



The Blue Beret

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

No. 60
Volume Twelve

31st December 1975

NEW YEAR MESSAGES



As the New Year approaches and our thoughts turn even more to our families and loved ones at home, I should like to take this opportunity of conveying to all of you my warmest greetings and best wishes.

1975 has been another full, busy year of UNFICYP. Looking main highlights have been the most encouraging results from the sustained efforts you have continued to make towards stabilizing and consolidating peaceful conditions in the more sensitive confrontation areas and from the effective contribution made towards the security, well being and welfare of those in need, in spite of numerous difficulties and delicate problems. In both these aspects you have carried out in practical terms and with singular dedication the Christmas message of peace on earth and good will amongst men. The conscientious and devoted manner in which the civilians, military and police members of the UNFICYP team have carried out their duties has again received special mention from the Secretary General in his report to the Security Council, and I thank you for all you have done. There are, however, many other tasks ahead and I am confident that you will carry them out in the best traditions of the United Nations as always.

It is very special privilege for us to have the opportunity of making our direct and personal contribution to the cause of peace on this Island. Let us continue to do so in 1976 with the hope and prayer that our efforts will be crowned with success, so that the coming months bring peace and prosperity nearer to Cyprus.

I wish you and your families good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.



I should like to take the opportunity of the Holiday Season and the New Year to extend to the officers and men of UNFICYP the UN Civilian Police the Secretariat and all these connected with the UN Force in Cyprus, the warmest personal wishes of the United Nations Secretary-General and myself and to thank all of you for the splendid manner in which you are performing your respective duties.

In spite of the short period of time I have been in Cyprus, I become increasingly aware of the difficult circumstances under which peace on the Island is maintained. The quality of your performance and dedication, I should like you to know, is a source of pride and great satisfaction to all those connected with this operation.

As an International Force, drawn from many lands, you are also a source of hope to those concerned about a just and lasting peace in Cyprus. In many troubled areas of the world this type of UN Peace Keeping Operation is one of the bright spots on a horizon darkened with crises and occasional conflagrations.

On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations I should like to thank you all and to wish you a happy and successful New Year.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

"Drive with care and don't mix with drinks anywhere!" It would be well to remember that lesson during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Many celebrations will take place and the temptation to have something to drink is very strong but be careful if you drive yourself.

Within the last week a large number of traffic acci-

dents have taken place and the main for these were excessive speeds and vehicles overtaking when it is unsafe to do so. So be careful and add up to 15 minutes over your usual driving time. Another of the year with rain, and snow in the mountains. So watch your speed and drive with care, we want you to leave Cyprus in one piece!

**TO ALL OUR
READERS - WE
WISH YOU A
HAPPY, PEACEFUL
AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR.**

DANCON TAPE

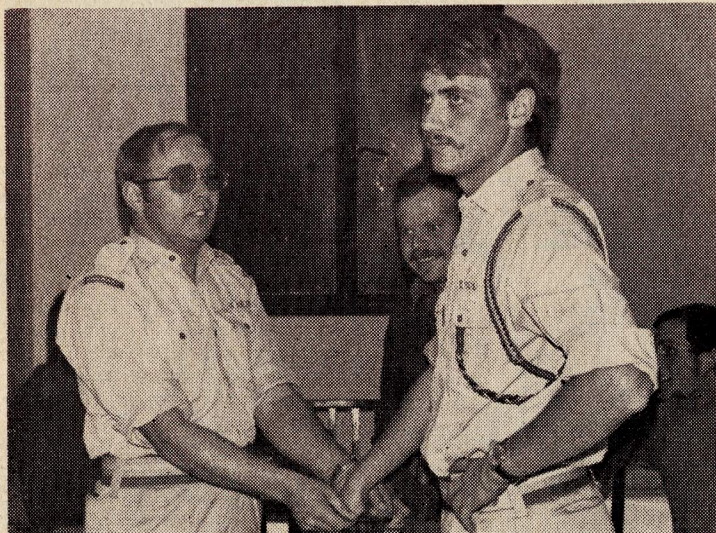


Den nye redaktion af DANCON-båndet består af RPLT Vejre og feltpræsten pastor Paulsen. Her er RPLT Vejre ved at gøre klar til at indspille et af de papulaere bånd.

