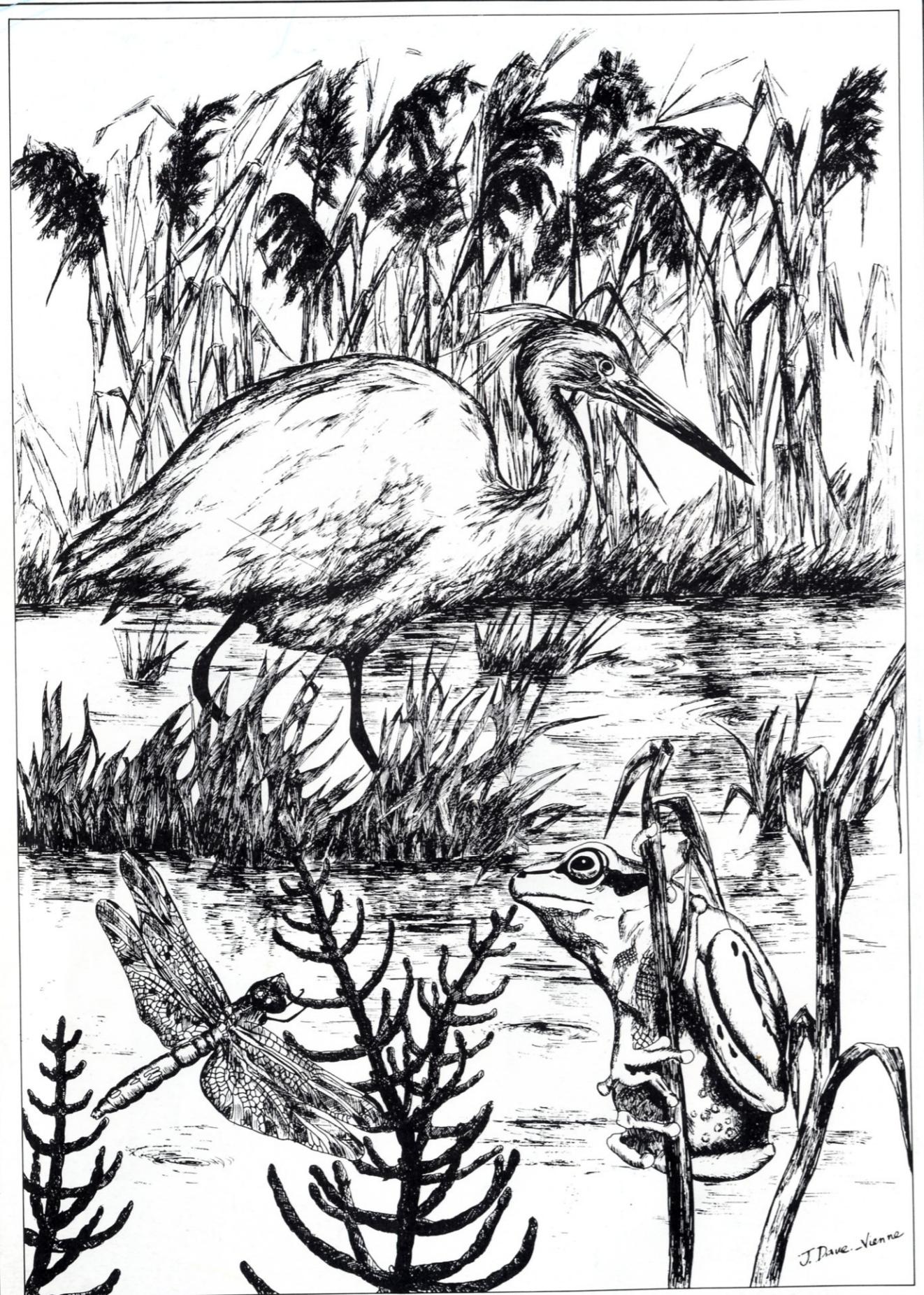


THE BLUE BERET



JANUARY 1987





The Cyprus Wildlife Society is striving to increase the National awareness to dangers facing the flora and fauna of the Island. The scene shown, depicts wildlife of the Akrotiri wetlands and is one of a series of drawings by artist J. DAUE-VIENNE being used in the societies poster campaign.

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The Blue Beret is the house journal of the United Nations Force in Cyprus and as such, is intended to provide a source of information on current events within the Force, on UN matters of general interest and on local tourist advice.

Articles of general interest are invited from all members of the Force. Photographs should be in black and white on glossy paper size 160mm by 210mm. This is an official publication prepared under the direction of the Force Commander. The views expressed are, however, those of the author concerned and do not necessarily conform with official policy.

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Front cover
The beautiful
ruins of Salamis

BY: Sgt A Beaton



THE BLUE BERET

Editorial

The New Year has been safely seen in and no doubt all the well meaning New Years resolutions already broken. Rather belatedly I would like to propose a New Years resolution for the whole UN Force. Who is going to join me in a campaign to keep Cyprus clean. Sadly the throw away society has spread to this island, leaving a trail of unsightly and often dangerous broken glass, decaying plastic, rusting metal and rotting paper.

I can already hear indignant protests of "Well, it's not me" but taking the United Nations Protected Area just as an example, the amount of filth and litter in our area is a sad indictment that we all are to blame. It is not just the smokers who sin in this way by thoughtless disposal of cigarette packets. Soft drink cans are used by everyone.

Let us therefore be a little more positive. Rather than looking disapprovingly at our mess, let us set ourselves a target and collect at least two items of rubbish per day and dispose of them properly.

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THIRTY YEARS OF NORDIC PEACEKEEPING

The peacekeeping activities of Nordic countries are characterised by extensive mutual cooperation, starting from 1956. The Nordic Ministers of Defence meet twice a year to discuss the matters concerning UN peacekeeping activities. The countries have formed together as the "Nordic Stand-by Forces in United Nations Service". The military training for peacekeeping missions is divided between the nations and the working body for cooperation is NORDISK SAMARBETSGRUPP FOR FN'S MILITARA ARENDEN. Its main task is to consider the experiences gained in peacekeeping operations and the current problems, in such a way that the Nordic UN forces and their preparedness correspond to the needs of the United Nations at each time.

