of the Finnish war you see on these pages. They were taken by **Eric Calcraft**, crack English press photographer who got his baptism of fire in Poland and went on to cover the war in Finland. Here his camera records the destruction of the 44th Russian Division at the Second Battle of Suomussalmi (Jan. 1-7).

So superb was Calcraft's work on the battlefield of Suomussalmi that the *New York Herald Tribune* was inspired to editorialize as follows:

"These photographs are great pictures and terrible ones. Goya, perhaps, could have drawn them; but Goya would have been too angry. Here there is nothing—nothing but death, calm, cold as the snow powdering down on the Finnish forests, final and futile. Those frozen, uplifted hands, those stiff-crooked knees, those lifeless faces, with snow sifting gently over them, and behind them the dead machines, the tanks and big guns, monstrous, horrible and stranded—these are the portraits of the dead. . . .

"These were living men not long ago. A dictator chose to play imperialist politics, a staff miscalculated, a general blundered, and they are forever dead and forever lost. . . . But the tragedy in these photographs is the utter senselessness of the scene, the fantastic irony of these lifeless weapons standing silent above their lifeless men. That is death; and that is war."



Like Braddock's defeat by the French and Indians in 8-ton Russian tanks was due to the fact that they were not suited to forest fighting far from home.



To the rescue come volunteer Swedish reservists in the Swedish Army winter uniform, descendants of the invincible winter armies of 17th Century General Gustavus Adolphus. They use their own superb rifle



This Russian field gun was nearly useless in the forest fighting. Finns have elevated the long barrel to clear the road. This is two days after the battle, 28



Stone-stiff corpse of a Russian artillery lieutenant is lifted from snow by Finns beside his howitzer, which never got into position to fight before it was captured. "We couldn't see the Finns," complained prisoners



Salvage dump, from which Finns picked choice bits. Captured at Second Battle of Suomussalmi were: "102 guns, 43 tanks, 10 armored cars, 20 tractors, 278 cars, 16 anti-tank guns and 47 field kitchens."



Like catalpaques stalled on the road, these artillery tractors look monstrous because of the black tarpaulin covers under which ride the gun crews. Russians died running for cover.



The debris of war. Finnish trucks (*background*) are preparing to haul off Russian guns, limbers and ammunition. Notice that pursuing Finns threw everything off the road to get columns through fast.



White Finns vanish into snow they fight over. They slipped silently and invisibly around the Russian division at Suomussalmi, taking Indian-like advantage of the evergreen cover.