The popular DANCON-tape is edited by I. LT. Vejre (picture) and the army chaplain Rev. Mr. Paulsen.

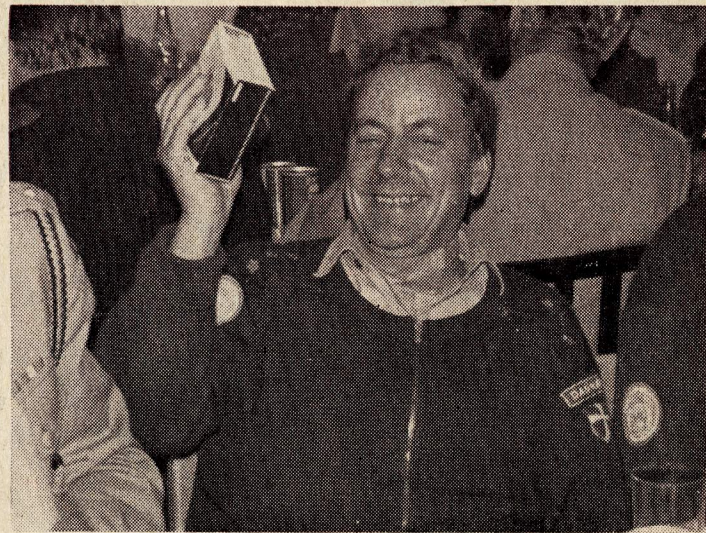
D
A
N
C
O
N

NEWS



lo DEC havde STKMP arrangeret bankospil. Der var fuldt hus og arrangementet var meget

vellykket. T.v. OS Jacobsen der stod for den praktiske side af arrangementet. T.h. en af de



mange glade vindere KN Larsen. Bingo at the HQ-Coy. Left St. Sgt Jacobsen, leader of the

practical aspect of the arrangement. Right a happy winner.



DR har igen i år sendt 2 medarbejdere til DANCON for at lave julehilsner til dem derhjemme. T.v. er det Arne Honoré, t.h. Jørgen Traeholdt.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Ett nytt år står för dörren. Några av er har åkt hem till de sina, andra måste stanna kvar. Det är lätt gjort att saknaden efter dem därhemma blir så stark, att man vill döva den med alla medel. Man vill glömma. Jag hoppas att ni inte faller för den frestelsen. Därför att jag vet att de som håller av er därhemma inte vill att ni skall glömma dem. De vill att ni skall längta efter dem, följa dem i tankarna där de går därhemma i julbestyren, precis som de följer er. De vill inte att ni skall döva era känslor och fly från verkligheten. De önskar att ni känner alla banden som binder dem samman med er, så att ni trots allt kan fira det nya året tillsammans.

Jag önskar också alla er kamrater som finns på våra OP:n ett särskilt gott nytt år. Ni som står på post i Karpas eller sitter i tält på ensligt belägna OP:n. Jag tvivlar inte på att ni får en sådan jul. Ni har inte samma möjlighet till mässliv och rörel-



Levande, varma människor, som behöver oss. Det goda eller onda som vi gör mot en medmänniska, gör vi mot honom. Skadar vi Livet, Glädjen, Kärleken, så skadar vi Honom. Men vördar och värnar vi allt detta så tjänar vi Honom. Den bästa gåva som ni kan ge dem därhemma är att ta emot hans ord om den nya genenskapen. Jag önskar er alla ett gott nytt år.

