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THE ARRIVAL OF THE ALLIED FLEET IN ISTANBUL AND THEIR ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO TURKISH PRESS

Türk Basınına Göre İtilaf Donanması'nın İstanbul'a Gelişi ve Faaliyetleri

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Abstract: This study aims to present the arrival and activities of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul after the Armistice of Mudros through the Turkish press of the period. In the study, the news in the press before the Navy's movement to Istanbul, the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, its deployment, activities, the states that constitute the navy, and the types and technical characteristics of the ships in the navy are included. In addition, the actions and statements of the Allied Fleet officials in Istanbul and the reactions of the non-Muslims and Turks in the city were also mentioned. Other topics discussed in the study are the start of the occupations by the Allied soldiers and the relations of the representatives of the Allied States with the representatives of the Ottoman Government. Finally, how these developments were evaluated in the articles was examined. All these issues that constitute the content of the study were handled with their reflections in the newspapers of the period and evaluated from the narrative of the press.

Key Words: Mudros Armistice, Occupation of Istanbul, Allied States, Allied Fleet, Ottoman State, Turkish Press

Öz: Bu çalışma Mondros Mütarekesi sonrası İtilaf Donanması'nın İstanbul'a gelişini ve faaliyetlerini, dönemin Türk basını üzerinden vermeyi amaçlamıştır. Çalışmada İtilaf Donanması'nın İstanbul'a hareketi öncesinde donanma hakkında basında çıkan haberler ile İtilaf Donanması'nın İstanbul'a gelişi, konuşlanması, faaliyetleri, donanmayı teşkil eden devletler ile donanmada yer alan gemilerin çeşitleri ve teknik özelliklerine yer verilmiştir. Ayrıca İtilaf Donanması yetkililerinin İstanbul'daki faaliyetleri ve beyanları ile şehirdeki gayrimüslim unsurların ve Türklerin tepkilerine de değinilmiştir. İtilaf askerlerinin karaya çıkarak işgallere başlaması ve İtilaf Devletleri temsilcilerinin Osmanlı Hükûmeti temsilcileriyle olan ilişkileri çalışmada ele alınan diğer konular olmuştur. Son olarak ise yaşanan bu gelişmelerin makalelerde nasıl değerlendirildikleri incelenmiştir. Çalışmanın içeriğini oluşturan tüm bu konular, dönemin gazetelerine yansıyan yönleriyle ele alınmış ve basının dilinden değerlendirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Mondros Mütarekesi, İstanbul'un İşgali, İtilaf Devletleri, İtilaf Donanması, Osmanlı Devleti, Türk Basını

Introduction

Just a month after the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo in June 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia, and the First World War started.¹ Germany and Austria attacked France, Russia and Serbia. While the German armies were advancing through Belgium, Britain immediately entered the war on the side of Belgium.² When the First World War began in Europe in August 1914, the Ottoman Empire did not have an easy choice as to what to do. None of the Ottoman Empire's choices could be considered safe. Of these, an alliance with Germany, the most powerful of the great powers and the least threatening to the Ottoman Empire, seemed most attractive, and that

¹ Tara Mann, *World War I, A Political and Diplomatic History of the Modern World*, ed. Jacob Steinberg, (New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2016), 56.

² H. G. Wells, *A Short History of the World*, (Ankara: Gece Kitaplığı, 2014), 107.

is why Enver Pasha and a few of his colleagues had decided from the very beginning to make this their main goal.³

For them, neutrality meant isolation, and this meant complete disaster in another major conflict, as the experience of the Balkan Wars showed. Therefore, the Young Turks attempted to end their diplomatic isolation by seeking alliances in Europe in the short war-free period between the summer of 1913 and August 1914.⁴ Behind the scenes, Enver Pasha was masterfully preparing the way for an alliance with Germany. Cemal Pasha made some attempts towards the Allied States in early 1914 to counter Enver Pasha's search for an alliance with Germany, but France and Britain sharply rejected this offer. On the other hand, Germany seemed willing to make an open alliance with the Ottoman Empire on its own. However, since there was too much opposition to a union with Germany, the negotiations were initially conducted only by Enver Pasha, together with the Grand Vizier and Foreign Minister Sait Halim Pasha.⁵ Enver Pasha openly proposed a defense alliance with Germany in a meeting with German Ambassador Wangenheim on July 28. When this proposal was forwarded to Berlin, it received the personal support of Kaiser Wilhelm II.⁶

