

# Turkey Reports Toll of 1,000 in Quake

## Buildings Topple, Fires Touched Off in Eastern Region

From Times Wire Services

ANKARA—A strong earthquake killed at least 1,000 people Saturday in a wide area of eastern Turkey, the governor of Diyarbakir province reported.

Local officials said the death toll could go much higher when rescue teams reached remote mountaintop villages. One report from the area said 1,300 were dead.

Rescue workers reported the noon-time quake toppled buildings and touched off fires along the Anatolian Fault. Aftershocks continued past midnight.

Premier Suleyman Demirel said he will go to the quake area today accompanied by Gen. Semih Sancar, Turkey's chief of staff.

Diyarbakir Gov. Nazim Kemal Deniz told newsmen 500 people died in Lice, a town of 8,000 people, and an equal number perished in surrounding villages in the rugged eastern Anatolian area.

About 75% of the buildings in Lice were leveled, the governor told a news conference carried over Turkey's national radio.

He said rescue teams, aided by troops, were still digging through the debris in Lice at nightfall and relief material had started arriving in the town.

Teams of army and civilian rescue workers pulled bodies and survivors from the rubble, mostly the remains of two-story mud and brick peasant dwellings.

"Almost all government buildings, four mosques and the high school are destroyed," Gov. Deniz said.

Turkish national radio said "reports from mountain villages around Lice have put the total death toll in this area at 1,300." Both radio and television stations began broadcasting programs of mourning.

The quake measured 6.8 on the Richter scale, and the Kandilli Observatory placed the epicenter at Diyar-



**DEVASTATION**—City of Lice was hit hard by earthquake.

Times map

bakir. A Richter rating of 6 indicates a severe quake and a 7 means a quake capable of causing widespread, heavy damage.

Officials said the quake, on the first day of the Moslem fast of Ramadan, also rumbled through the surrounding provinces in southern and eastern Turkey.

In Palu, also near Lice, 65 buildings and a mosque collapsed, but there was no loss of life, the Bureau of Disasters said. Fahrettin Turan, governor of Elazig province, said Palu seemed to have suffered the worst damage in his province.

Several army helicopters dropped tents, medicine kits and blankets to victims and ferried survivors to hospitals in Diyarbakir.

Elazig and Diyarbakir lie on the Anatolian Fault, a geological danger area in which earthquakes have taken 35,000 lives since 1939. Turkey's worst quake hit the town of Erzincau that year, killing 30,000.

The fault has been struck 13 times since then. A severe quake in 1971 in Bingol province, which was also hit Saturday, killed 800 people. There have been several lighter quakes since then, most without deaths.

A late-night shock on Aug. 19, 1966 killed 2,529 people. On March 28, 1970, another quake killed 1,086 people in western Turkey.

2★ Los Angeles Times Sun., Sept. 7, 1975-

## CEMETERY TOO SMALL

# Turkey Quake Toll Hits 1,800; Survivors Dig Out

Los Angeles Times

Mon., Sept. 8, 1975

LICE, Turkey (AP)—Women in dusty black shawls chanted mourning songs beside the rag-covered bodies of their children Sunday as remote villages of eastern Turkey dug out of an earthquake that officials said killed more than 1,800 persons.

Necmettin Esenler, a Lice municipal clerk, extended his bloody hands and said tearfully: "I dug out my two-year-old daughter Vedia from under a rock with these hands."

Eight members of his family died in the quake that hit the eastern mountain region Saturday and reduced this town of 8,000 to rubble.

The stench of death filled the air, and officials poured disinfectant around the cemetery, which was not large enough for the 840 persons believed to have died in Lice alone. Officials said at least 1,000 more died in surrounding villages and the toll could go higher.

Some of the bodies, those of people hit by rocks falling from a nearby mountain, were flattened and unrecognizable.

Premier Suleyman Demirel flew into the area and pledged, "No one will be left starving or homeless."

Officials said continuing tremors, though comparatively small, were keeping survivors in a state of near panic and hampering efforts to find the injured and to unearth bodies.

Survivors walked around in a daze, trying to help rescue teams get relatives and worldly goods out of the rubble. An old woman was yelling in Kurdish for help in getting sacks of flour out of her house.

