

## FINLAND IN WINTER WAR 1939-1940

- Soviet Union invaded Finland with territorial claims, which lead to a defense war in 30 November, 1939
- The conflict ended with the Moscow peace treaty in 21 March, 1940
- Condition for the peace was that Finland will surrender Southern Carelia and other land areas to the Soviet Union
- Over 400000 people lived in the area
- Viipuri was the biggest city to be evacuated ( $\sim 30 \mathrm{~km}$ from new border)


## EVACUATION OF VIIPURI: INITIAL CONDITIONS

- 86000 inhabitants
- The whole country was in war: the society was living in exceptional circumstances
- Sudden need for evacuation finally caught Vyborg by surprise: it was not a border town
- It was winter with freezing temperatures
- Complete evacuation needed to be carried
 out in one week
- The threat was visible and imminent: majority decided to evacuate


## THE EVACUATION ORDER

- Immediately move your personal belongings next to the nearest road
- Then, immediately travel through Imatra train station to Ukonlammi, where you will get more instructions
- Be calm, and calm down others
- Take with you:
- Proviant for 5 days
- Warm clothes and blanket
- Snow cover
- Valuables, like money and ID

- Anything else that you are able to carry $\sim 20 \mathrm{~km}$ a day
- Bicycle, skis or a kickspark
- Only the ill, children or elderly may use horse transport


## EVACUATION TACTICS

- Evacuation was voluntary: result from staying would be staying in Soviet Russia
- People were ordered to leave on very short notice: $\mathbf{0 . 5}$ hour to days
- Everyone capable needed to walk
- Transport was reserved for the belongings and the invalids
- Behind the new border, people were gathered in temporary camps: food, animal feed and basic supplies were provided



## LOGISTIC CHOICES

- Most travelled by foot
- Horses pulled the heavy belongings
- Cattle was steered on the roads, loose or tied to the horses
- From collection points, people where moved onwards in cattle trains
- Lots of animals were left behind (mainly sheeps, bulls, and pigs because
 they were not used to walk in snow)


## AFTERMATH: RELOCATION AND HERITAGE

- The evacuation is considered by historians as calm and successful
- Nobody was left unintentionally behind
- The people were distributed to all over Finland based on the place of origin - important factor is family or friend help
- Viipuri residents ended up in Helsinki
- Significant fraction of personal
 belongings was misplaced, but lives were saved


## COMPARISON TO ASTEROID IMPACT SCENARIO



Tunguska

homestead so

## LESSONS FOR FUTURE RAPID EVACUATIONS

- When evacuation is done on short notice consider light traffic (walking, biking, skiing)
- Traffic jams and exceeded capacity of public transport are to be expected
- Train, if available, may be more reliable than road traffic, even though the comfort may be limited (limited availability of passenger rolling stock)
- A healthy person can cover tens of kilometers in a single day by walking / skiing or over 100 km by bicycle - enough to leave Tunguska dead zone
 in one day!

