

THE BLUE BERET

Wednesday, 3rd January 1968



Issued by the Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus

Volume Five

No. 38

PRESSING WORLD ISSUES FACE UN IN 1968

At the United Nations the early months of 1968 are expected to be crowded with important developments. High among them are those relating to the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean.

At the request of the UN Security Council, Special Envoy of Secretary-General U Thant, Gunnar Jarring, is currently seeking settlement of the long-standing dispute between Israel and its Arab neighbors, which has plagued the Middle East for two decades and has brought during this period three wars, most recently the short but harsh clash of last June.

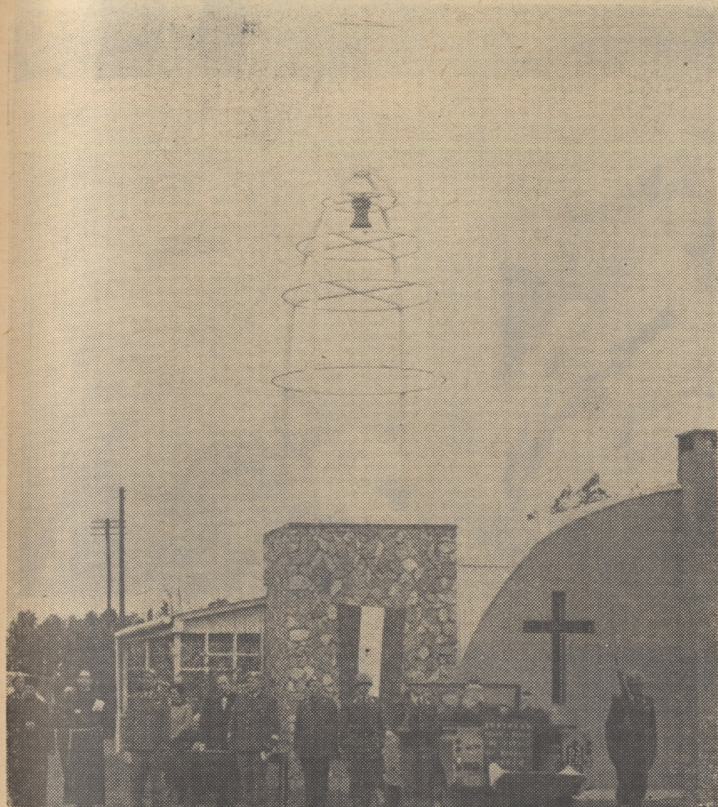
A week ago, U Thant reported to the Council that Mr Jarring had completed his first round of visits to the Governments involved in the June war and had been assured of their willingness to co-operate with his mission. Last week he had further discussions with authorities in Israel and the United Arab Republic. There is no specific deadline for a fuller report from U Thant to the Council, but one or more would normally be expected in the early part of 1968.

Fresh United Nations efforts to bring stability and peace to Cyprus were brought on by near-war

in November between Turkey and Greece over the island republic, where Turkish and Greek Cypriots have been in armed confrontation or open conflict for the past four years. Last month, in renewing the mandate of the 4,600-man United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for a further three months, the Security Council urged the parties to make a new and determined effort to keep peace and reach a permanent settlement. It also asked them to make use of the good offices of the Secretary-General. These were offered early in December in connexion with matters such as supervising possible disarmament moves and bolstering internal security for the benefit of all Cypriots. The new mandate of the United Nations Force expires on 26 March 1968, so that in this instance there is a hard-and-fast deadline for a report from the Secretary-General on his peace efforts.

A Security Council consideration of another major international issue — the Vietnamese war — may also be sought early this year. Last month, US Ambassador Arthur Goldberg said he consulted UN Security Council Members on again raising the question in the Council, and a decision by the United States Government on whether to press this course could be expected soon. Opponents of an action by the Council include two permanent members, the Soviet Union and France, on the grounds that it would be juridically unsound and politically unwise. The Vietnamese issue was, technically, placed on the Council's agenda early in 1967, but no substantive debate took place.

