



**The best sportsmen—the best soldiers!** *Gunnar Höckert., winner of the 5.000 metres at the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936, fell in the fight for Finland's freedom in 1940. With the inexorability and stubbornness, with the glory and modesty with which these men carried their colours from victory to victory. they died for their standards: the world champion in fast skating Wasenius, the athlete Helle, the gymnast Uosikinen, who took part in the Olympic Games, the wrestler Nykänen, the footballer Rinne, the javelin-thrower Mikkola, the ski-jumper Vierto, the long distance runner Jalkanen and Tolamo, the athlete and long-jumper.*



*Sten Suvio, welter-weight champion at the Olympic Games in 1936. He was badly wounded and is still in hospital but he intends to go to the front again*



*Esta Seesta, lieutenant on the Carelian front, a famous gymnast and member of all national teams during recent years. He took part in the Olympic Games*

# FINNISH SPORTSMEN

Everyone who admires human greatness and heroism must respect the little country of Finland who is defending herself against a giant of vastly superior strength. A people hardened by toil and a struggle for freedom that has lasted centuries is engaged in the decisive conflict. Never more shall an enemy set foot on Carelian soil. "This land is poor and ever remains poor for him who longs for gold; but we love her loyally and true: for us, in spite of rocks and barren earth, she is as rich as gold, are the words of the national anthem. The Finns sacrifice their lives for her, the men in the front line, the women close behind, they suffer hunger for her without a murmur

and die for her proudly. The hearts of the people beat as one. They are hearts steeled by sport. It is a fact that this nation has not practised sport in vain and that the effort once put forth on the track is now made in the service of their country: Finland's best sportsmen are her best soldiers. With narrowed blue eyes in the angular faces that seem forged of steel they face their enemy, these men trained in all feats of strength and accustomed to every privation carry their guns and their heavy arms with equal assurance. This small nation has made great sacrifices and still greater are to come, but peace and untarnished honour will be the gallant fighter's reward.

*Carl Diem*



**Taisto Mäki.** *He has maintained the legendary fame of Nurmi from whom he inherited everything, style, hardiness, tenacity and mode of life. He held the world records for the 5.000 metres and 10.000 metres. At present he is serving as a runner at the front*





**Sulo Nurmela**, the great ski champion, founder of the Finnish long distance style, fought all during winter on the frozen Gulf of Finland. In forced marches the ambulance N. C. O. used to bring back the wounded.



**Matti Järvinen**, the incomparable javelin-thrower. His world record of 77.23 m. is unforgettable. Once the inspiring leader of Finland's youth, he now leads his company as lieutenant on the Carelian front.



**Paavo Nurmi** once ruled the cinder tracks of the whole world as sprinter and long distance runner. This man, who made an epic of running and ran from record to record, later became a teacher at the Vierumäki sport school and is now a trainer and sergeant-major in the infantry. The young soldiers between 12 and 17 who serve as runners and orderlies at the front are instructed by him in the secrets of soldiering.



PK. Photographs:  
Front Correspondent Arthur Grim.

**Matti Mikkola** among his comrades (right). A pupil of Järvinen, he was the best of the younger generation of javelin-throwers. From his earliest youth he had been an enthusiastic airman. On 3. 11. 41 the Finnish military communiqué announced: "N. C. O. Mikkola has not returned to his base."