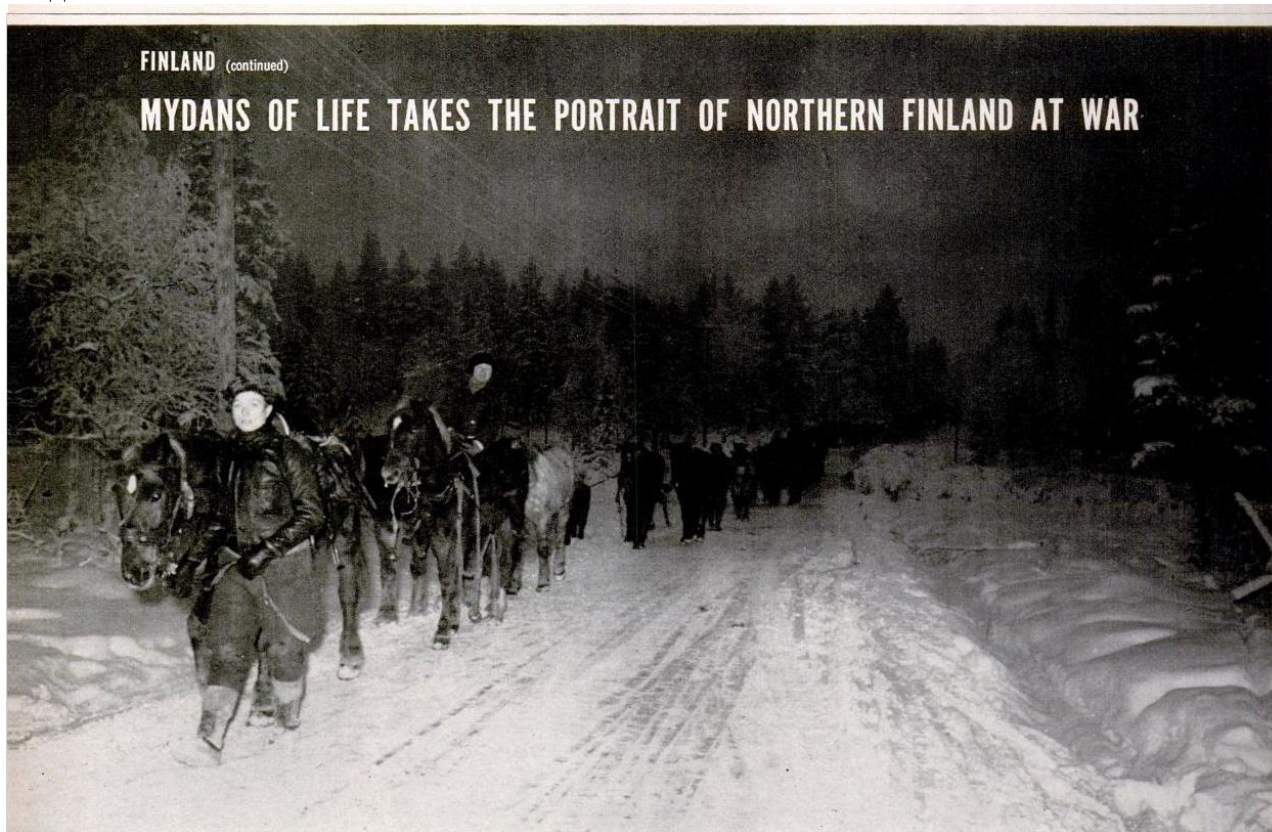
Russian prisoners, bewildered by catastrophe. Most were Ukrainians, Tatars, Kurds and Bashkirs. They fought stubbornly and bravely. Their colonel, one Vinogradoff, disappeared the second day.



Russian linesman of the signal corps got tangled in his own telephone wire as a Finn began potting at him. He tried to run, fell wounded and froze in this attitude of desperation.

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ПОРТРЕТ СЕВЕРНОЙ ФИНЛЯНДИИ ВО ВРЕМЯ ВОЙНЫ в фотографиях Карла Миданса



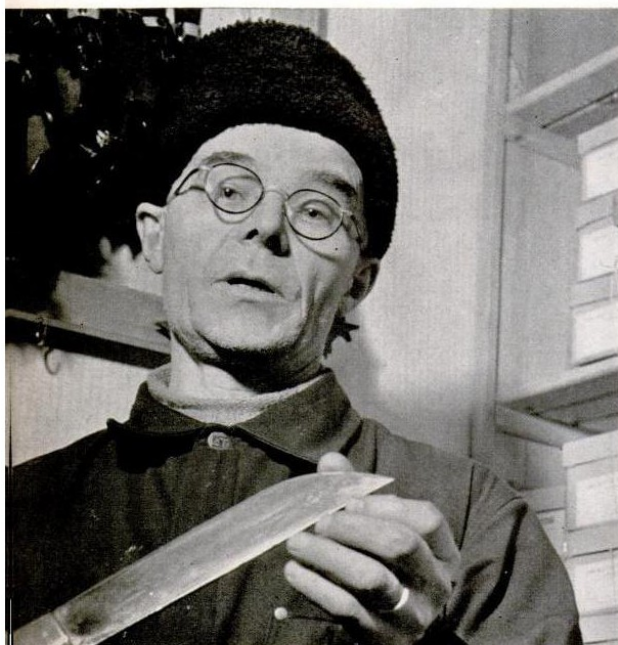
FINLAND (continued)

MYDANS OF LIFE TAKES THE PORTRAIT OF NORTHERN FINLAND AT WAR

In the dusk of winter a column of Finns leading captured Russian horses is here photographed by Carl Mydans, LIFE's photo-reporter. Following his tour of the battlefield of Salla (LIFE, Jan. 29), Mydans headed due north toward the farthest outposts held by the Finns. There he photographed

the civilians below, celebrating Christmas not far behind the lines. Then he turned back to the Second Battle of Suomussalmi. He reached that scene of carnage just after Eric Calcraft (see preceding pages), found it ten times worse than the field of destruction at Salla. Gloated a Finnish officer, "We got more

material out of this battle than we have had here ourselves and it is all excellent. I wish the Russians had brought more machine guns, as we could do with a few more." At the end of the seven-day battle, the Finns ran from Russian tent to tent in the darkness, tossing in grenades on their exhausted enemy.