Decolonization problems will come under renewed debate here early this year when a Special Committee meets in February for a session which is expected to last into summer. Directives from the UN General Assembly lay particular stress on effective action to get South Africa out of Southwest Africa to end Portuguese control of Angola, Mozambique, and Portuguese Guinea; to bring down the white minority regime in Rhodesia; and to speed decolonization in other parts of the world.



AT XEROS — New bells for St. Barbara's Church at Xeros can be seen after they were presented by UNFICYP's Austrian Field Hospital. Standing in front of Church, among others, Father Flaviano and Col R. Wech. (See story below)

DRIVE SAFELY!

Responsibility

Do not blame St Peter — you are the only one who can avoid getting yourself in trouble.

Keep windshield and windows clear

Ensure that glass areas and your lights are in good condition.

Get the feel of the road

Try your brakes occasionally. Find out how slippery the road is and adjust your speed to road and weather conditions.

Follow at a safe distance

Give yourself plenty of room to stop. It is hard to explain why you could not stop when the other fellow did.

Stay alert

Drowsiness and slow reaction is caused by excessive heat from use of bulky clothes, flight-boots, heater. Lack of fresh air due to closed windows, road hypnosis on long trips.

FOR St BARBARA'S CHURCH AUSTRIAN PEACE BELLS

WHEN an Austrian Chaplain, Oberkurat Jordan, visited Cyprus during the annual visit to the Contingent for Christmas 1966, a novel idea was born.

In talking to Herr Oskar Kortan, the chief engineer of the copper mining company at Xeros, Oberkurat Jordan found that the Church of St. Barbara was in need of bells. The suggestion was discussed with Colonel Nussbaumer, the previous Commandant of the Austrian Field Hospital and it was decided to collect the money necessary for the bells from personnel of the hospital. The sum required was duly raised and the order for two 'peace' bells placed; these were cast and made at INNSBRUCK in Austria and duly transported to Cyprus.

The bells are named Agnes, after Col Nussbaumer's daughter, and Gabriele, after Herr Kortan's daughter who is at present on holiday from school in England and with her pa-

rents at Xeros.

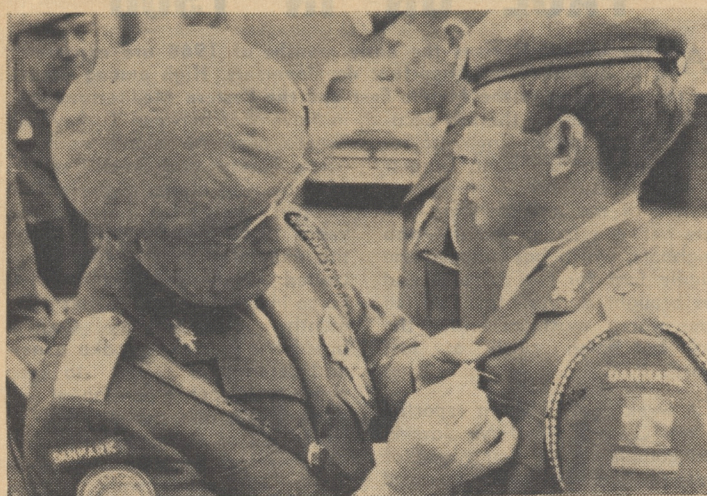
At a ceremony at St. Barbara's Church in Xeros at 3 p.m. on Saturday 30th December, the two bells were handed over by the visiting Chaplain for Christmas 1967 Oberkurat Vollnhofer, on behalf of Col R. Wech, the present Commandant of the Austrian Field Hospital, to Father Flaviano, the Holy See's Acting Chancellor in Cyprus, who duly acknowledged the gift with thanks. Lt Col M. J. Murphy, Commander of the Irish Contingent was also present. Detachments from both the Austrian and Irish contingents formed a guard of honour and the pipe band of the Irish Contingent played during the ceremony. Three carols were sung, concluding with Silent Night.

MEDALJER

19 DEC 1967

Hesten Venus havde et højdepunkt i sin karriere, da kaptajn Simonsen afleverede Louroujinas medaljetagere til vor Commander.