Very few prominent members of the Ottoman Government supported this Triple Alliance. In fact, it was probably Enver Pasha, the Minister of War, who supported it. Cemal, Talat, and Cavit, on the other hand, supported the Triple Entente and made numerous attempts to reach an agreement with France, Britain, and Russia, but failed.⁷ The alliance compelled the Ottoman Empire to join the Central Powers alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary, against their enemies Britain, France and Russia.⁸ The Ottoman Empire was exposed to open attacks by Britain, France, and Russia, the members of the Triple Entente, which had tried to avoid an alliance with the Ottomans during the previous decade, and was forced into a war that would make it possible to divide the remnants of Ottoman rule among themselves.⁹ Finally, On August 2, 1914, Vizier Said Halim Pasha, the Ottoman Grand, and Enver Pasha, the Minister of War, signed an alliance agreement with the German Ambassador Baron Hans von Wangenheim in Istanbul.¹⁰ The decision to conclude this treaty was taken not by the entire Ottoman Government, but by a group led by Enver Pasha, Talat Pasha and Said Halim Pasha, and the rest of the government was left unaware of the offer on the so-called security grounds.¹¹ This important document, signed the day after Germany declared war on Russia, had eight articles, and the last article stipulated that it would be kept secret.¹² The Ottoman Government ordered mobilization and declared its neutrality on August 3, one day after the treaty.¹³ The signing of the secret treaty was followed by the recess of the parliament, and the government began to prepare public opinion for war.¹⁴ The government also announced that it ended its foreign debt

³ A. L. Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, (New York: Longman 1998), 120-121.

⁴ Feroz Ahmad, *From Empire to Republic, Essay on the Late Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, Volume I, (Istanbul: Istanbul Bilgi University Press, 2008), 235.

⁵ Stanford J. Shaw-Ezel Kural Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, Volume II: Reform, Revolution and Republic: The Rise of Modern Turkey, 1808-1975, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), 310.

⁶ Eric J. Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, (London: I.B Tauris & Co Ltd., 1995), 116.

⁷ Salahi, R. Sonyel, *Minorities and the Destruction of the Ottoman Empire*, (Ankara: TTK/Turkish Historical Society Printing Hose, 1993), 325.

⁸ Stanford J. Shaw, *The Ottoman Empire in World War I*, Volume I: Prelude to War, (Ankara: TTK/Turkish Historical Society Press, 2006), 1.

⁹ Stanford J. Shaw, *The Ottoman Empire in World War I*, Volume II: Triumph and Tragedy November 1914-July 1916, (Ankara: TTK/Turkish Historical Society Press, 2008), 743.

¹⁰ S. J. Shaw, *The Ottoman Empire in World War I*, Volume I, 1.

¹¹ Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, 121.

¹² Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 117.

¹³ Sonyel, *Minorities and the Destruction of the Ottoman Empire*, 325-326.

¹⁴ Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 118.

payments on the day the alliance with Germany was signed.¹⁵ On September 9, 1914, a note was sent to the ambassadors of all powers stating that privileges obtained through capitulations would not be granted effective from 1 October.¹⁶ Thus, the Ottoman Empire unilaterally abolished the capitulations, and dealt a blow to the economic interests of the Entente States.