People were fighting in the streets, trying to grab tents, blankets and clothing distributed by rescue workers.

The earthquake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter scale, struck at noon Saturday along the Anatolian Fault in eastern and southeastern Turkey, and in some Black Sea provinces. It toppled buildings and set off fires and aftershocks. Hardest hit

was Diyarbakir province in which Lice is located.

The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as recorded on seismographs. A reading of 6 indicates a severe quake and a 7 means a quake capable of causing widespread, heavy damage.

The Red Crescent Society, Turkey's Red Cross, said 17 tons of relief material—blood, food and antibiotics—had been rushed to Lice in military planes. It said several mobile hospitals had been set up in the town to care for those too badly hurt to be moved to the state hospital in Diyarbakir. The society was also running mobile kitchens.

About 2,000 troops were aiding the relief operation.

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Reports Saturday had put the number of dead at 1,000, but officials raised it as civilian and military rescue teams cleared paths into distant villages where the extent of casualties was not known.

In mourning for the victims, Turkish state radio canceled its scheduled programs and played only classical music.

The crescent-shaped Anatolian Fault runs from Turkey's Aegean seacoast northeast along the Black Sea coast, then south into the rugged eastern mountains.

A 1939 earthquake killed 30,000 people in the eastern province of Erzincan. A 1966 quake at Varto, not far from Lice, took 2,964 lives.

At midday Sunday a relatively strong earthquake rumbled through northwestern Yugoslavia, causing minor damage but no casualties, authorities in Zagreb reported.

The Zagreb Seismological Institute rated the quake at 6 to 7 on the Mercalli scale of 12.

## Quake Toll Mounts in Turkey

Lice, Turkey

Women in dusty black shawls chanted mourning songs beside the rag-covered bodies of their children yesterday in remote villages of eastern Turkey after an earthquake that officials said killed more than 1800 persons.

Necmettin Esenler, a Lice municipal clerk, extended his bloody hands and muttered through tears: "I dug out my year-old daughter Vedia from under a rock with these hands."

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## TURKEY QUAKE

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The stench of death filled the air, and officials poured disinfectant around the cemetery, which was not large enough for the 840 persons believed to have died in Lice alone. Officials said at least 1000 more died in surrounding villages and the toll could go as high as 3000.

Some of the bodies, those of people hit by rocks falling from a nearby mountain, were flattened and unrecognizable.

Officials said continuing tremors, although comparatively small, were keeping survivors in a state of panic and hampering efforts to find the injured and to unearth bodies.

Survivors tried to help rescue teams get relatives and possessions out of the rubble. An old woman was yelling in Kurdish for help in getting sacks of flour out of her house.

People had fistfights in the streets trying to grab tents, blankets and clothing distributed by rescue workers.

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buildings and set off fires and aftershocks. Hardest hit was Diyarbakir province in which Lice is located.