GUNNAR LINDBERG

Lucia at SWEDCON

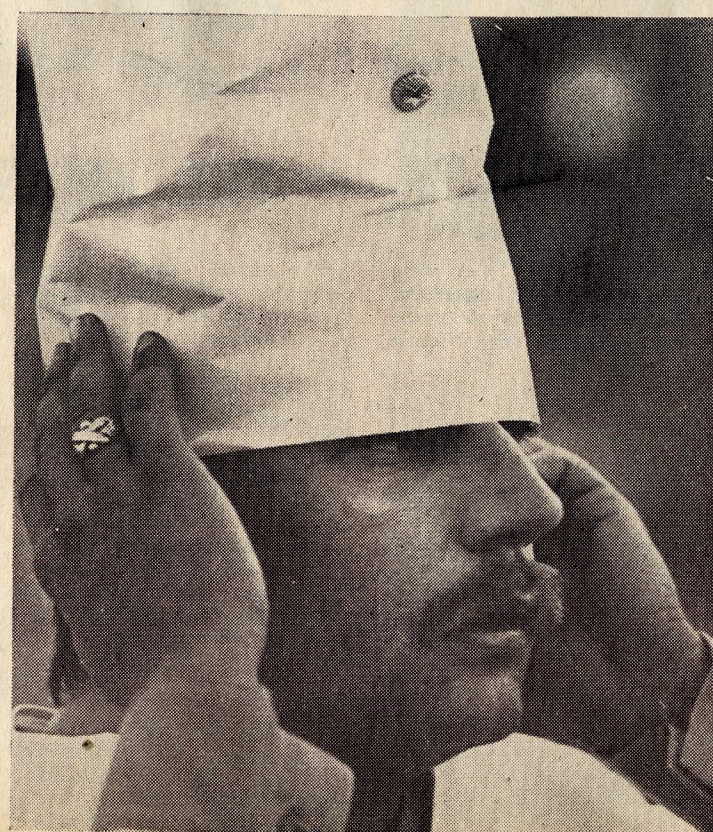
Early in the morning at five o'clock it all began, not only the official Lucia, engaged from a neighbouring bar outside Carl Gustaf Camp in Fågelsta, but also a number of other small and extraordinarily dressed parties.

Suddenly candles and songs began to light and wake the



sefrihet som vi andra. Ändå har ni visat oss på något viktigt, som många av oss idag har glömt: att en nära och varm genenskap är bättre än bekvämlighet och överflöd.

Julen handlar om gemenskap. Sången som ljud kring barnet i stallet i Betlehem handlade om "frid på jorden" och "åt människorna en god vilja". Och barnet som föddes den första julen, blev den som skulle förkunna en ny gemenskap mellan människor — med ord som aldrig skulle glömmas. Jesus Kristus. Han har ord som skulle kunna förvandla denna soliga, sorgsna ö till ett paradys. Han har ord som skulle kunna riva ner taggtrådshinder och raketramper över hela världen — om människorna följde dem. Han möter er i julevangeliet inte bara för att ge guldkant och stämning utan för att säga er att han behöver er i kampen för det goda. Gud blev människa den där natten i Betlehem. Gud visade att han inte är långt borta i en kylig himmel, utan bland människor och i människor. Julevangeliet är berättelsen om hur Gud kom in från kylan. Han möter oss i livet, i människorna.



dark and sleeping camp cheerfully.

At six o'clock the camp was awake and the official Lucia made her entry accompanied by singers and musicians all dressed in white. Coffee hot wine, (glögg) and special lucia bread was served in candlelight to the accompaniment of photoflashes.

A morning to remember.

SWEDISH SUMMARY

Problemet med Blue Beret är att den antingen kommer för tidigt eller för sent. Materialet till förra numret lämnades till tryck bara ett par dagar före lucia medan detta nummer kommer så sent att luciamaterialet känns ganska gammalt.

Hur som helst, pastorns nyårsbrev känns desto friskare och manar oss till eftertanke både över året som gått och det som kommer. Kanske kan bilderna från Lucia hjälpa oss att minnas.