On the other hand, the treaty with Germany, in the hope of securing the delivery of the warships previously ordered to Britain, continued to be kept secret. For this, strict censorship of the press was applied. Two warships built in Britain were ready for delivery in early August 1914, and a team was sent to pick them up.¹⁷ However, the Minister of the Navy of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, who was aware of the low probability of the Istanbul Government making an alliance with the British in the war on the horizon, ordered the seizure of these two warships built in the British shipyards for the Sultan's navy.¹⁸ This decision of Winston Churchill was met with a reaction by the public, who contributed greatly to the cost of the ships, and caused great protests in Istanbul.¹⁹ These ships, whose price was paid with the contribution of the people, already belonged to the Ottoman Empire, and this decision rightly angered the people.²⁰ However, at this point, two other German warships, which bombed the British bases in North Africa and escaped the pursuit of the British, offered Germany and Enver Pasha an opportunity to enable the Ottomans to enter the war.²¹ Two German cruisers, Breslau and Goeben, who escaped the pursuit of the British, were given permission to enter the Dardanelles on 10 August.²² These two ships, which Enver Pasha helped to pass into Ottoman waters, were given the names Yavuz Sultan Selim and Midilli with a fictitious sale and transferred to the Ottoman Navy.²³

After the signing of the Ottoman-German treaty, Enver Pasha, the most confident and ambitious member of the Ottoman Government, suddenly brought the Ottoman Empire to the battlefield, and this development significantly strengthened his hand in the negotiations with his friends. The decision of the Ottoman Government to enter the First World War on the side of the Central Powers was not taken by the cautious Ottoman Government, but by a group of government members led by Enver Pasha, who had no concern for conformity with the constitution.²⁴ The Ottoman Empire's entry into the First World War resulted from the decisions taken by an influential group of six people (Enver, Cavit, Said Halim, Halil, Talat) affiliated with the Unionist faction of the Young Turk movement. Therefore, "a sound explanation of the Ottoman Empire's entry into the Great War must therefore centre on the diverging calculations and considerations of these six men and the 'foreign penetration' by the top German officers."²⁵

Enver and Talat were determined to take the process to the end, and there was no opposition group that could stand against them.²⁶ Meanwhile, on October 11, the German Ambassador promised that he would secretly deliver 2 billion kuruş gold to the Ottoman Government if war was declared.²⁷ Despite the opposition of Cavit Bey and a few of his

¹⁵ Caroline Finkel, *Osman's Dream: The Story of The Ottoman Empire 1300-1923*, (London: John Murray (Publishers) 2005), 529.

¹⁶ Ahmad, *From Empire to Republic*, 246.

¹⁷ S. J. Shaw – E. K. Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, Volume II, 311-312.

¹⁸ Finkel, *Osman's Dream*, 528.

¹⁹ Stanford J. Shaw, *From Empire to Republic, The Turkish War Of National Liberation 1918-1923 A Documentary Study*, Volume I: *The Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1918*, (Ankara: TTK Basimevi/Turkish Historical Society Printing House, 2000), 55.

²⁰ Finkel, *Osman's Dream*, 529.

²¹ S. J. Shaw – E. K. Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, Volume II, 311.

²² Finkel, *Osman's Dream*, 529.

²³ S. J. Shaw – E. K. Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, Volume II, 311-312.

²⁴ Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, 119, 122.

²⁵ Balcı, A. ve Kardaş, T. ve Ediz, İ. ve Turan, Y., "War Decision and Neoclassical Realism: The Entry of the Ottoman Empire into the First World War", *War in History*, Vol. 27 (4) (2018): 17, 27.

²⁶ Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, 121-122.

²⁷ Stanford J. Shaw – Ezel Kural Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, Volume II, 312.

colleagues to the immediate entry of the Ottoman Empire into the war, the first batch of German gold arrived in Istanbul on October 16 and the second on October 21. On the same day, Enver Pasha, the Minister of War, and General Bronsart von Schellendorf, the Chief of General Staff, came together to prepare a war plan, and agreed that the Turkish Navy would attack the Russian Navy in the Black Sea.²⁸ The decision to war was taken on October 25, and two days later, an Ottoman Naval Fleet under the command of German Admiral Souchon sailed on Enver's strict order to attack the Russian Fleet and seize naval supremacy in the Black Sea.²⁹ When the dates showed October 29, 1914, the Turkish Fleet under the command of Admiral Souchon (actually Goeben and Breslau, accompanied by a series of torpedo boats) bombarded the Russian Black Sea ports of Odessa and Sevastopol. In addition, this Turkish fleet laid mines in the region and sank a Russian minelayer.³⁰ Thereupon, Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire on November 2. This was followed by the British and French declaration of war on 5 November. The reaction of the Ottoman Empire to these decisions was not delayed, and on 11 November 1914, Sultan Mehmed V. Reşad declared war on Britain, France and Russia. Two days later, jihad was declared in the Sacred Relics Room in Topkapı Palace, where the relics of the Prophet of Islam were kept.³¹ Previously, the ambassadors of the Allied Powers left the Ottoman capital on October 31. As British Ambassador Sir Louis Mallet put it: "The die had finally been cast, and the crisis we had so long feared and striven to avert had occurred."³²