At the beginning, cooperation consisted of the organisation, equipment and dispatch of troops, but in 1965 it was extended to include the training of military observers and staff officers. Nowadays the responsibility for training has been shared, Sweden trains the staff officers, Finland the military observers, Denmark, the officers of the military police and Norway the officers of logistics and transport units.

United Nations Emergency Force, UNEF 1 (1956-1967), became the first UN-operation where UN established a peacekeeping force between the fighting parties to solve the Suez crisis. After hectic discussions in the UN General Assembly, where the matter had been taken by the UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld, and after both France and England had used their veto in the Security Council, the Canadian representative Lester Pearson, made an historic proposal which was later adopted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Pearson stated that the SG should be authorised to organise with the members states, a UN Force which would be strong enough to secure the borders during the negotiations for a

political solution for solving the Suez crisis which occurred after Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal. After the resolution was adopted, the SG had two days to make his plan for sending a UN Force to Suez. He announced the preliminary plan the same day. On the 12th of November the SG announced that the UN had agreed with Columbia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, India, Indonesia and Yugoslavia to take part in the mission. SG Hammarskjöld appointed as his military adviser Maj Gen Martola, who organised a small staff group in New York. Maj General Burns was appointed as the Force Commander for UNEF direct under UN. In November 1956, 650 men arrived in Suez and the last English and French troops left Egypt. The first UN Force in the Middle East had been established.

FINLAND



The activities of the Finnish Peacekeeping Force began in 1956 when Finland sent a company to the UNEF I. This company operated in the Sinai area for two years. During 1964-1977 a Finnish Battalion took part in UNFICYP and since then a small Finnish contingent has served with them. When the situation deteriorated again in 1973 a Battalion was sent to UNEF II.

In 1979 the Finnish Battalion was transferred to the Golan area to take part in UNDOF (UN Disengagement Observer Force). Since 1982 a Finnish Battalion has also taken part in UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon).

Finnish officers have served in high international positions. Lieutenant-General A.E. Martola was the Military Adviser to the UN Secretary General in 1956-1958 and the Commander of UNFICYP in 1966-1969. Major General L. Koho acted as the Liaison Officer of the UN Secretary General in 1965-1978. Lieutenant General Siilasvuo was the Deputy Chief of Staff and also the Chief of Staff of UNTSO in 1967-1973 and the Commander of the peacekeeping forces in the Middle East, 1973-

1975. In 1975-1979 he acted as the Chief Coordinator of the entire UN force in the Middle East. Major General G Hagglund has served as Commander for UNDOF and is now Commander for UNIFIL.

NORWAY



Norway has taken part in the UN's peacekeeping activities for a very long time. The first UN Secretary General was the Norwegian Tryggve Lie and his good example was also the guideline for Norwegian involvement in peacekeeping activities. Norway took part in UNSCOB (UN Special Committee in the Balkans) 1946-1949 and also in the Korean war, where they had a medical unit NORMASH. There have been 30,000 men serving in peacekeeping missions with the UN and out of these about 17,000 served in UNIFIL where Norway has a battalion.

UNEF I was the first peacekeeping mission where Norway, together with Denmark, sent a battalion called DANOR. This group consisted of one Norwegian, one American, one Dutch and three Swedes. Norway has also taken part in UNOGIL, UNYOM, ONUC and UNDOF.

At the moment Norway forms a part of UNMOGIP, UNTSO and UNIFIL.