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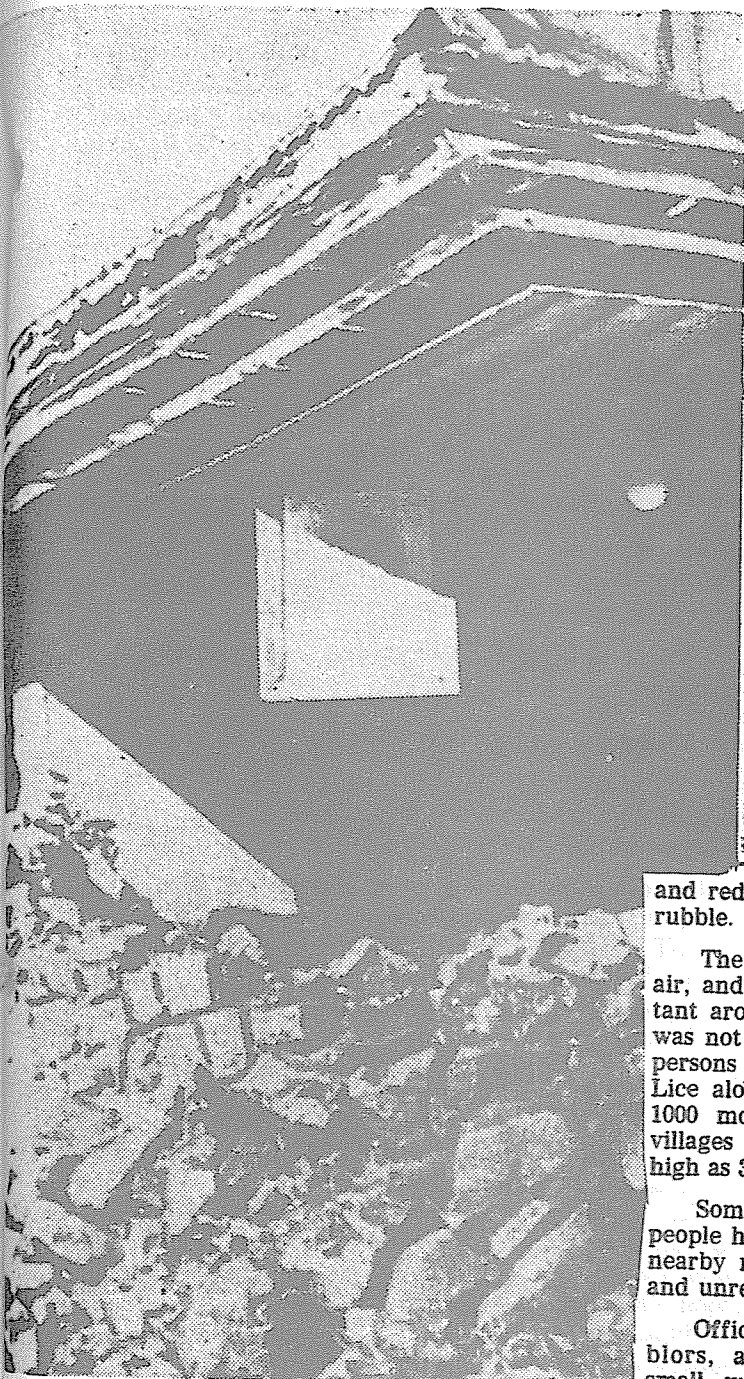
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A 1939 earthquake killed 30,000 people in the eastern province of Erzincan. A 1966 quake at Varto, not far from Lice, took 2964 lives.

At midday yesterday a relatively strong earthquake rumbled through northwestern Yugoslavia, causing minor damage but no deaths, authorities in Zagreb reported.

The Yugoslav quake site is more than 1000 miles northwest of Turkey's quake zone.

Associated Press



Portrait of Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic, hung from the ceiling of a collapsed school in Lice.

San Francisco Chronicle ★ Mon., Sept. 8, 1975

# Turk Quake Survivors Fight for Bread

From Times Wire Services

LICE, Turkey—Old women and children Monday fought each other for a few loaves of bread in this market town that was flattened Saturday by an earthquake which killed more than 2,000 people in eastern Turkey.

Thousands were left homeless. Relief officials in Ankara feared that the final death toll might exceed 3,000. About 1,000 people—or about one out of every eight residents—

died in Lice alone.

Health authorities in Lice announced a vaccination program among the numbed survivors.

«Dozens of decaying bodies still were being unearthed from the rubble of the town.

Gov. Kutay Oktay said he had no way of knowing how many more bodies remained under the collapsed buildings, which have been only partially cleared.

Oktay was busy trying to organize surviving residents and volunteers from neighboring towns into citizen committees to expedite rescue operations and to insure smooth distribution of relief supplies.

He said material aid, food, tents and blankets they have received so far was inadequate.

Lice residents appeared tense and short-tempered. They complained rescue work was not proceeding fast

enough. There were occasional brawls on the streets between harassed officials and the survivors.

Maj. Gen. Alpaslan Demirel, in command of the troops carrying the major load of rescue work, said their number would be increased to get the clearing job done more quickly and efficiently.

Officials said the overall relief operation would take at least two months.

More aircraft carrying blankets, tents and food left Ankara Monday for Diyarbakir, near the disaster area.

Los Angeles Times

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Tues., Sept. 9, 1975—Part I.