The knife called "pukka" is the natural fighting weapon of every man, woman and child in Finland. Here an assistant to the famous knife-maker, J. Martiini, tests the edge of one of his pukkas. The blades are hardened in hot sand, the handles are of bone and reindeer skin.



This Lapp mother and child have fled from Suonikyla in far-northern Finland before the invading Russian troops. Despite her ordeal, the hardy mother has milk for the infant. The Lapps, called skotts, who drove their reindeer herds before them, are one of the few nearly pure races in the world.



The cold closed remorselessly on these two Russians in their two-man rifle pit and killed them. They dared not rise to keep their blood stirring. Now snow has drifted deep in the helmet at lower right.



The red star gleams from the fuselage of a Russian bomber, shot down by anti-aircraft fire and broken in two as it hit the trees. The Finn at the left is under the elevator fin.



Propaganda was the standard equipment of the invading Russian Army in the sincere belief that Communist pamphlets like this would rouse the "Finnish proletariat" against their "Fascist butchers."



This bear put himself away in November for a good winter's sleep. Suddenly he found a war raging around him. Still stupefied and sleepy, he rises and looks for peace and quiet.



Young Finn soldier in his white cloak and hood carries a Russian-type rifle, an old-fashioned needle bayonet in scabbard, a pistol in fine leather holster and German-type cartridge pouches. About 16 years old, he is smoking a Russian-type cigaret. He fought in the Second Battle of Suomussalmi.



Pretty Finn, 19 years old, undismayed by war, works as a Lotta girl (as emblazoned on her collar) evacuating people in the far north. Some of her comrades in this area worked so close behind the fighting units that three were killed in action, posthumously decorated.

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FINLAND (continued)



A wounded Finn has his bandage re-wound by candlelight on the trip from the first-aid station to the base hospital.

This is a desperate race by dog sled in the sub-zero cold of northern Finland, for a wounded man who falls alone

in the snow will be frozen stiff in half an hour. The Arctic night and snow frame this scene like a Rembrandt painting.



Across Finland the dog teams race against time with the wounded. Against this landscape, like something from a
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New England winter, the war in Finland is being fought. This wounded man here lies full-length in a long, tureen-like

sled. Sometimes the wounded are merely laid on two parallel skis and thus hauled by the fast teams of husky dogs.

LIFE'S PICTURES



The thin-mustached man above is a great English news photographer, **Eric Calcraft**, who took the pictures of the Second Battle of Suomussalmi shown on pages 28-29. In his work in Finland, his path has repeatedly crossed that of LIFE's photo-reporter, Carl Mydans. Calcraft, now 32, photographed the last days of Warsaw shattered by German bombs and was decorated by the disappearing Polish Government. He has been shot at in Finland by Russian planes. He works for Britain's Planet news agency, which markets his pictures in America through Acme. On the Finnish front he wears fleece coat, woolen pullovers, heavy underwear, papers stuffed down trousers, four pairs of woolen socks, calf boots and more socks over them. He rubs snow on his nose at intervals. With all these precautions, he forgot his eyelids and last week they froze, putting him out of action.

Этот худой усатый мужчина на снимке – известный английский фоторепортер Эрик Калкрафт, сделавший снимки Второй Битвы при Суомуссалми, показанные на страницах 28-29. В своей работе в Финляндии его маршрут постоянно пересекался с фоторепортером журнала “Лайф” Карлом Мидансом. Калкрафт, 32 лет, фотографировал последние Варшавы, разрушенной немецкими бомбами и “украшенной” исчезающим польским правительством. Он был ранен в Финляндии с русского самолета. Он работает на английское агенство “Новости планеты”, которое распространяет свои фотографии через АСМЕ. На финском фронте он носит флисовое пальто, шерстяные пуловеры, теплое нижнее белье, бумагу, уложенную в штаны, четыре пары шерстяных носков, хромовые сапоги и еще носки поверх них. Периодически он смахивает снег с носа. Со всеми этими предосторожностями он забыл про свои веки и на прошлой недели они замерзли, выведя его из строя.