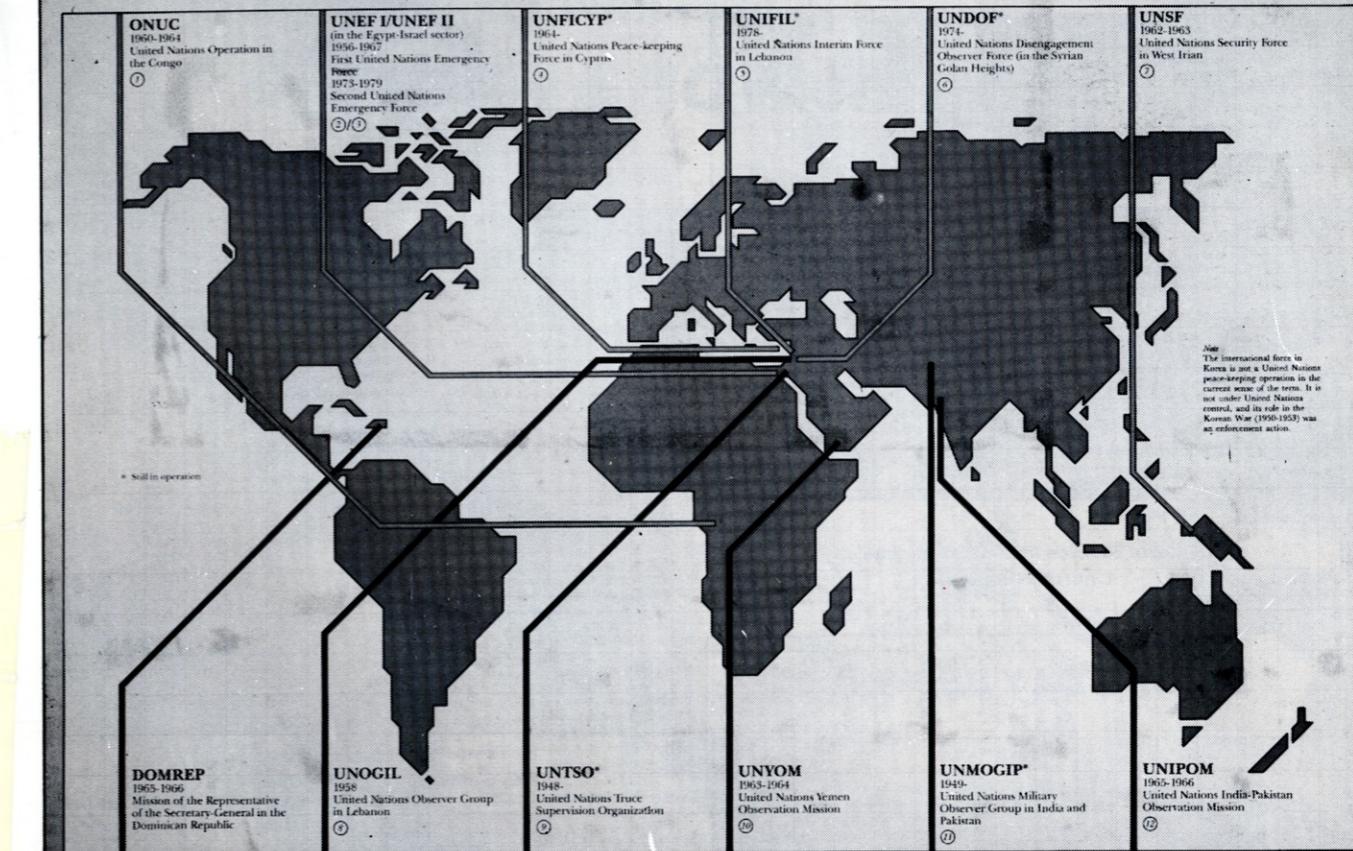
SWEDEN



Since 1948 Sweden has taken part in United Nations work in many ways. About 48,000 Swedish men and women have been involved. Sweden started its military efforts in 1948 when 15 officers were sent as observers on the border between the new state of Israel and its neighbours. In the fifties Sweden sent observers to Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Since then Sweden has had observers in Greece 1952-1954, New Guinea 1962 and in Yemen 1963-1964 and since 1948 in the Middle East.

The first time Sweden sent out a UN battalion peacekeeping force

United Nations Peace-keeping Forces



United Nations Military Observer Missions

was in connection with the Suez crisis 1956. The strength was 350 men and the mission ended in 1967.

In 1960-1964 Sweden had battalions in the Congo where the Swedish UN Secretary General, Dag Hammarskjöld was killed in a plane crash. In October 1973 Egypt together with Syria attacked Israel on two fronts. After hard negotiations UNEF II was established forming a UN force in the Suez Canal between Israel and Syria. One Swedish Battalion was participating in the mission. In 1979 the Camp David Peace Treaty was signed between Israel and Egypt and the UN-mandate ended in July 1979, and was replaced by a multi national force.

For the time being Sweden takes part in UNTSO, UNMOGIP, UNFICYP and UNIFIL. The Commander of UNDOF is Major General G Welin. The late Swedish Prime Minister Olof

Palme worked as a peace mediator, sent by the UN Secretary General, in the Iraq-Iran war without success.

DENMARK



Denmark has also been deeply involved in UN and its peacekeeping missions since 1950. The Danes took part in observation missions between Pakistan and India in 1950 with UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observer Group in India-Pakistan), and for the time being six Danish officers are working as observers from eight different countries.

As with all other Nordic countries (ex Iceland), the year 1956 was the year when Denmark took part in the first peacekeeping mission when they, together with the Norwegians formed the Danor battalion in Suez in UNEF I. It was the first time when a

peacekeeping force was established to calm down the inflammable situation around the Suez Canal.

In 1958 the Danes sent 12 observers to the UN observer group in Lebanon, UNOGIL.

In 1960 to 1964 Denmark sent peacekeeping forces to the civil war in Congo (ONUC Operation des Nations Unies au Congo). The Danes took part also in UNTSO 1963-1964 (the United Nations Yemen Observation Mission), when the civil war started in Yemen and the two factions were backed up by Egypt on one side and Saudi-Arabia on the other.

In 1965 Pakistan was attacked by India and UNIPOM was established for one and a half year (UN India-Pakistan Mission).

Since 1964 a Danish Battalion has taken part in UNFICYP, first with one thousand men and now with 341. Altogether about 2,000 Danes have served on this island.

PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS



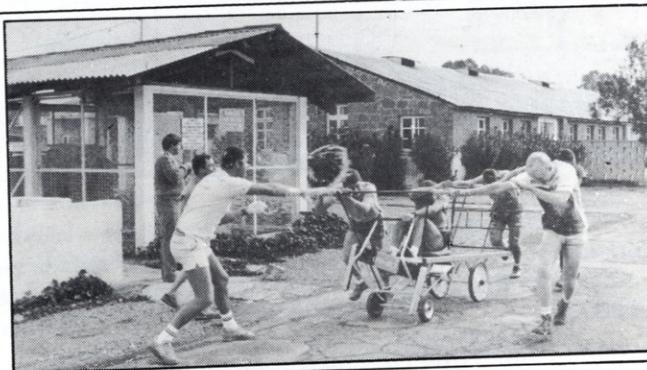
UN Carol Service held at St Michaels
Church Nicosia



Firm - Fair and Friendly!
CO Sector 2 Lt Col W Willans



The Winning Team - 254 Sigs Sqn



CAPTION COMPETITION

Can you put a suitable caption to this picture of COS?
Submissions to MPIO by 31 Jan



The winning caption for last months competition
was submitted by Jill Dale HQ UNFICYP:
Captain Lindsay Blake "If he isn't enthusiastic
about it, I'll beat him round the ears with this spoon."

NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS PICTORIAL NEWS

CANCON SHOW REPORT

By: Capt H Skaarup

During each rotation to Cyprus, the Director of Physical Education, Recreation and Amenities at NDHO in Ottawa, arranges for a Canadian Show Troupe to visit the contingent in Cyprus.



members of the audience literally rolling in the aisles. Members of the Turkish Forces and the Greek Forces on the island were invited to attend separate shows, while many guests from the UN contingents in other sectors of the island also attended. The show was produced by ULTIMA Plus, under L Googh, the musical director was R French, the choreography was also by L



Googh, and the sound and lights were handled by B Spencer. The Airborne was also able to put on a brief display of unarmed combat for the troupe, under the board-breaking direction of Lt Hou.

