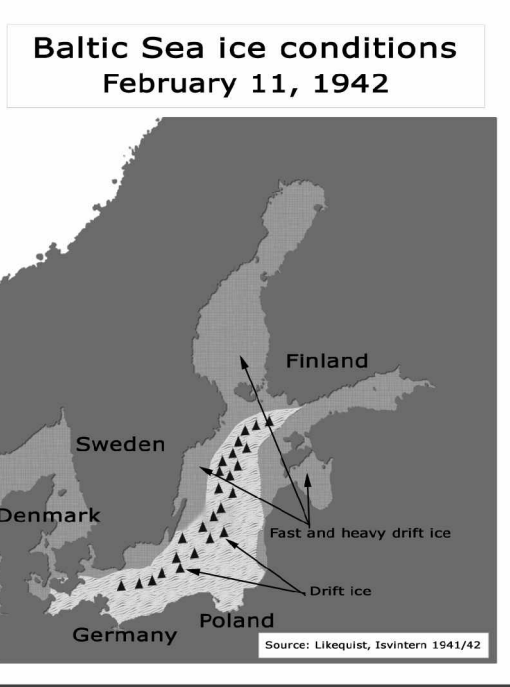


Stockholm's coldness trophy

Location	January 1942			February 1942		
	Average Jan. 1942	Normal 1901-30	Lowest 1942	Average Feb. 1942	Normal 1901-30	Lowest 1942
Kiruna	-16,6	-11,9	-35,5	-15,8	-11,8	-33,4
Haparanda	-17,0	-10,3	-31	-14,2	-11,2	-30
Umea	-17,2	-7,4	-30	-13	-7,4	-27,8
Östersund	-16,9	-7,9	-31,4	-11,2	-6,8	-26,4
Karlstad	-12,3	-3,2	-25,2	-10,8	-3,1	-24,6
Stockholm	-10,6	-2,5	-28,2	-10,5	-2,6	-18,8
Karlshamm	-8,4	-0,3	-22,5	-6,6	-0,6	-16
Malmö	-7,5	+0,3	-25	-6,2	-0,2	-20

All figures in minus Celsius degree; Source: Statens



Yet, the record conditions lasting a longer period of time and offering a wider perspective are more important than the small and short incident at Malgoviiks primary school. Stockholm is a good place to demonstrate the situation. Sweden was not a war party. The Swedish meteorologist Goesta Liljequist expressed his amazement about the winter of 1941/42 as it follows: After the two hard winters of 1939/40 and 1940/41 and the difficulties they generated for shipping and fuel supply for the country, one has awaited and expected that the winter of 1941/42 would bring a return of the mild winters, which had recently predominated. Instead, winter became one of the toughest, if not the severest of all winters during the last 200 yearsⁱ. In 1943, Goesta Liljequist made a thorough assessment of "The severity of the winters at Stockholm, 1757-

1942". The following data have been collected from his workⁱⁱ.

The winter of 1941/42 is highly ranked in the list of very severe winters. From the group of 15 most severe winters since 1757, the winter of 1939/40 occupies the 10th position and the winter of 1941/42 is in the top, as it follows:

Rank No	Mean temp. Dec.– March	Mean temperature Three coldest months	Sum of negative, monthly means temp.
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1	1788/89, - 8.0° C	1941/42, - 9.2° C	1788/89, - 31.9° C
2	1808/09, - 7.6° C	1788/89, - 9.1° C	1808/09, - 30.5° C
3	1941/42, - 7.5° C	1808/09, - 8.7° C	1941/42, - 30.5° C

Liljequist points out the fact that, since temperature observations were made in 1760, the mean winter temperatures had increased with about 2°C and that this tendency was well marked especially after the middle of the 19th century. The deviation from 'normal' became even more evident. A 'true' comparison actually shows that the winter of 1941/42 was in any calculation from -0,5° (right column) to -2,5°C (middle column) colder than the winter of 1788/89. Even without any corrections in the group of the three coldest months (from December until February), the winter of 1941/42 is the coldest since 1757. At that time, when data registration began, average temperatures during the winter of 1756/57 was of -2,3°C. As no data are available before that year, Stockholm's winter, which immediately followed the 'Barbarossa' operation, could have been the coldest in many thousand years.

The closing assessment on Baltic Sea field experiment should be given to the Swedish meteorologist Gösta H. Lijequistⁱⁱⁱ who wrote immediately after the extraordinary winter of 1941/42 (excerpt):

The winter 1941/42 was colder than the winters 1939/40 and 1940/41. At Stockholm it was one of the coldest winters since 1756, when regular temperature observations started. If we classify the severity of a winter according to the value of the mean temperature of the three coldest months of the winter half year, 1941/42 is the coldest winter since 1756.

i Liljequist, Gösta H., 'Isvintern 1941/42'; in: Staten Meteorologisk - Hydrografska Anstalt, No.4, 1942, pp.2-15.

ii Liljequist, Gösta H., 'The severity of the winters at Stockholm 1757 - 1942', Geografiska Annaler 1-2, 1943, p. 81-104; and as an extended paper in: Meddelanden, Serien Uppsatser, Stockholm 1943, pp.1-24.

iii Liljequist, Gösta H., 'Isvintern 1941/42'; in: Staten Meteorologisk - Hydrografska Anstalt, No.4, 1942, pp.2-15.