

Air and sea attack, then troops take Dili

From MICHAEL RICHARDSON our South East Asia Correspondent, who was among the last Europeans evacuated from East Timor.

DARWIN. — Indonesia yesterday launched a massive invasion of Portuguese Timor and occupied the capital, Dili, with more than 1000 troops.

At least six Indonesian warships, several dozen planes, and hundreds of paratroops and marines took part in the assault on Dili, according to reports radioed to Darwin.

They said the attack on the capital began at 4.30 a.m. local time (7.30 a.m. Melbourne time) when warships started shelling the town.

Three and a half hours later, more than 1000 troops were reportedly fanning out through Dili after securing the airport, radio station, administrative offices, and waterfront.

A witness described how waves of paratroopers were being dropped from Indonesian planes as he spoke.

He accused the attacking soldiers of killing indiscriminately.

"Women and children are being shot in the streets. A lot of people have been killed," he said.

However observers said that the only foreign journalist still in East Timor, Australian Roger East of AAP-Reuters, sent a despatch on Saturday saying most of the estimated 18,000 people in and around Dili moved into the hills following reports that an Indonesian invasion was imminent.

THE AGE

Monday, December 8 1975

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Invited

No messages were received from East yesterday, although he is believed to have been in Dili when the attack was launched.

In Jakarta yesterday afternoon Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Mr. Adam Malik, claimed Dili had fallen to "pro-Indonesia forces" who then invited Indonesian forces to restore security.

"Operations to clear the city are still going on," he said.

The eyewitness reports reaching Darwin yesterday morning made no mention of armed Timorese supporters of the four pro-Indonesia parties taking part in the initial air-sea landings.

The special representative of the Portuguese Government's Timor "peace" mission in Darwin, Major Joaquin Carvalho, said the presence of ships and planes off and over Dili was confirmed by a radio message he had just received.

He said the Portuguese administration on Atauro Island, north of Dili, could see ships and planes.

He said the Portuguese Government still had sovereignty over its colony and he knew of no plans to evacuate the remnants of the garrison on Atauro.

The Red Cross flew one of its Swiss officials from Atauro to Darwin last night by light plane, but left remaining members of the Red Cross medical team on the island.

Since last week they have been working in Dili hospital during the day and returning to Atauro at night for safety because Indonesia and the pro-Indonesia forces would not guarantee the neutral status of the hospital.

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