För övrigt ber redaktionen att få tacka för det förtroende som visats oss under 1975 och önska sina läsare och medarbetare Gott Nytt År under 1976.

NADOLIG LLAWEN A BLWYDDY NEWDDYN DDA I BOB FFRINDIAU MEWN UNFICYP

(With Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our friends in UNFICYP).

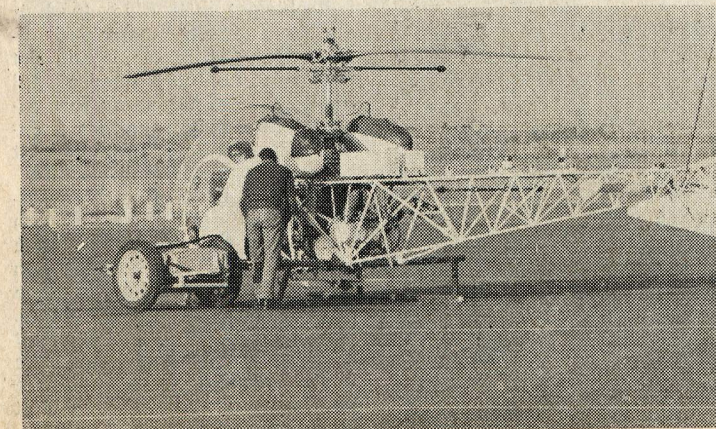
Now the lucky people who are able to spend Christmas with their families in the United Kingdom are already there, those of us who remain are making plans to ensure our Christmas is as enjoyable as possible.

One of the events planned

was a Christmas Draw for all ranks which took place on Christmas evening, in which many prizes were won including HI FI equipment and a clothing voucher, while another was the visit of Maj Gen P.J.N. Ward, CBE.



Men of the Transport Squadron recently proved they were not just drivers but soldiers too. Lt Wrightson, Cpl Gunnerfield, Dvrs Wallis and Tolson show Maj Clipston one of their posts, while below a Sioux is prepared for tasks off from "The Nicosia Heliport".



BRITCON NEWS



THE XMAS MESSAGE

We have bought all the presents and packed them. We have written all our Christmas Cards and have posted them to our friends in all four corners of the world. We have bought all the special food — the turkey, the nuts, the plumb pudding and so on — we have ordered the drink. We have decorated our homes with pretty lights and tinsel. Shortly we will hear all the familiar carols and Christmas songs. We have made ready for Christmas and so we should, because Christmas is a happy and joyful occasion.

But for a moment let us pause, think and ponder on what it is we are celebrating, because unless we are careful the main point of Christmas

will be lost in the feasting.

You see, at Christmas we are celebrating the most important events in the whole of human history. We are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. We are bringing to mind that at a point in time God came to where we are, to our world of flesh and blood and shared life with us at all levels. It is this that we celebrate at Christmas.

So let us during this great festival make an effort to join with others in our Church to here again the Christmas Message, to give thanks to the birth of the Christ Child and in mind and heart with the shepherds of old to kneel and adore.

A very happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

FROHE WEIHNACHTEN!

Mit großer Sehnsucht und Erwartung haben wir uns vorbereitet, manchen stillen Wunsch gehegt, nun soll unsere Hoffnung erfüllt werden. Wir haben manchen lieben Gruß getauscht und Glückwünsche in kunst- oder liebevoller Art erhalten.

Freundschaften haben sich neu gefestigt oder manches Verschüttete ist erneuert worden. Vielleicht ist sogar wieder Friede eingezogen in die Herzen, wo Kälte oder Haß unser Leben zerstört haben.

Jeder versucht besonders in dieser Zeit das Leben zu gestalten, wie es sein sollte. Menschen, die sich verbunden fühlen, vereinen sich zum festlichen Abend bei Lichterglanz und Wärme. Öffnen sich im Gespräch und Frohsinn und geben sich Geschenke, die ihren Dank, ihre Anerkennung oder ihr Wohlwollen zu erkennen geben.

