COLD COMFORT?

Winter has hit Cyprus with a bang, and for all of those thinking of joining one of the British contingent Winter Warfare courses in the Troodos, we publish this picture of a rifleman of the Finnish Defence Force undergoing snow training.

GENERAL THIMAYYA
CONFINED TO BED

The Commander of UNFICYP, General K.S. Thimayya has been confined to bed suffering from a heavy cold and overwork. The following statement was issued by a UN spokesman on Saturday:

Maltese may provide a UN peace-keeping force

Speaking in the General Assembly on Thursday, Mr. Giorgio Borg Olivier, the Prime Minister of Malta said that his country would provide a unit for future UN peace-keeping operations.

Mr. Borg Olivier told members that his newly independent country constituted an island link between Europe and Africa. Although it was probably the smallest nation in the UN it would be able to provide a unit for peace-keeping operations he said.

"General K. S. Thimayya has been advised by his medical advisers to remain in bed for the next ten days.

He has recently been suffering from a heavy cold and

Readjustment in Nicosia Zone UNFICYP Deployment

A readjustment of the United Nations Force within Nicosia Zone, to allow more functional operational control within the Zone, took place on Wednesday, 9 December. The Canadian, Danish and Finnish contingents of UNFICYP were involved in the redeployment.

Change on ‘Green Line’

The elements of the Canadian contingent in the Nicosia suburb of Trakonas were replaced on the "Green Line" by troops of the Finnish contingent whose responsibilities in the NE section of the Zone have been reduced.

Canadian Guards

The northern sector of Nicosia Zone including the coast line, the Kyrenia range and the Kyrenia road is now included in the operational area of the 1st Battalion, the Canadian Guards, who relieved Danish troops in the Ayia Irini area and Finnish troops in the NE part of the Zone.

Southern areas including some portions of the Troodos Mountains will continue to be within the Danish area.

Study operations
Says Danish Foreign Minister

DENMARK'S Foreign Minister Per Haekkerup, speaking in the General debate of the UN General Assembly in New York on Thursday, urged a thorough study of the complex problem of UN peace-keeping operations. He said that the issue was of particular interest to his country because it was setting aside close to one thousand men for service with the UN pursuant to any lawful United Nations decision.

General Thimayya

this, combined with overwork, has led to the doctors giving this advice.

General Thimayya regrets that owing to his indisposition he has had to cancel for the time being all outside engagements.

He continues to deal currently with all matters affecting the Force and is in regular contact with members of his staff, whom he receives at his house together with other visitors.

It is not intended to issue further bulletins."

The 'Blue Beret' feels that it expresses the wishes of all contingents when we wish General Thimayya a full and speedy recovery.
**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY KTIMA**

A cocktail party and exhibition was organised by Church of the United Nations Association in KTIMA. Mr. HAVOCZARIS at 1890 Ovo. This provided 3 Int Group an opportunity to meet the citizens of KTIMA, and turned out to be a successful social event. The friendly atmosphere and open welcome by Officers, NCOs and Men indicated that our stay here will be pleasant.

**IRISH RUN IN LARNACA**

In Cyprus for three years, Mr. Paul’s Convoy, Larnaca is a one-year-old Irishman, Mr. Ball, from Limerick, is a leading Officer with the Irish Guards, the friend of the Guards Regiment.

Prior to departure of 3 Int Group from Larnaca, Commanding Officer, Mr. Micaly, who also hails from Limerick, visited Mr. Paul’s Convoy, and was welcomed by the members of the Knights of the Sword.

**41 Inf. BN NOTES**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Since the last issue of Blue Bert the 41st Inf BN has changed its address. Our new address is 17 magnolia to Myrtou district. While we were flying by light, we now have not much to fly by. If we are not too busy we will try and set down to study the place and the rains make it available to work any time around.

**GARRETTOWN CAMP**

The camp headquarters of the Bd Company was at the Garrettown Camp. They were all delighted with the improvement in the weather.

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**U Thant back in 10 days**

U Thant, who entered hospital last Friday will be back in his office within seven to ten days, said Ghana’s Mr. A. Quaison-Sackey, the President of the General Assembly of Wednesday's meeting.

Mr. Quaison-Sackey told members that the Secretary-General would be on leave for 100 feet. Most people have a notion that the pilots are just for the money, this is not true. They are flying in a better living selling the machinery.

Of course, if you are lucky, you can come across beautiful persons. And some divers also come in search of such. The best chance to find shells with pearls are at the coral reefs. These shells which produce the best mother-of-pearl are found when the surface consists of sand.

**Good Wishes**

In response to requests by a large number of delegations, Mr. Quaison-Sackey says that he had drafted a message of good wishes to the Secretary-General on behalf of the Assembly in general. The text expressed their wish for his full and speedy recovery.

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**FROM AUSTRALIAN CORAL REEFS TO CYPRUS VILLAGES**

Sgt Kent Sigjren of the Swedish Battalion is definitely not afraid of living in the village. The white men who have been working as a pearl diver.

It all began in 1923 when Kent Sigjren went to Australia. First he got a job on a farm and later in car spraying work. But having a strong zest for adventures he rather tired of these jobs and put an advertisement into 'The West Australian', a local paper.

