

CYPRUS CATASTROPHE.

The anti-terrorist campaign in Cyprus reaches a new stage with the combing of 400 square miles of mountain forests in the south-west of the island. Mortars are used for the first time in the Cyprus emergency as British troops draw the net tighter round EOKA hideouts. Somewhere in the thick forest in front of them are EOKA leaders with a big price on their heads - including, it is believed, the chief of them all, George Grivas.

Bren guns support the mortars as the troops move forward. During the difficult advance, an Army truck is wrecked - but without casualties. Into the headquarters of the operation, captured terrorists are brought - some of them with hoods over their heads for security reasons. £5,000 each was the reward offered for the capture of two of this mountain gang of seven. But Grivas, the big prize, evades capture, though he is thought to be still in the area.

Suddenly a new and terrible weapon is revealed, as casualties are brought in from a big forest fire which terrorists may have started to cover their escape. Nineteen British soldiers are dead - our heaviest losses since the anti-terrorist drive began.