An enjoyable immersion in a few hours of Canadian entertainment was spent by all who attended the CANCON SHOW, and we thank the show members for the display they put on for us.





KING RICHARD 1 LIONHEART AND DUKE LEOPOLD V

THE FIRST POLITICAL CONFLICT BETWEEN ENGLAND AND AUSTRIA!

Who does not know the stories about Richard Lionheart (1189-1199) and Leopold V (1177-1194) - two renowned monarchs of the Middle Ages? Anyone who has been to Durnstein on the Danube, situated in one of the most picturesque landscapes of Austria, the Wachau, can't overlook the remnants of the once so powerfull Castle of Durnstein, towering above the Danube - a castle that has a most renowned person on its prisoners' records - the English King Richard Lionheart, who was a "guest" there from 1192-1193. Not to mention the "Lionheart Hotel" and the "Blondel Restaurant" in Durnstein! In Vienna you'll find the street "Lowenherzgasse", named after Richard Lionheart, who is still well known today because of his courage and love of adventure. He is still looked upon as the symbol of a true English knight who spent only seven months of his ten-year reign in England and whose bad brother John tried to prevent his return from the Third Crusade (1189-1192).

For UN-soldiers it is nowadays, in the age of aeroplanes, easy to follow Richard's tracks in Cyprus, where he landed on Limassol in 1191, captured King Isaak, conquered the island of Aphrodite, married Berengaria of Navarre and later sold Cyprus to the Order of the Templars and afterwards to the Lusignans. In July 1191 Richard joined the main army of the crusaders in the Holy Land.

And those UN-soldiers who try to make the best of both worlds here in Cyprus, that is peace-keeping and getting to know the country and its people, it becomes unavoidable to come across the mighty castles such as Limassol, Kolossi, St. Hilarion, Buffavento,

Kyrenia, Kantara and Famagusta that were built in consequence of the Third Crusade. History buffs will have come across places such as Templos or Karmi that also tell us a lot about this epoch and that Richard conquered Cyprus from

for that purpose seven more or less unsuccessful crusades were started - four of them via Cyprus. The outcome was not worth the tens of thousand killed, wounded, infected by lethal viruses and veneral diseases and the fact that



DURNSTEIN a. d. Donau

the Byzantines and that after handing over the island to Guy de Lusignan the Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI gave Cyprus as a fiefdom to Amaury de Lusignan. For that purpose Henry VI sent Konrad von Hildesheim to Cyprus to crown Amaury King of Cyprus; later on he also became King of Jerusalem. To the historian this certainly is one of the main outcomes of the Third Crusade, apart from Richard's unwanted stay in Austria and Richard's support of the Emperor's Sicilian policy.

Now let us have a closer look at the Third Crusade itself. In 1070 the Holy Land was conquered by the so-called "Infidels" or the Seldschuks. Therefore, for 270 years Christian armies, even children, tried to free it again and

in 1291 the Holy Land was recaptured by the Turks. From that time onwards Cyprus became the bulwark of Christianity against Islam.

The positive aspects were that the superior Arabian culture influenced the European in the geographical spheres. Arabic numerals were introduced that made it possible to build the lofty structures of the Gothic Period. This influence spread to poetry, architecture and craftsmanship. This period also saw the introduction of many oriental fabrics, such as atlas, cotton, silk and damask - fruits and spices such as melons, nutmeg, citrus, sugar, pepper, damsons and apricots, and other diverse articles such as kaftans, glass and divans. That means that the backward

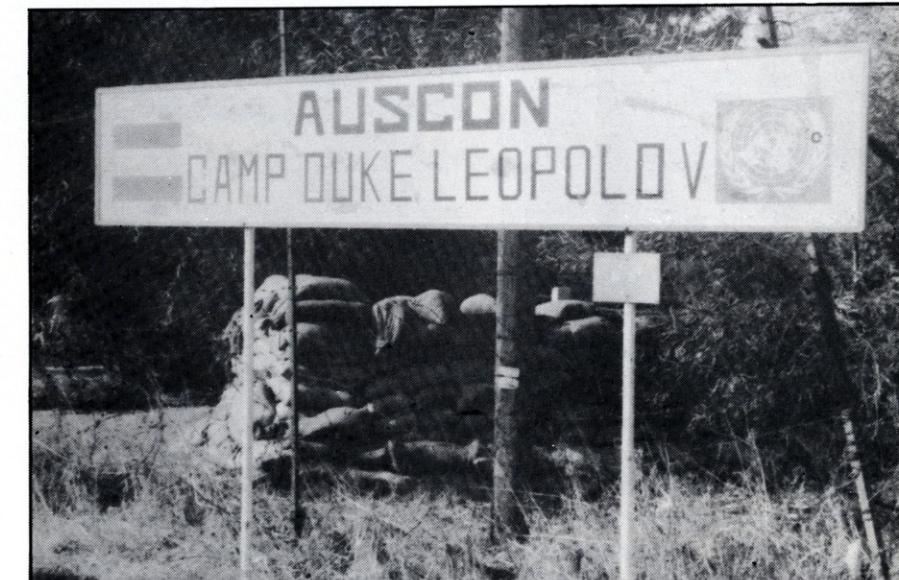
European culture was in every respect, greatly influenced by the more advanced Arabian culture.

Now let us talk about Richard Lionheart and Leopold V. Every schoolchild in Austria learns about the "rude" behaviour of the English King towards the Austrian Duke that, according to reports, took place after the siege of Acre. The famous chronicler, Bishop Otto von Freising (1223) gives us a vivid description of the first political conflict between Austria and England: "After the siege of Acre, King Richard Lionheart had the victorious flags of his army raised on the towers, taking all the credit for the victory himself. When Richard was riding through the town of Acre, he caught sight of Duke Leopold's flag on a tower Leopold had stormed with his men thereupon, Richard ordered that the Austrian flag be torn down and held up the Duke to ridicule and abuse".

