

LENINGRAD

Like A Big Military Camp

City Full Of Soldiers Speaking
All Languages

**The Truth About Losses
Impossible To Hide**

The Leadership Of Soviet Army
Heavily Critisized

(From the correspondent of Ilta-Sanomat)

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A foreign businessman, who visited Leningrad in commercial affairs, told about his impressions there as follows:

The main topic of the population in Leningrad is now the war and everyone's daily bread. Now for more than two months there has been a constant thunder of guns and this thunder is heard so loud that it disturbs night's sleep. There are airplanes flying in the air, heavily armed militiamen are moving around in the streets and lorries roll carrying soldiers, horses pull cannon batteries and cavalrymen are moving around everywhere. Windows are covered and darkness has taken over

the whole city. Nowadays Leningrad is a big military camp, which receives troops of the Soviet army and from where they are forwarded to the fronts of the Karelian Isthmus and eastern Karelia. One can hear a multitude of languages spoken here, because troops of different nationalities have arrived here from the east. One can find Kirghiz people, Tatars, Turkmen, Chinese, Mongols and soldiers with homes in Caucasia. They belong to the s.k. Russian International Communist Division. This melange of languages leaves a special mark on the war-time life in Leningrad.

Poor-quality health care and
meager supplies of food

The main daily topic among the population is the situation on the front. On the first days of the war the popular atmosphere was a mocking one as it was told in the newspapers and radio that the heroic Red Army will destroy the Finnish defence in a couple of weeks. But the cannon thunder that has not diminished in two months, tell unarguably to the public about the failure of the Soviet Russia's blitz strike. The hospital cars and trains arriving from the front, bringing tens of thousands wounded people, tell about the big number of casualties of the Soviet army. There is no family in Leningrad not suffering from sorrow. The divisions sent to the first battles on the Karelian Isthmus consisted of reservists in the Leningrad Region having been mobilized up to the age of about 42 years. During the first five weeks the losses were high just in these first contingents. The Soviet propaganda cannot hide the truth because all hospitals are filled with the wounded and many schools have been turned into hospitals. Among the wounded the number of severely afflicted is extremely high. Cases that end with deaths are a commonplace because of the low quality of hospital nursing and, furthermore, provisions with food for the sick are substandard.

Russian losses exceed
100,000 men

The people of Finland is the most important subject in discussions among the population despite the heavy spying on any criticism, which has led to arrests of hundreds of people, especially of the wives of the reservists whose husbands had fallen on the front and

who condemn in their discussions the groundless attack of their government against Finland. Also at the working people in the factories there has occurred dissatisfaction with the war. The Soviet leaders have explained and still do that the policy of the Soviet Union is a peace policy but, however, already a million men have been sent to the front and the war has claimed tens of thousands of victims. The losses of the Soviet army on the Finnish front, the fallen, the wounded and those captured as prisoners are reckoned to exceed a hundred thousand people. The leadership of the Soviet army is subjected to a hard criticism and blamed for not been able to crush the tiny Finnish army despite the superior number of the troops they had had at their disposal. The Soviet army has also lost support amidst the Communist workers.

Profiteering flourishes

The life of Leningrad's population has changed into an extremely heavy one during the war. Because of the lack of fuel the temperature in apartments is 4-5 C. In hundreds of buildings the waterpipes were burst because of recent frosts and lack for water is considerable. Because the railways were in the first hand reserved for the Soviet army transport, deliveries of food have diminished substantially. In the state-run shops there were long lines outside the doors waiting for delivery of sugar and fat. Peasants from the city surroundings do bring food to the city but the prices are approximately 10 times higher than regularly. In kolkhoz markets, where it was possible to exchange food against all sorts of merchandise, no-one from the

kolkhozes have been there during the last couple of weeks. Food profiteering has, because of the shortages, become a full scale industry. Militia troops hunt speculators, every day hundreds are captured but this does not slow down speculators.

The blackout has endangered
the peaceful life

The blackout has made life in Leningrad very dangerous to the peaceful population. Every night about ten robberies and homicides occur. From 9 PM nowadays a curfew is clamped on everyone without a proper authorization.

Foreigners not tolerated

A restriction on free movement is also imposed on the whole Leningrad region, as well as in Karelia according to the information received. When moving from one community or village to another, a special permit from the military authorities is required for travelling. The reason to restrict moving around is that a cast of being a spy is thrown on everybody. During the war hundreds of innocent people have been incarcerated and executed on suspicion of espionage. To stay in Leningrad or its surroundings is not allowed to

foreigners. Only in top-important matters a citizen of a country that has friendly relations with the Soviet Union can obtain a permit for this. Recently German engineers, in their capacity as military industry consultants, have arrived at Leningrad factories.

The war with Finland is a stupid
enterprise, says the Soviet worker

Our informant has gotten the impression that in case the war goes on for a long time, or even expands, also the patience of the Russian people, especially that of the workers, might come to an end. The war against Finland is even in the opinions of Russian workers stupid and especially therefore that Russia sacrifices men in aid of some unknown Kuusinen. The game played by the Soviet government is not fooling anyone, despite the propaganda done night and day. Challenging the threat of punishment the transmissions of the Finnish radio in Russian have been listened. In recent times, however, private radio receivers have been confiscated and replaced by loudspeakers that can only transmit, through wires, news from the Leningrad radio center. Nevertheless, the truth will come out, especially through what is told by soldiers returning from the front.

[Translated by Pauli Kruhse]