He had a hungry eye for an exciting job. Very soon after the advertisement read something like this:

"Young Swede needs job in Australia. Will be at hotel advertising in the next few days"

An Australian senator by the name of Scott Dunstan, a descendant of the famous writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, read an account of Kent Sigjren in the advert. He called Kent Sigjren and decided to hire him. Kent Sigjren reported to Sydney with 30 drums of freshly caught oysters. He was a pearl fisherman but he didn’t have any experience with diving. He was given a pearl diving suit and the job was to work hard for a decent living.

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**HUMOUR CORNER**

I was busy setting up trays in the galley on a jet flight when the plane began to rumble. The pilot came on the intercom and asked everyone to remain calm and fasten their seat belts as we were about to land. But it was actually a turbulence from the aircraft. She followed my directions as I was not literally, as I was trying to open the cabin door to see if anyone was in the cockpit. Confused, she returned to her seat, apologised. She was a bit embarrassed. "There are no seats left in the cabin, ladies - watching television."

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**ANNEXURE—“Myth” says Costopolos**

The Greek Foreign Mi-

ister, Mr Stavros Co-

stopulos, speaking in the General Assembly on Wednesday, dismissed the annexation of Cyprus by Greece as a “myth.”

Mr. Costopolos said that his country supported full independence for Cyprus while recognising that the rights of the Turkish minority must be protected.

The Greek Government had agreed to consider the idea of annexing Cyprus by force if a “myth” was the case, he said. His country’s aim was to let the Cypriot people determine their own future.
What's with Our Blue Berets?

A recent article published in a British magazine made this worthy of publication. In the edition dated Dec 1, we find that the editorial staff add insult to injury in that they have published a problem that we had in our pencil corner over four weeks ago — and then they don't even offer a prize.

In an effort to meet this criticism on increased benefit contribution to the 'Blue Beret' may be expected.

Units with the UN

Each week the Blue Beret will run a short feature on one or two of the units of all contingents attached to the UN in Cyprus. We start off with the 1st BN (Cheshire) RTG and Ajax Squadron 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

1st Battalion (Cheshire) Regiment

The 1st Battalion (Cheshire) Regiment was formed on the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment came to Cyprus at the beginning of October and took over the Larnaca District from the 1st BN Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

The Regiment was raised in the Wirral in 1939 by Henry, Duke of Norfolk and in 1940. Since then they have served in many parts of the world. Recently they arrived in the middle of a crisis in Malaysia, in Northern Ireland and in the British Army of the Rhine, from where they come to Cyprus.

Good relations with the local population

Their duties in the Larnaca District are those of a normal United Nations Forces, including the marking of check points and patrolling of villages. There has been little trouble with the local population and relations with the local population are good. Some National Guard officers were entertained to lunch in the Of- ficer’s Mess on 11th December.

The Regiment is very proud of its activities and record, and justly so for they were Army champions in 1942, 43 and 44 — and a year ago they had competed previously just before World War II. They are the only regiment to have won the triple treble in succession and are very proud of their record.

On December 16th the Regiment is holding a Christmas party for fifty Greek children from Larnaca. This will be followed the next day by another party for twenty five children from the town. Both parties are being run by Wo.

Ajax Squadron

Ajax Squadron, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, took over from the Life Guards at Zizy on 4 November. The remainder of the regiment is at Perinthos Down in Wiltshire. Since World War II the regiment has been stationed in the United Kingdom, Germany and Libya.

The squadron is equipped with Ferret Mark 2 scout cars. It’s main story is to patrol the eastern sector of the Larnaca district.

Less Horsebound

Ajax like to think they are less horsebound than their predecessors the Life Guards, but nevertheless they have struck up a very warm liaison with Lord Strathcona’s Horse! The squadron would like to put on record that 1 Cheshire, under whose command they have been most helpful, and that the squadron, in return, have defended them at hockey three times in a fighting!

The soccer team has played twice against Mazi, a local Turkish Cypriot village, drawing the first game one all and going on to under two goals to one in the second. They have also played against a Greek Cypriot village and beaten them. Later they will be meeting both sides again in a cup competition.

Fashion Show

On Wednesday morning the girls lighted some sparklers at the south end of the beach. As they went swimming on Salamis beach they were met by some of the people of Hala Sultan Tekke. They gave a special Filin Discol Fashion Show to the UN Club.

Before their departure the girls donated Christmas tree decorations and candles which will be the Christmas kiss to sick Cypriot children.
Force Commander Gen. K. S. Thimmaya har av laskrego rats att stanna i scenen under lio dagar. Han har nyligen edit av en svarf rykten och detta i forvarning om ove- ranstnengung har gjort att Laskarren avländs vilja.

General Thimmayys hasse linger kontakt med sina däldar along with han også del- tagen mit oulka fraa.

Early for Christmas Please.

Next week the Blue Beret will be publishing a day earlier than usual, on Monday 21st De- cember, because of the Christmas holiday. Will all contributors please make a special effort to make sure their copy reaches us by Friday 18th December to facilitate early printing.

(Face page)

The object of this tozer is to inser the different shapes and numbers into the above drawing. The idea is that ensure that from top to bottom, from side to side and also diagonally, no more that one of each shape or number appears in each line.

(Face page 2)

Correspondence Club

CS Edward Doyle of the Tracton Platoon, Headquarter- ers Company is blissed with eleven children. They all corre- spond with him. "The baby, who is 63 years old, send little drawings of father, and perhaps that day he may be in art."