According to legend the colours red-white-red from the Austrian flag date back to Leopold's storming of Acre.

Due to the fact that Richard had also offended the French King, Philipp II Augustus, he had to avoid the French ports on his way back to England in late 1191. Unfortunately for him, he was shipwrecked off the Dalmatian coast, so disguised as a pilgrim, he tried to reach England by land. But passing through Austria, he was recognized in Erdberg, near Vienna, when his servant sold a valuable ring. Until 28 March 1193 Leopold had him imprisoned at the Castle of Durnstein when eventually he was handed over to the Emperor. On 29 June 1193 a treaty was signed between Henry VI and Richard I, laying down the terms for his release. The prisoner

agreed to a ransom of about 150,000 silver ducats for Leopold, and the proposed marriage between his niece Eleonore and one of Leopold's sons. On 4 February 1194 Richard was set free but Duke Leopold was excommunicated by the Pope for capturing a crusader. For expiation he had to return the ransom and to go on a new pilgrimage. But divine judgement



was passed on the sinner because in December 1194 Leopold fell from a horse in Graz and died shortly afterwards.

Finally, a few words about Leopold V, a controversial figure in the eyes of the fathers of the church. In the eyes of the historians, however, Duke Leopold is undoubtedly one of the greatest Austrian Dukes (Babenberger). In his time he was considered to be the mightiest prince in the eastern part of the Holy Roman Empire with an almost royal position. In his time a new era in the founding and expansion of Austrian towns such as Vienna, Wiener Neustadt and Enns started. New and better roads were built and the

consolidation of his sovereignty took place. The foundation of the mint in Wiener Neustadt, financed by Richard's ransom, was certainly an historic event because it led to the changeover from barter trade to a monetary system. Leopold also substantially enlarged his domains by acquiring the rich dukedom of Styria. Last but not least he was a patron of the fine arts, especially of

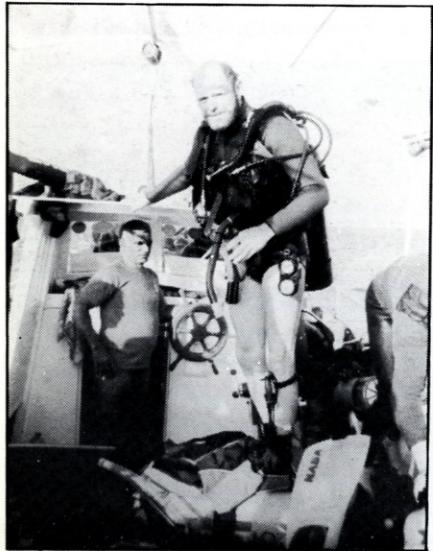
medieval German love poetry. The "Nidelungelied" came into existence at that time, and the famous Walther von der Vogelweide was at his splendid court.

In 1972 when Austrian UN-soldiers were looking for a suitable name for their camp, they must have remembered Duke Leopold's great deeds, his knightly conflict with Richard 1 Lionheart and the chivalrous treatment of Duke Leopold towards the English monarch. As an historian I can only say that that was a wise decision to commemorate the historic connection between Cyprus, England and Austria, expressed and symbolised in the name of AUSCON's HQ Camp, "CAMP DUKE LEOPOLD V".

CANCON REPORT

By: Capt H. Skaarup

As with most of the UN contingents on Cyprus, not all troop activity is confined to the line. To encourage the members of CANCON to see and enjoy the Island, the contingent maintains a "leave Centre" located in Limassol, and supports the activities of the various sports committees. The CANCON Cyprus Sport Parachute Club, jumping at Kingsfield DZ near Camp



WO Juteau prepares to dive

Pergamos, and the CANCON SCUBA Club are two of the Canadian Airborne Regiments most active clubs.

The SCUBA Club has trained a considerable number of new open water divers under the instruction of WO Juteau. The club has been on organized dives all over the Island, from Ayia Napa and Cape Greco in the East to the Baths of Aphrodite in the extreme West end of the Island. Members of the club have liaised with local divers and members of the Brit Con dive club at Dhekelia for organized exploratory and night dives. Recently a group of club members rented a boat and motored out into Limassol harbour to dive on the wreck of the Faris II, a cargo ship that had been carrying whisky (long since removed) and cement



Sgt Swen Bolke

(now in concrete blocks) still in place on the bottom. The ship sank sometime after the 1974 war and is lying on its side in about 60 feet of water within sight of the old harbour. The wreck is visible from the air due to its white painted sides and its considerable size, which makes it relatively easy to locate. Anchoring over the wreck, and under strict supervision, about 17 of the clubs members were able to explore the wreck in small groups of four to five at a time. Having the boat saved a lot of time, and made the dive much more interesting.

The group had previously dived



Sgt Macklin and Sgt Bolke explore the Faris II

on a small wreck in Chapel Bay, with only a handful of the members actually seeing the remains. There have been several dives over what appear to be tons of broken amphorae in the same bay, perhaps the remnants of some ancient fleet that tried and failed to shelter from a storm.

As more members are trained, the club will continue to expand its activities, with regular weekly dives planned at new and interesting locations around the Island. Just one more special way to expand a UN soldiers appreciation of Cyprus.

(long since removed) and cement



8 Sqn RETURN TO CYPRUS



7 Sqn handing over to 8 Sqn

8 Squadron has a distinguished history and can trace its formation back to 1806 where it was raised as one of the original companies of the Corps of Military Artifices. After seeing action in the Crimean War of 1854-55, the company was subsequently redeployed to the Far East where it took part in the China War under command of Captain G C Gordon (later to become the famous General Gordon of Khartoum). In 1882 the unit converted from its field role to become 8 Railway Company, the first railway unit in the British Army. It was in this role that the company again saw active service in the invasion of Egypt in 1885, where it later formed part of the force under General Wolseley which attempted to relieve General Gordon in his heroic defence of Khartoum. The failure of the force to relieve General Gordon is not to be taken as an indication of the company's feelings for its former Officer Commanding!

