



THE MIGHT OF TURKEY MOVES IN



Mirrorman's mercy dash through the bullets

MIRROR reporter Donald Wise drove through gun battles on a mercy errand for two badly wounded soldiers. He left the shelter of the besieged Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia, to take the men to hospital in his car. The two soldiers were Greek Cypriots whose machine gun post at the hotel had been hit by a Turkish bazooka rocket. One of the men died before he could be given hospital treatment.

On the way back to the hotel, Wise's car came under fire and he had to abandon it and find a way on foot through the back streets. Wise, pictured above, has been wounded several times in twenty-six years covering the trouble-spots of Asia, Africa and Europe for the Daily Mirror and Sunday Mirror.

Trapped

He was one of more than 100 British and foreign journalists trapped at the Ledra Palace, which borders on the Turkish Cypriot area of Nicosia. Fierce fighting raged round the hotel all morning. More than thirty women and children—mostly British and German—sheltered in a washroom in the basement. Journalists tried without success to contact United Nations forces to evacuate the women and children.

All round the fighting went on. Greek Cypriot National Guardsmen took up firing positions. Two Canadian soldiers who drew up in a UN jeep were pinned down in the lobby by machine-gun fire. Turkish commandos swarmed round the back of the hotel.

Meanwhile, while most newspapermen were trapped, Reuter correspondent Peter Hellier kept a Telex line from his home open as bullets flew outside. "Boy, it's getting noisy," he reported at one point. "May have to go down to cellar to join family and neighbours."

INVASION at a glance. The Turkish forces landed around Kyrenia, where 150 tourists were trapped. There was heavy fighting in Nicosia, where some tourists and journalists took refuge in a hotel. Most British Servicemen are at the Dhekelia and Episkopi sovereign bases. Foreigners were evacuated from the port of Limassol. Larnaca was also open for British and US evacuation ships.

opposed drop of 1,500 paratroops in the Turkish enclave north of the capital as the invading tanks rolled south from the landing zone. Fighting flared in the south coast port of Limassol between armed elements of the two communities.

Meanwhile in Ankara, the capital of Turkey, Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said that the aim of the landings was to overthrow the regime of Nicos Sampson, the former gunman with the EOKA terrorists who fought the British in the 1950s.

Peace 'war'

Mr. Ecevit insisted that his country's action was not an invasion. "It is an act against an invasion which has already taken place," he said.

"We regard this not as a waging of war but a waging of peace. The Turkish objective is to end oppression and to save the people of Cyprus, Turkish and Greek alike, from despotism."

The two sides on Cyprus found themselves battling in a temperature of 103 degrees—the hottest this year.

Firing later erupted in the east coast port of Famagusta.

Nicosia radio, controlled by the Sampson government, announced general mobilisation and said: "All the Greeks will defend our country until the last drop of blood."

It urged the people to adopt the motto: "They shall not pass."

The invasion force, broadcasting in Greek, said they had already landed 6,000 men and

warned the Greeks: "This is not a military action. This is a police action. Stay indoors."

It added: "Our purpose is to keep Cyprus united and independent."

By the afternoon the Turks were able to announce that Kyrenia had fallen and that North Nicosia was in their hands.

White flag

"Our forces are mopping up pockets of feeble resistance," they said. "The Greeks have raised the white flag in several areas. Our mission is being accomplished."

The invaders denied Greek reports that six Turkish planes had been shot down, and in their turn said they had sunk

a Greek Cypriot gunboat.

Nicosia radio claimed that one group of Turkish paratroops had been decimated and that National Guards had captured three Turkish pockets of resistance.

It said: "Dead bodies of Turkish soldiers are floating in the sea," and chanted the ancient Greek taunt to the Persian invaders at Thermopylae: "Come and get us!"

Turkish military sources said it was planned to put 60,000 troops on the island. And last night there were reports of a major tank offensive against Nicosia Airport.

It was also reliably learned that the 10,000 Turkish troops and militia near Limassol had surrendered to its national guard after pro-

ting up fierce resistance during the day.

The prisoners—men, women and children—were being taken to the Limassol football stadium to be held under the supervision of the United Nations who negotiated the surrender.

Watch will be kept on the Turks at Limassol by British UN troops of the Second Battalion Coldstream Guards.

Weakened

The Turks will be invaluable as hostages for the Greek Cypriots whose position in any future negotiations has been severely weakened by the Turkish onslaught.

British travel bosses were last night trying to arrange to fly home the estimated 38,000 British holidaymakers in Greece,

Turkey and the Greek islands as well as the 2,000 tourists still in Cyprus.

Though all international airports in Greece are officially closed, two Olympic Airways planes managed to fly in from London.

British Airways are to take out people booked to leave the Greek island of Corfu today on board a ship bound for Brindisi in southern Italy.

Violence has been an integral part of life in Cyprus since the guerrilla campaign for Enosis (union with Greece) began in the 1950s.

In February 1959, after four years of bloody fighting, Britain, Greece and Turkey met in London and agreed on the independence of Cyprus, on August 16, 1960.

TOE



Makarios's presidential palace in Nicosia... severely damaged in Monday's pro-EOKA coup which led to the Turkish invasion.