Gerne lassen wir uns von die-

ser Stimmung hinreißen. Doch woher kommt diese plötzliche Umstellung von einer pflichtmäßigen Routine zu einem spontanen Zusammensein? Ist es nur ein rein menschliches Bedürfnis, ein Ausbrechen aus der Eintönigkeit eines Lager- oder OP-Lebens, und sei es auch nur in einem Schwarm von Gefühlen? Eine Notwendigkeit die Mauern des eigenen Ich's zu durchbrechen: Sich aus der Finsternis der Einsamkeit, der gegenseitigen Teilnahmslosigkeit und gegenseitigen Unverständnis zu befreien? Ist es wirklich nur ein eigener Wille oder Kraftakt, der diese Erneuerung bewirkt? Oder gibt es eine starke Quelle des Lebens, die uns nährt?

Die gläubigen Menschen kennen sie:

Die Liebe Gottes hat sich in unseren Herzen ausgebreitet: Er hat sich in seinem Sohne geoffenbart.

"Denn sehet ich verkünde Euch eine große Freude, die allem Volke zuteil werden soll. Heute wurde in der Stadt Davids euer Retter geboren, Christus der Herr! Ihr werdet ein Kind finden in Windeln gewickelt; es liegt in einer Futterkrippe".

Sein Friede gilt allen auf der Erde.

Stefan HERITS,
MilObKurat



AUSCON NEWS

GLUECK WUENSCHEN

Vom 5. bis zum 10.12. stattete der evangelische Militärpfarrer ObKurat Rudolf PROSTREDNIK dem AUSCON einen vorweihnachtlichen Besuch ab. Im Anschluß daran ging es zu unserem in SYRIE stationierten Bataillon.

The protestant chaplain Maj. PROSTREDNIK paid a Christmas-visit to our protestant comrades and found out for himself about our welfare institutions.

Obt VUKASINOVIC, OStv BAUER, ObWm KARLOWITZER und Kpl WOLF machten dem AUSCON ein würdiges Weihnachtsgeschenk: den ersten AUSCON- Sieg in einer falling plate competition.

A Christmas-present for AUSCON: CO LtCol RIEGER congratulates the winners of the rifle falling plate competition.



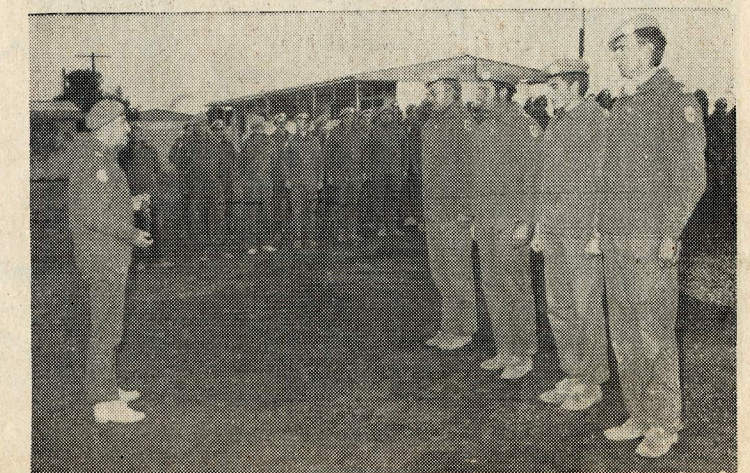
ObKurat HERITS
Our chaplain and wellfar-officer Maj. HERITS.



In den Messen brachte ein Adventkranz vorweihnachtliche Stimmung.
An austrian Advent-custom: A wreath with four chandles each symbolizing a week before Christmas.



Unser Chor übt Weihnachtslieder. Kpl MAYR ist ein sachkundiger, musikalischer, aber auch strenger Chorleiter.
AUSCON'S chorus conducted by Cpl MAYER.





MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CANCON

In Canada, as in most other countries, the Christmas season is looked forward to with a great deal of excitement and anticipation. In the days preceeding Christmas, Canadian families put up a Christmas tree in their homes and decorate in with lights and ornaments. The house, both inside and out, is also de-

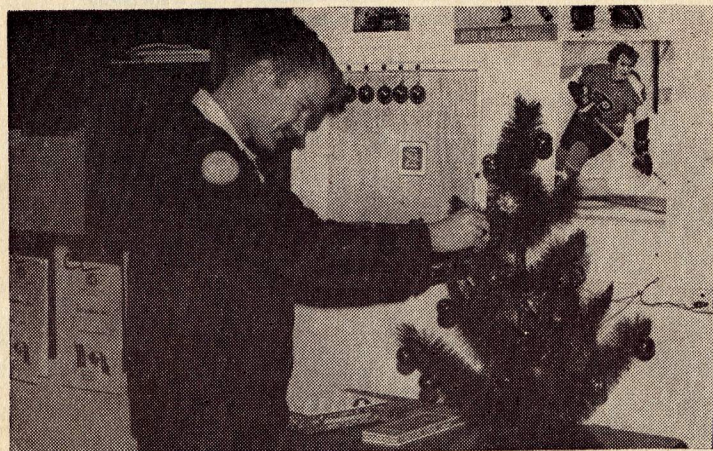
corated with holly, mistletoe, lights and nativity scenes. On Christmas Eve stockings are hung above the fireplace, and all during the night children anxiously await the arrival of SANTA CLAUS, who flies down from the North Pole in his reindeer-led sleigh, laden with presents. On Christmas morning

the stockings are found filled with toys and candy, and under the tree are found lots of presents.

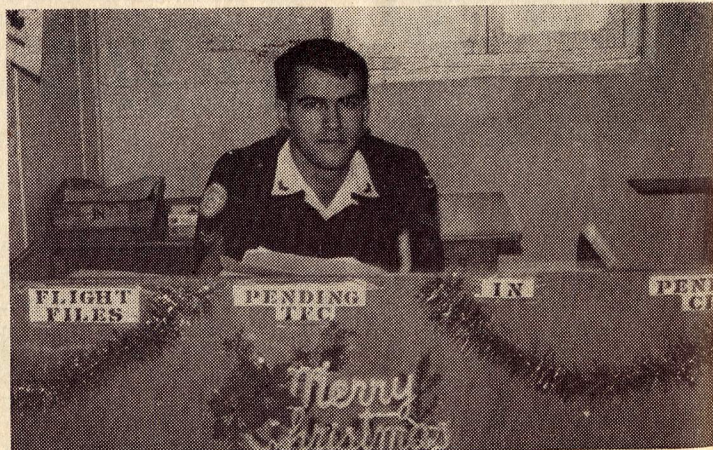
Christmas, of course, is also a great religious occasion, and church services are held on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Another highlight of the Christmas activities is the tradi-

tional family dinner of turkey, ham and plum pudding, on Christmas Day.

Although it will seem a little strange not to have snow, the Canadians in Cyprus will nonetheless be holding all of their traditional Christmas festivities including a visit by SANTA CLAUS!!



Pte Pinkney putting the last minute touches on the HQ Company Christmas tree.



"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas..." Cpl Verret (Movements)

FINNISH CHRISTMAS IN CYPRUS

• Joulukuireet eivät jääneet kotisuomeen. Ne mokomat seuravat mukana. Postimiehet ovat kuin tuskassa lähettäneet ja saaneet pataljoonallisen paketteja, ja kortteja. Keittiömiehet ovat hikoilleet muutoinkin kuin leivinuunin ääresä. Jo pari kuukautta sitten aloitettiin ensimmäiset jouluherkkuhankinnat Suomesta. Kinkkuja on suolattu, laatikoita tehty ja kalkullisen juhlapöydön kattaminen.