The company next saw service in the South African Campaign of 1889-1902, where the armoured railways were a notable feature of the war. On termination of these hostilities 8 Railway Company, Royal Engineers, returned to the United Kingdom where it was employed primarily as a training unit, then formed part of the British Expeditionary Force in France in the First World War.

The outbreak of the Second World War found the company deploying to France in 1939, only to be redeployed to Norway in

1940. In Norway the unit was employed in an inland water transport role, in support of the Norvic Operations.

When the Norwegian Campaign terminated the company returned to Britain, where it remained until D-Day, when it was the first railways company to land in Normandy and also the first railway unit to cross the Rhine. There is no truth in allegations from other railway units that these 'firsts' were made possible only through the retention of boats from the Norwegian Campaign.

With the ending of the Second World War the company returned to UK, where it has been based ever since. Redesignated 8 Railway Squadron with the formation of the Royal Corps of Transport in 1965, the Squadron was restructured in 1967 as 8 Squadron RCT when it was converted to the motor transport role.

The Squadron is currently part of 27 Regiment RCT, equipped with Foden 16 tonne vehicles. This large load carrying capacity was used to great effect during the deployment of forces to the Falkland Islands in 1982.

The operational role of the Squadron is that of support to the United Kingdom Mobile Force (UKMF), a role which it practised in September, Air Exercise Bold Guard, alongside Danish, West German and American forces.

Those of you who were not aware that the UN Transport Squadron had changed over must at least have noticed the substitution of the luminous orange 7's in the windscreens with a lightning strike. The squadron symbol has changed twice in recent years from a lemon to a swan, and finally to the more suitable lightning strike.

All ranks are looking forward to 8 Squadron's seventh UN tour.



DANCON 46

A new Danish team has arrived in CYPRUS to take over responsibility of Sector 1.

DANCON 46 is now in charge!

This battalion has been composed of volunteers from Army, Air Force and Navy - primarily from the Royal Danish Army.

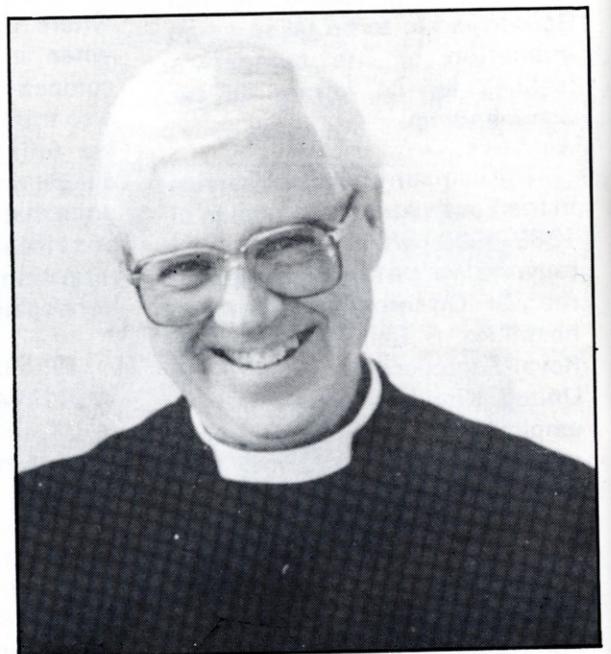
We are all proud of being in the service of peace, although this mission in many respects is contrary to our ordinary training and behaviour. The Danish soldier - as any other soldier - has been trained and educated to impose his will by use of force and this mission is almost opposite. We are here to pursue military deconfrontation measures in our sector and to facilitate normal "next-door neighbour" procedures in the sense of helping our friends and allies on both sides.

NEW BISHOP IN CYPRUS AND THE GULF

The Venerable John Edward Brown, B.D. is to be consecrated as the third Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf in St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Nicosia on the 10th January, 1987.

Archdeacon Brown first went to the Middle East as a master in St. George's School, Jerusalem and was married in St. George's Cathedral at that time. He was trained for the priesthood by the Society of the Sacred Mission at Kelham, Nottinghamshire, and after a curacy in Reading went to work as a priest in Sudan. Subsequently he served three incumbencies in the diocese of Oxford and was appointed Archdeacon of Berkshire in 1978.

An Arabic-speaker, he maintains a close interest in the Christian-Muslim dialogue and in Anglican-Orthodox relations