The defense of the Ottoman Empire against enemy attacks in the First World War was concentrated on four separate fronts at different times. These were the Eastern Anatolian and Caucasian fronts, the Dardanelles front, and the Iraqi and Syrian and Palestinian fronts.³³ The first front of the war opened when the Russians crossed the Ottoman border on November 1, 1914. However, the Ottoman forces first stopped the Russians and pushed them back a few days later.³⁴ At the end of December of the same year, the Ottoman Army, under the command of Enver Pasha, launched a counterattack. Although the Ottoman troops were successful at the beginning of the offensive, they suffered a heavy defeat in Sarıkamış in January. According to Eric Jan Zürcher, only 12,000 of the 90,000 Ottoman soldiers, who participated in this attack, survived. Most of the others died of cold and exhaustion in winter conditions. On the other hand, the advance of the Russians towards Anatolia continued, and finally Trabzon, Erzurum and Van were occupied by the Russians.³⁵

Another front that the Ottoman Empire fought in the First World War was Dardanelles. The Minister of the Navy of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, attempted to seize the Dardanelles and the Gallipoli Peninsula in order to separate the Ottoman Empire from its European allies and to open the way for military supplies and food shipments to Russia.³⁶ Britain and its allies made the first attempt to pass through the strait in February and March 1915. This attempt was a naval operation aimed at silencing the Ottoman batteries with British and French warships and subsequently clearing the Dardanelles of mines. However, on March 18, 1915, they suffered heavy losses, and then they changed tactics and decided to launch an amphibious attack to land troops on the Anatolian coast and the Gallipoli Peninsula. Afterwards, the first landing offensive took place on April 25. British and Australian troops captured several beaches, but were unable to reach the summit of the ridges that dominated the peninsula. The new landing operation in August was also stopped by the fierce resistance of the Ottoman

²⁸ Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, 126.

²⁹ Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 118-119.

³⁰ Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, 126.

³¹ Finkel, *Osman's Dream*, 529.

³² Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, 127.

³³ Finkel, *Osman's Dream*, 530.

³⁴ Stanford J. Shaw – Ezel Kural Shaw, *History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, Volume II: 315.

³⁵ Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 119, 123.

³⁶ S. J. Shaw, *From Empire to Republic, The Turkish War Of National Liberation 1918-1923 A Documentary Study*, Volume I, 56.

soldiers, and no progress was made. Thereupon, Allied Powers evacuated their positions until January 1916. For the Ottoman Empire, this victory over Britain and its allies was a source of immense pride. But at the same time, the battles at Gallipoli were by far the costliest war for the Ottomans.³⁷ With this victory, the Ottoman Army and Navy successfully prevented the use of the Straits for communication between Russia and its Western allies, thus significantly contributing to the weakening and eventual collapse of Tsarist Russia. As a result, it also gained significant benefits from the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 3, 1918) imposed on Russia by the Central Powers.³⁸