Jouluaattona upseerit vanhan tavan mukaan heittävät pykälää, jotta mahdollisimman moni heidän alaisistaan voisi rauhassa hiljentyä joulunviettoon.

The Christmas rush did not stay behind us, but the darn thing followed us all the way to Cyprus. The mailmen have sent and received a battalionful of parcels, letters and Xmas cards. The catering personnel have been sweating all over the place — and not only in front of the baking ovens. The first Xmas delicatessen sup-



Post-master Lauri Jormalainen checking his parcels in Finnish Post Office farthest south other than Suez. Postimestari pakettiensa keskellä jouluisessa toimistossaan.

plies from Finland were received a couple of months ago. puddings have been baked, and turkeys have been captured. And the aim is to set as home-

Hams have been salted, like and delicious a Xmas table as possible.

On Christmas Eve the officers — according to an old

tradition — will take care of the sentry duties, in order to give as many privates as possible a chance to have a peaceful, quiet Christmas.

Message for Xmas

It's about the time for the poral bears to appear again in the streets of Helsinki, thus marking the beginning of the Xmas season. In the northernmost part of Finland, just where it has been lately snowing like crazy, Santa is about to start his long and trying trip to the homes, together with his reindeers and elves and what not. At first the trip proceeds very slowly in the snow two meters deep, and under the arctic lights of the dark cold day; sometimes poor Santa is about have his bottom frozen to the sleigh. Several times he gets stuck in the drifts. But the obstacles can be overcome, if in no other way, by using the modern gadgets like choppers and Fords... them fancy things. And Santa comes every Xmas — he really comes, and not for Cyprus sure.

That was a tale, but the fact that Christ was born to this world the very same way we all were born, that is no tale. For us: to be our Saviour. 'And it came to pass in those days...'

Tales are tales, and the truth is the truth. Let's not

Joulun sana

Juuri näinä päivinä joulun alla alkavat jääkarhut taas näyttäytyä Helsingin kaduilla. Pohjoisimmassa Suomessa, siellä missä viime viikkona kuuluu tulleen lunta kuin tuskassa, joulupukki aloittaa poroineen ja tonttuineen pitkän, vaivalloisen matkan koteihin. Tietämän korven kaksimetrisessä lumessa, revontulten räiskyessä kaamoksessa, matka käy alussa hitaasti. Poroja on vaihdettava usein, pukki on vähällä jäätyä kiinni pulkkaansa, monta kertaa juututaan hankiin. Mutta vastukset voitetaan, jos ei muuten niin ottamalla tekniikka avuksi: lento-koneita, helikoptereita, kinnereitä, veiputtimia..., onhan näitä. Ja joka joulu pukki tulee — tulee eikä mitenkään kyprosvarmasti. Ei kahta sanaa.

Tuo äskeinen oli satua. Sensijaan se, että Jumala syntyi ihmiseksi, tuli tähän maailmaan samalla tavoin kuin mekin. Meitä varten: Vapahtajaksi. "Ja tapahtui niinä päivinä...", se on totta.