I BRAVO dekorerer konstabel Vede af CH/DANCON, medens kompagnichefen major Schøller ser til. I ALFA forestod major Budde-Lund selv medaljeuddelingen. Her dekorerer konstabel Juhl.



KRITISKE HERRER

Ja, men det er nødvendigt. Til våbeneftersynet skal våbnet være rent og tørlagt, ellers bliver et evt. brud måske overset, og så er våbnet farligt for brugeren.



VIKINGER?

Ikke mindre end 385 erhvervede det eftertragtede Middelhavs-Julebads-certificat, da de juleaftensdag om formiddagen "nød", først en dukkert i Middelhavet, og derefter varmede sig ved en Gløgg hos Mamy.

Gåsehuden ses ikke.

DANCON - NYT



FN-JUL I BILD

Sedan förra numret har Blue Beret hunnit få lite fler bilder från svenska FN-bataljonens julfirande, bilder som vi ber att få presentera på denna sida.

Många julgudstjänster hölls i helgen på de svenska förläggningarna. T.v. har batpastor Lennart Nordqvist samlat en skara till julbön vid Artemis Road i Larnaca.



SWEDCON NEWS



Blue Berets redaktion önskar sin läsekrets

GOTT NYTT ÅR!



Batchefen besökte på julafton med helikopter camper och OP:n runt i svenska zonen, här färdig för avfärd från Komi Kebir med chefen 1 komp, mj Ahlberg, t.v. Behjälplig med "embarkeringen" är Gösta Frost, Mora.



Dans kring granen på Famagusta Beach. Agerande i varierande klädsel är STR-kompanister. "Juldopp i hafvet" och andra begivenheter stod på programmet...

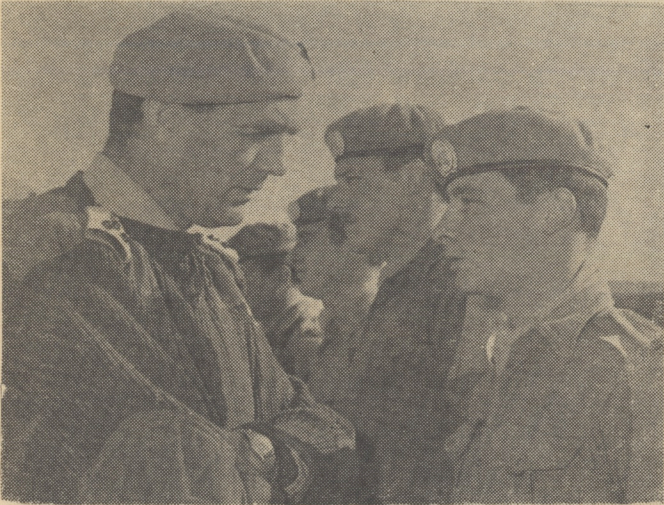
Julkalpparna öppnas på OP 207, nämligen av (fr.v.) Sören Stark, Björköby, Christer Ihrstedt, Örebro och Sune Haglund, Stockholm.



... som säcklöpning till exempel. Förstakompanisterna Ingemar Nord, Göteborg, Tommy Fransson, Gnosjö, Staffan Harbom, Uppsala och Per-Gösta Johansson, Kalix (fr.v.) skuttar i sanden.