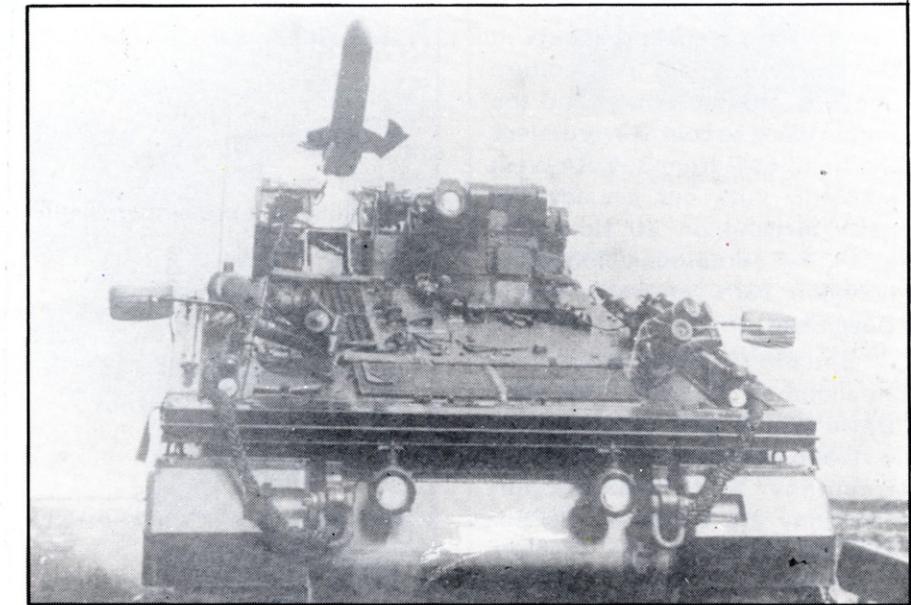
The Ven. J. E. Brown



13/18 ROYAL HUSSARS THE NEW SCOUT CAR SQUADRON



By: Lt A Ibbotson



Striker fires swingfire anti-tank missile

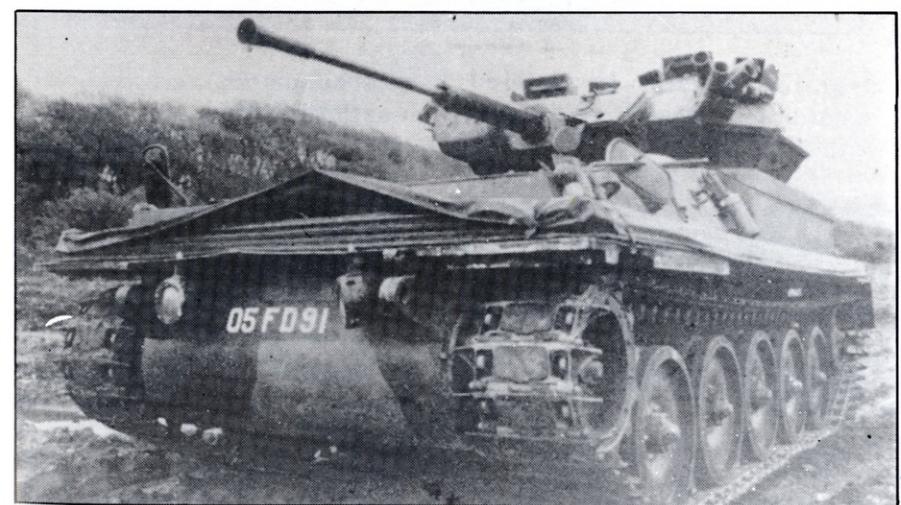
Episkopi and UNFICYP.

In common with many regiments we do not celebrate our most victorious battle as our regimental day but rather our most notorious. On October 25th 1854, the 13th Light Dragoons riding on the right of the first line took part in the Charge of the Light

celebrates Balaclava day with pyrotechnic hockey matches and many many parties.

Perhaps a more apposite day to celebrate would be the anniversary of the 6th of June 1944 when the 13th/18th Hussars were the first armoured regiment ashore on D-Day. Equipped with the ingenious Duplex Drive Sherman they swam over 3 km from their Landing Craft. This time the General Staff had done a magnificent job and the Regiment ended up in the right place at the right time.

The 13th/18th Hussars are at present stationed in Tidworth and have a squadron detached to the AMF(L). On return from, what I hope will be an extremely interesting and enjoyable tour, the Regiment will be presented with a new guidon or regimental standard. HM Queen Mary, wife of King George the Fifth, who was our Colonel in Chief until she died in 1952, has not as yet been succeeded but we believe by the time that A Squadron is established in Prince William Camp we should know who will be presenting the guidon and if we are to have a new Colonel in Chief.



Scimitar light armoured reconnaissance vehicle

distinguished themselves in the Napoleonic, Crimean and both World Wars. Recently the combined Regiment has served in Ireland, Germany and the United Kingdom with squadrons both at

Brigade in the battle of Balaclava. The incompetence of the General Staff was only exceeded by the bravery and discipline of the gallant Six Hundred who took part.

Each year the Regiment



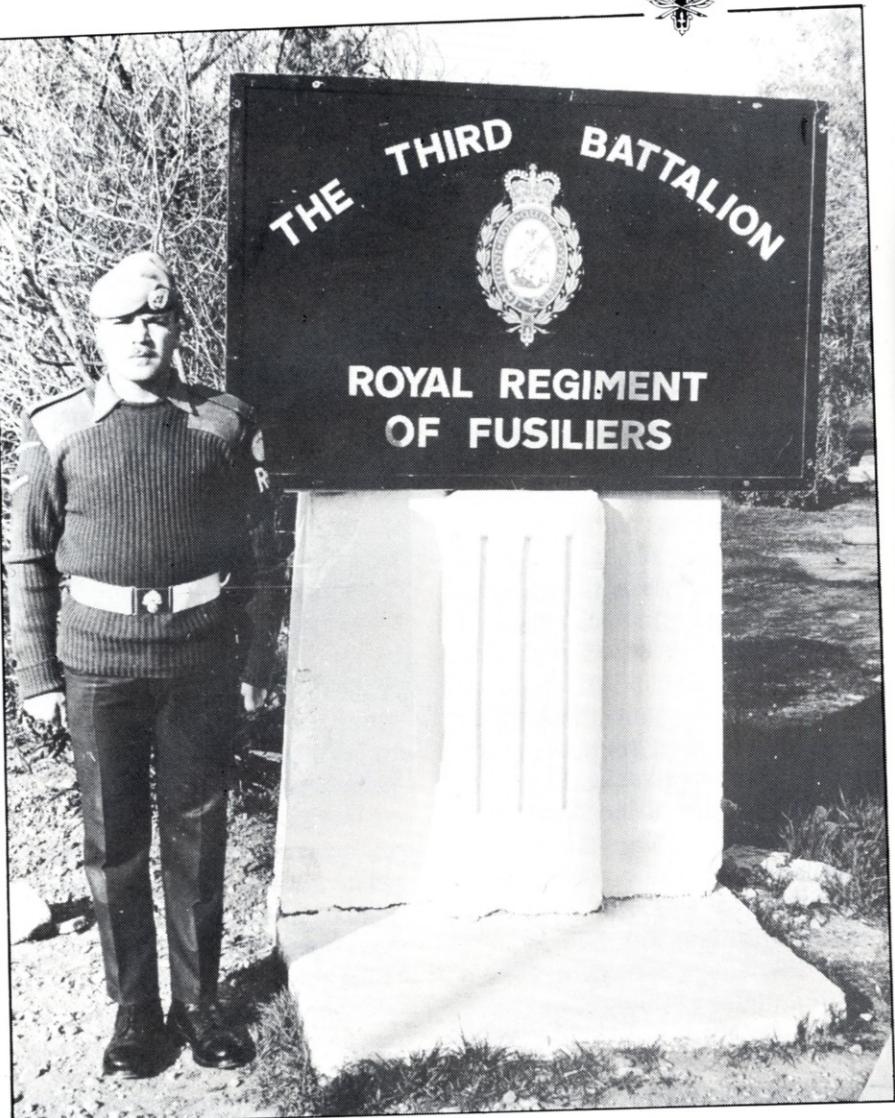
THE 3RD FUSILIERS

The 3rd Fusiliers have arrived in Cyprus and have now been ensconced in Sector 2 for over a month. The idea was to winter in the sun so it came as a culture shock to the system to find the nights were so cold. Nevertheless the hand-over from 3 PARA went smoothly with our pre-advance party arriving on 20 November and the remainder following between 28th November and 6 December.

