

The Daily Telegraph

Monday 9th July 1956

COUPLE SHOT IN CYPRUS BRITISH WOMAN A VICTIM

From Our Correspondent - NICOSIA. JULY 8

A British Customs official and his wife were murdered in Cyprus to-day when terrorists in ambush opened automatic fire and threw bombs at their car. They are Mr and Mrs G Kaberry, believed to be from Swansea. Mrs. Kaberry is the first British woman to be killed by the terrorists; she was killed instantly and her husband died on the way to hospital.

The car was travelling northwards along a mountain road at the eastern end of the island towards the coast, where hundreds of British people, even during the present troubles, take weekend holidays. The area was near "Black Mountain," where terrorist hide-outs have been found in the past. It is understood that the terrorists had taken up positions along the road, and when a car, obviously occupied by British, slowed down they opened fire. Two of three bombs thrown failed to explode.

This outrage follows a period of comparative quiet on the island, and coincides with the arrival of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir Gerald Templer, and with an apparent renewed outbreak of terrorism.

At a police station on the outskirts of Nicosia two men were seen to be behaving suspiciously, and when challenged they ran away. Fire was opened but the men tried to escape on a motor cycle. They were chased by

security forces. A man on a motor cycle was detained.

BOMB UNDER BRIDGE

At Larnaca five men were arrested at a bridge on the road to the coast. Two men in a car and three others were found under the bridge with a heavy mortar bomb.

NICOSIA. July 8 - Reports reaching here indicate that Mr. and Mrs. Kaberry were travelling through a pass some seven miles north of Lefkonico, near Ayios Nicolaos village, when their car was stopped by a youth at the side of the road on a sharp bend flanked by pine trees.

As soon as the news was received British troops left for the scene of the ambush from Lefkonico. Other forces were informed by wireless and a wide hunt has started in the forest area for the gang.

A British service man was killed tonight in a gun battle with terrorists near [. . .] 25 miles west of Nicosia.

These three murders bring the number killed so far by terrorist to 48: of [. . .] were service men. - Reuter

BRITON AND WIFE KILLED BY EOKA

PICNIC CAR AMBUSHED
ON MOUNTAIN PASS

SOLDIER DIES IN GUN BATTLE

C.I.G.S. FLIES FROM TURKEY
FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT - NICOSIA, Sunday

A British Customs official and his wife, Mr. And Mrs Garth Kaberry, were shot dead in their car near Famagusta to-day while on the way to the coast for a picnic. This evening a British soldier was killed during a gun battle in Morphou.

Mrs. Marjorie Kaberry, who came from Swansea, was the first British woman to be murdered since the terrorist campaign began more than 15 months ago. Their car was halted by a road block and then the terrorists opened up with automatic weapons and shotguns. ,Three bombs were thrown, but two failed to explode.

Mrs. Kaberry was killed instantly and her husband died on the way to hospital. Aged 33, he was senior airport Customs Officer, and used to be at London Airport, living at Church Road, Cranford, Middlesex. He and his wife arrived in Cyprus in February. They had no children.

Gen. Sir Gerald Templer, C.I.G.S., was having talks with Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, the island's Governor. when news of the ambush was received here. The number of Britons killed so far by terrorists is 48, of whom 41 were servicemen.

DAILY HERALD

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Couple trapped in 'Help me' ambush

HUSBAND AND WIFE SHOT DOWN

GUNMEN turned a day at the seaside into a day of death for a Briton and his wife yesterday.

The couple, 34-year-old Customs official Mr. George Kaberry and his wife, Marjorie, 31, were shot down in a Cypriot terrorist ambush as they drove through a mountain beauty spot on their way to a beach picnic.

They stopped their little car when a young man stepped from the shadowy pine trees bordering the mountain road near Aylos Nicolaos, 22 miles from Famagusta.

He signalled that he was in distress. And the Britons stopped to help.

They were met by bombs and a blast of machine gun fire from terrorists hidden in the tree-lined pass which borders the notorious Black Mountain.

Mrs. Kaberry was killed instantly. She fell across her husband, who slumped dying in the driver's seat.

And by the time the dust flung up by their car had settled . . . the killers had gone.

SOLDIER KILLED

British troops called from Lelkonico, seven miles away, found the dead husband, who seemed to have been beaten up as he died, lying beside his bullet-riddled wife.

Tall, grey-haired Mr. Kaberry, worked at London Airport and lived at Church-road, Cranford, Middlesex, before becoming senior airport Customs officer at Nicosia after his marriage a year ago.

Mrs. Kaberry, who comes from Swansea, worked, as Miss Marjorie James, In the Customs at Southampton. She Is the first British woman to be killed since EOKA began its terror campaign

Since then 47 Britons - 40 of them Servicemen - have been killed.

And late last night that figure rose to 48 when a British soldier was killed in a gun battle with terrorists. A British patrol had challenged four men near a Greek school at Morphou. 25 miles west of Nicosia, when the men answered with a burst of fire. The terrorists fled after shooting down one of the patrol, leaving three shotguns and a bomb lying in the street.

BOMB ON BRIDGE

The Kaberrys were murdered less than half an hour before General Sir Gerald Templer. Chief Of the Imperial General Staff, arrived in Nicosia from Turkey for talks with Governor Sir John Harding.

While the two British leaders were talking five Cypriots were being arrested near Larnaca. in the south. They were found fixing a mortar bomb under a bridge.

FOOTNOTE: The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Lennox - Boyd, cut short his week - end yesterday In answer to an unexpected call to see the Prime Minister at Chequers. It is almost certain that they discussed Cyprus.



George 'Joe' and Margaret Kaberry on their wedding day in 1955