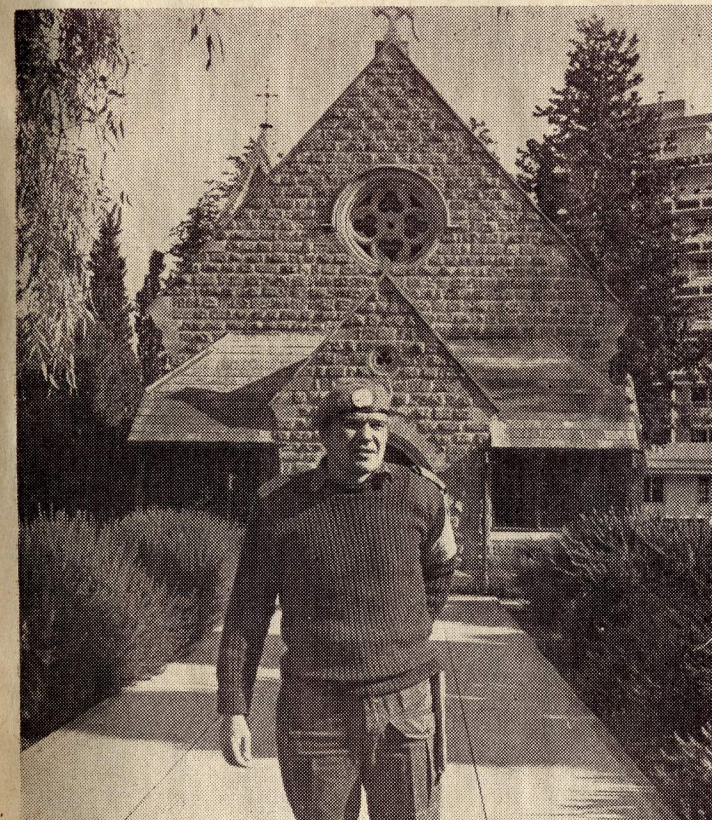
Satu on satua, tosi on totta. Ei sotketa käsittää.

Ja kaksi sanaa: Hyvää joulua. Matti-pappi.

have them mixed.

And two wee words: Merry Christmas.

Chaplain Matti



Two sturdy figures: Chaplain Matti and St Pauls church. Kaksi jyrkää hahmoa: Matti -pappi ja Pyhän Paavalin kirkko.



Santa Claus and his reindeer are making their way to Nicosia from Finnish Lapland. Luisto on hävinnyt, mutta pitoa riittää. Pukki kolkuttelee kuitenkin Finconin oville joulun tietämissä.

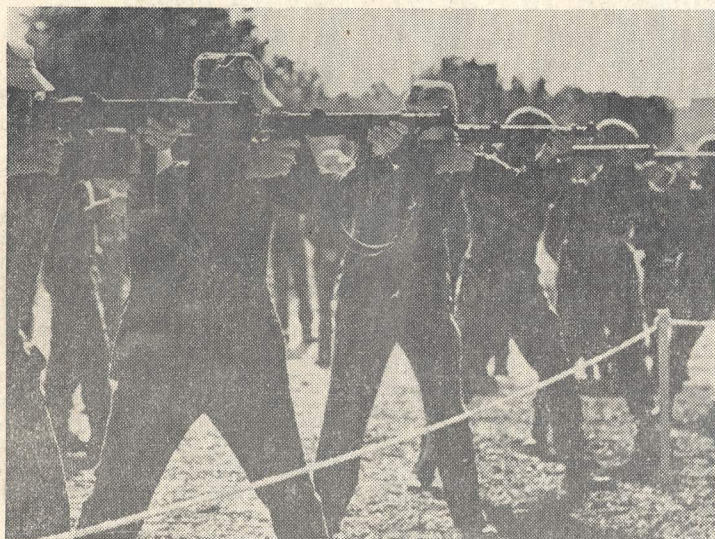
UNFICYP SPORTS NEWS



On Sunday 14th December FINCON organised and ran a very Good Rifle Meeting at the Dhekelia ranges. The SWEDCON team took first place in the Pistol and Sub-Machine gun competition, while the Austrian team won the Falling Plate competition.



The Welsh Guards continue to play as much rugby as they can, and were photographed by the Blue Beret camera during a recent game.



CONTINGENT PRESS OFFICERS IN FAMAGUSTA

The contingent press officers meet from time to time, and on 13 December were invited to join in the Saint Lucia celebrations with SWEDCON at Carl Gustav Camp. During the course of this visit they were able to visit Salamis with the SWEDCON Press Officer.

MP NOTE BOOK ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Week ending 20 Dec 75	4
Same period last year	15
Total the period	296
Total for same period last year	338

LESSON OF THE MONTH
Don't drink and drive.