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarter Company are in St David's Camp with B Company at B18 and now designated Eastern Company and Fire Support Company are based at the Box Factory, B32, as the Western Company.

Once settled into our new locations the Battalion quickly learned the job to be done and considerable effort was initially expended in getting used to the United Nations approach to our task and adopting a peace keeping role, a satisfying experience and one we hope to do justice. A change of beret to one without our accustomed badge and hackle is countered by the sheer weight of the UN badge!

Arriving in early December our thoughts increasingly became directed at Christmas and



organising our festivities accordingly. Many small but



excellent parties were held in the locations often of hilarious content with our newly qualified Regimental Cooks practising their new culinary skills on their somewhat captive audiences. The Officers and Senior NCOs naturally served lunch on Christmas day in traditional style.

The Battalion has also hosted many visitors from ambassadors to military to politicians and the Fusiliers on the OPs are rapidly acquiring the necessary skills required to brief them.

Our tour in Cyprus has started well and is being enjoyed to the full and we take this opportunity to wish all our colleagues in the United Nations Force in Cyprus a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

UNFICYP MP RADAR DETECTION

By: CWO D MacNeil

Ever wonder what the little white car with the blue lights on the roof is doing on the side of the road? This is your local UN Military Police doing radar checks. This article will hopefully enlighten you on the operation of the radar by UN MP.

The radar beam is "cigar shaped" and it travels in a straight line. The beam is reflected by solid moving objects in its path and the measurement of these returned signals provides the radar operator with the speed of vehicles passing through the radar beam. A larger vehicle such as a truck or a bus will be detected by the radar at a greater distance than will a normal car. A motorcycle would have to be relatively close to the radar set to be detected. The radar set will detect both approaching and receding vehicles as they pass through the radar beam.

On being stopped, an offender will be informed of his recorded speed and will be invited to view the radar to attest to the recorded speed. The driver should take advantage of this situation and confirm the speed recorded on the radar.

Contrary to popular belief, the radar does not record 100 KPH trees! so remember, drive safely, obey the speed limits and arrive alive.



"Thats the last time we let the Chief Superintendent write our Christmas letters to Santa!"

ALMOST A WHITE CHRISTMAS



By: Insp Bill Kirk

Humming along to the tune of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas", the Australian Contingent with their families gathered at Kirribilli House for the traditional white Christmas dinner, which they'd heard so much about from their European mates - hot baked dinners, Christmas cakes and puddings, while the snow blankets the countryside and a blazing fire keeps out the chill. How romantic and how different from the sunshine, beach and barbecue Christmases at home.

Turkey, ham and pork, beaut salads, Australian wine and lashings of Fosters got the day off to a great start, the fireplace stacked with wood ready to light when the snow and chill came, presents under the tree. We were ready for our first traditional Christmas.

Voices rang out, murdering once-beautiful carols, dinner was demolished, presents handed out, then someone called us all to the windows and we stared out in amazement. Sunshine glinting off the mountains, bathing the trees in gold and warming the air. Sunshine! Sunshine! What a rip-off. No snow, no cold. Just sun. We didn't come 10,000 miles to spend Christmas day in the sun. We wanted a white Christmas.

Bravely we turned back to the room, and remembering that only two hundred years ago our ancestors forged a nation out of a wilderness, we hid our disappointment and as the day wore on we managed to drown our sorrows in our national beverage whilst we sat around the unlit fire.



NICOSIA KART RACING CLUB

By: Dvr Ken Dunlap

"Oh look", I hear you say, "It's a Go-kart". The general shape and layout may appear to be the same as the machines you have thrashed around in the Luna Park, but please look again, it's not a Go-kart but a high performance Racing-kart.

The engine may look like a reject from a lawnmower but far from it. The 100cc motor used in our karts peak at somewhere near 18,000 rpm which can take you from 5 to 60 mph in less than 6 seconds.

Imagine if you can, sitting in a small fibreglass seat which grips you so tightly that it almost hurts, then place the seat just 2 inches



from the ground, attach it to a light metal frame and prepare to go racing. Up goes the start flags, your right foot presses hard on the accelerator and away you go at a pace which nearly takes your breath away. Along with 8 or 9 other karts you reach the first bend before you know it, fighting for the best angle, you ease on the brake with your left foot then into

the bend you go, tyres trying fiercely to grip the track as you are forced even harder into the seat. A split second passes and you're out of the bend accelerating hard towards the next bend. Noise from the engine rings loud in your ears, the smell of burning oil and rubber fills the air, the laps fly past and before you know it, there goes the chequered flag. Just a dream? Perhaps not for some. Having

raced myself I can assure you no words can properly describe the feeling of exhilaration you can get out on the track.

Are you a budding Nigel Mansell? Come to the club on Sunday 18 January and join the many other spectators who follow the sport to watch us race.

Bar facilities are provided and you never know, you could win a mini cruise to Israel, just one of the many great prizes in our grand raffle. Tickets are available from all club members.

It all starts at 1000 hrs with the practise session, then racing begins at 1100 hrs at the Nicosia track (near AUSTCIVPOL). Just follow the NKRC signs and I hope to see you there.