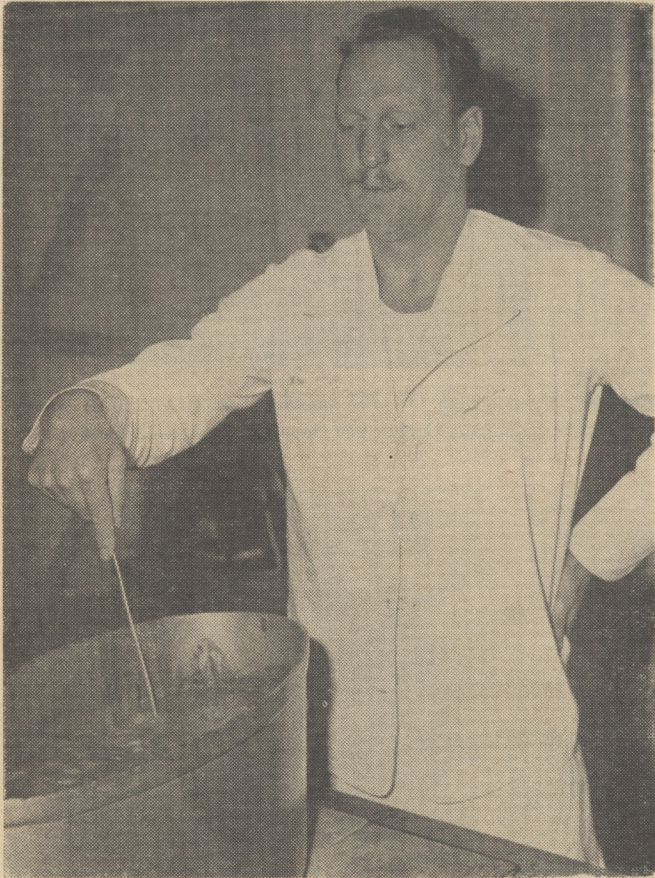
BRITCON COMMANDER VISITS OUTPOSTS

The Britcon Commander, Brigadier M.N. Harbottle, continuing his visits to outposts of the British contingent visited Polis and Anadhiou last Thursday.



Brig Harbottle visiting Hilltop OP, spoke to Rfn Mike Southern of Lozells, Birmingham.

'WELL DONE THE COOKS'



During the recent emergency, the officers of HQ UNFICYP required a constant supply of meals through each 24-hour period as people worked on shifts. One of the men who worked so ably and cheerfully, ensuring that no-one was unfed, was Cpl Brian Prestedge, ACC, from Willesden London. He was also working hard throughout the Christmas period as indeed were all cooks everywhere.



Brig Harbottle seen here during his inspection of Limni Camp at Polis. Policing him is Cpl Bill Underhill, RAMC on loan to the battalion from BMH Tidworth. His 17 years service, Bill has served a lot of his time in the Far East and is sampling the Near East.

BRITCON NEWS

Dvr Dave Franklin from Devonport serving with 65 Sqn RCT, is bridging the language barrier on the bridge at Ayios Theodoros, with some children from the village.



At the Rugby match on Wednesday HQ UNFICYP played RAF Akrotiri. After a well-fought game RAF Akrotiri emerged the victors by 17 points. Passing the ball is Tpr Ian Bray of 'B' Sqn 4/7 DG.



The traditional Christmas Dinner was provided at Xeros Camp on 25 Dec. and as is the custom the Officers and NCO's served the meal. At work during the dinner (L to R) CQMS Joe Carroll, Sgt-Ned Mulryan and CQMS Leo Flanagan.



Capt C. McNamara Transport Officer 9 Inf Gp serving Christmas Dinner, to (L) Cpl Sean O'Reilly and John Walsh.



Enjoying the morning tea break (L to R) Pte William Quearney and Gnr Michael Stanford.



In a recent competition the prize for the "Best Tent in the Group Area" was won by "The Bunkhouse" occupied by (L to R) Sgt John Deegan, Sgt Patrick Skehan and Sgt John Lawton, all members of the Heavy Mortar Troop. The prize was presented by Lt Col Murphy on Christmas Day.

IRCON NEWS



Comdt Vincent Crawford OC Headquarters Company presenting the prizes to Pte Christy Egan, Captain of the Winning Team of the Company Darts Competition.



Communications, articles or enquiries should be addressed to:—
The Editor

The BLUE BERET is published by the Information Office of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, (UNFICYP)

THE BLUE BERET
WOLSELEY BARRACKS
HQ UNFICYP
NICOSIA Cyprus



Näin veisataan jouluvirttä Kypoksella.



JOULUISIA TUNNELMIA

FINCON NEWS



Pataljoonan pastori Ville Muilu lukemassa jouluevankeliumia suomalaisille rauhanturvaajille.



Kotoisten jouluherkkujen kimpussa ollaan, jonoissa jääkärit T Günther, T Forsten, M Leppänen, V Suomalainen, H Virkki ja R Järvinen.

