COLL/227

U.S. Naval Detachment in Turkish Waters
Far Seas
1920-1922

Located in "F" of Personal Papers

Finding Aid prepared by
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Operational Archives Branch
Naval Historical Center
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374

Historical Note

The U.S. Naval Detachment in Turkish Waters grew out of the aftermath of World War I. Weakened by the war, Turkey was thrown into further confusion by the collapse of the Sultan and the rise of Kemal Ataturk's regime. Seeing an opportunity to defeat an old enemy, Greece launched an invasion in 1919, touching off the bloody Chanuk War. Although the Greeks were finally defeated by Ataturk's strengthened army in 1920, the Allies feared the conflict would escalate and draw them into a new war in the Near East.

The effects of renewed fighting were compounded by a campaign of terror by Turkey against its own Greek citizens. By this point the situation had become volatile enough to concern President Woodrow Wilson. Wilson sent a squadron, the Detachment Protecting Americans and American Interests in Turkish Waters, to the area. Built around the heavy cruiser USS *St. Louis* as flagship, the Detachment included USS *Scorpion, Chattanooga, Fox, Humpherys, Gilmer, Borie, Smith Thompson, Tracey, Long, John Edwards, Whipple, Barker,* and *Overton,* and the boats USS *C. 96* and *C. 338*.

Rear Admiral Mark L. Bristol was appointed to command the Detachment. Soon after Bristol's arrival Wilson convinced the French and British governments to agree to his being named Allied High Commissioner in Turkey. A skilled diplomat, Bristol remained in Turkey until 1929 promoting American interests, safeguarding American citizens, and assisting in treaty negotiations.

Scope and Content Note

Far Seas was published weekly by the U.S. Naval Detachment in Turkish Waters beginning with the 19 November 1920 issue. Each issue included a variety of articles, including news from home and ships assigned to the Detachment. Personal notes, anecdotes, and reports of leisure activities such as sporting events and dances were printed as well, along with cartoons and photographs. The newspaper ceased publication with issue 65 in February 1922, following a directive that prohibited the publication of any service paper at government expense.

This collection is approximately two-thirds complete, and contains copies of *Far Seas* dating from 4 December 1920 through 18 February 1922. The papers are arranged in chronological order. A complete listing of the issues found in this collection appears on the following page.

Issue Listing

Issue Number	Date	
3	4 December 1920	
6	1 January 1921	
7	8 January 1921	
8	15 January 1921	(2 copies)
9	22 January 1921	
10	29 January 1921	
11	5 February 1921	(2 copies)
12	12 February 1921	(2 copies)
15	5 March 1921	
16	12 March 1921	
17	19 March 1921	(2 copies)
18	26 March 1921	
19	2 April 1921	(2 copies)
20	9 April 1921	
21	16 April 1921	
22	23 April 1921	
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56	17 December 1921	
57	24 December 1921	
58	31 December 1921	
59	7 January 1922	
60	14 January 1922	
61	21 January 1922	
63	4 February 1922	(2 copies)
64	11 February 1922	
65	18 February 1922	(2 copies)