UN MEDAL FOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Lt Gen A.E. Martola, UN Force Commander, presents the UN Cyprus medal to Col H.C.F. Elliot, Commander of the Canadian Contingent and UN Deputy Chief of Staff.

CANCON NEWS

(Canadian Forces Photos)



CHRISTMAS DINNER AT CAMP MAPLE LEAF



Sgt "Quick-Draw" McGraw serves the traditional Christmas dinner to Cpl John Silvers in the Camp Maple Leaf mess.

Major Ian Galbraith, Commanding Officer of the Reconnaissance Squadron of the Fort Garry Horse, serves Christmas dinner to Pte Sandy Santford and Cpl Bob Provost in the mess at Camp Maple Leaf.



Mrs T.B.B. Wainman-Wood, wife of the Canadian High Commissioner in Cyprus, presents a Christmas Card to Sgt Roy Rapley and S/Sgt Jim Gootcher in the Sergeants Mess at Camp Maple Leaf. Mr and Mrs Wainman-Wood obtained more than 30 Christmas trees, including the one shown here, for use in CANCON outposts and messes.



LT COL KITSON HONOURED

A member of the British Contingent of the UNFICYP was honoured by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, in the New Year's Honours list published on Monday.

Lt Col F.E. Kitson, MBE, MC, the Commanding Officer of the First Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, has been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his work as a Staff Officer at the Ministry of Defence, London.

He was awarded the MBE in 1959 and is also the holder of the Military Cross and bar.

Lt Col Kitson is married with two children. He was commissioned in 1946 and has held a variety of posts both at regimental duty and in Staff appointments, which have taken him to

Germany, Kenya, Malaya and the USA. From 1962 to 1964, Col Kitson was in Cyprus as second-in-command of the Third Battalion of the Royal Green Jackets and was also Master of the Dhekelia Drag.



A piper from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, piped the New Year in around the lines of HQ UNFICYP at midnight on New Year's Eve.

The Week In Photos And A Happy New Year To All Our Readers

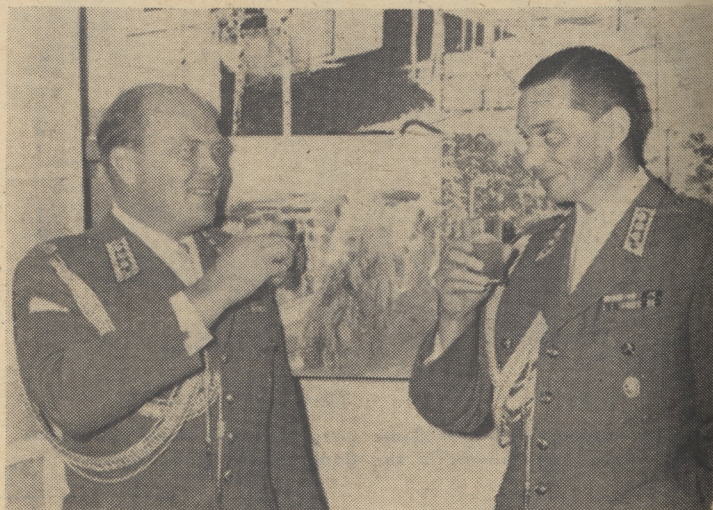


At the traditional comic football match between the Officers and Sgts, held on Boxing Day at HQ UNFICYP there were some amusing sights.

Seen here are three of the Sgts team, WO II A: Holmberg (Swedcon) Sgt 'Georgie Dale' and WO I L.A. Hunt (Britcon) surely representing the long the short and the tall. No-one can be found who knows the true result of the game.



At the conclusion of a chess tournament amongst members of the UNFICYP Civilian Police, Major W. Beier, (left) Commanding Officer of the Austrian detachment, presented the 'Beier Trophy' to the winner of the Civilian Police Chess Tournament, Insp Josef Karner, also of the Austrian detachment.



On 1st January 1968 Col J. Jyrhämä (right) took over command of the Finnish Contingent from Col V. Rusanen, who returns to Finland on completion of his six months tour with UNFICYP in early January.