Another great success of the Ottoman armies after the Dardanelles and Gallipoli was on the Iraqi Front in 1916. The Anglo-Indian expeditionary force advancing up the Tigris in the direction of Baghdad was besieged at Kut al-Imara [Kutü'l-Amare] in July and forced to surrender. 13,000 prisoners of war were held in Anatolia. The commander of the unit, General Townshend, spent the rest of the war in Istanbul.³⁹ On the other hand, Cemal Pasha, who was appointed as the military governor of Syria in November 1914,⁴⁰ made the first attempt to take the Suez Canal in January 1915. Although 20,000 soldiers crossed the Sinai Desert in ten days, any attempt to cross or cut the canal ended in defeat. The Ottoman Army retreated to the south of Palestine with relatively few casualties. A second attempt by Cemal Pasha to attack the canal in 1916 also failed.⁴¹ In the Palestine Front, the repulse of the British forces in Palestine in the spring of 1917 was followed by the loss of Jerusalem in December of the same year.⁴² On the Iraqi Front, the British expeditionary forces,⁴³ which captured Baghdad in March 1917, began to advance towards the oil fields surrounding Mosul and Kerkuk.⁴⁴

During the First World War, the Ottoman Empire also contributed significantly to the struggle of the Central Powers in the war.⁴⁵ Really, Ottoman troops did not only fight on Ottoman soil. At the request of the German General Staff, they were also sent to help the Germans and the Austrians in Galicia and the Bulgarians in Macedonia.⁴⁶ On the other hand, the economic consequences of the Ottoman Empire's participation in the First World War were profound. Prices continued to rise as the war raged, and quadrupled in early 1917. By the end of 1918; prices had increased twenty-five times.⁴⁷ The loss of life during the empire's four-year war was horrendous. In this process, many more people died from the disease than were injured and died. The number of soldiers killed in the war is estimated to be around 325,000. The number of the injured, 60,000 of whom died later, varied between 400,000 and 700,000. With 400,000 men dying from the disease, the total number of casualties of the Ottoman combatants reached approximately 800,000.⁴⁸

It can be observed in the press coverage of the fronts in the First World War that the defeats on the Caucasian and Canal Fronts are not featured and the adversities and plights thereon are hidden from the public. The reason was the Ottoman Empire's decision to censorship right after the decree of full mobilization was enacted on August 2, 1914. The rationale behind the decision was to conceal the preparations for the mobilization and get the

³⁷ Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 122.

³⁸ Sonyel, *Minorities and the Destruction of the Ottoman Empire*, 326.

³⁹ Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 122-123.

⁴⁰ Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, 129.

⁴¹ Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 121-122.

⁴² Finkel, *Osman's Dream*, 530.

⁴³ Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 123.

⁴⁴ S. J. Shaw, *From Empire to Republic, The Turkish War Of National Liberation 1918-1923 A Documentary Study*, Volume I, 63.

⁴⁵ Sonyel, *Minorities and the Destruction of the Ottoman Empire*, 326.

⁴⁶ Zürcher, *Turkey A Modern History*, 123-124.

⁴⁷ Macfie, *The End of the Ottoman Empire 1908-1923*, 149.

⁴⁸ Finkel, *Osman's Dream*, 530.

public psychologically ready for the war.⁴⁹ An ordinance was issued to ensure the due implementation of the censorship. As per the ordinance issued on 7 August 1914, no news agency or newspaper could be founded, the newspapers could publish no additional issues, every issue should be inspected by the office of censorship in the Istanbul Post Office before their release, and should be issued on condition that it passes the inspection. Any piece of information on the army and navy, domestic and foreign policy, foreign diplomats, financial conditions, and health care are subject to censorship.⁵⁰

The censorship was intended to form public opinion.⁵¹ Previously, the press played a significant role in reshaping the Ottomans' public opinion in favor of war.⁵² The most important source of news in the Ottoman Empire was the information flow in the shared spaces until the 19th century, when newspapers replaced this medium of information sharing to remain a notable tool of communication up to the First World War. These common spaces were barbershops, hammams, buildings of prayer, taverns, boza houses, and particularly tea houses, which were mainly frequented by the male population and where they voiced their dissatisfaction and conversed about state affairs. Moreover, the members of different communities embodying the Ottoman population used to read out their written texts in these places. In the early period, Namık Kemal, a pioneer Ottoman journalist, thought that the balance between the folk and the state, which was disturbed after the disestablishment of the Janissaries, could be restored with newspapers. What Namık Kemal meant was the emergence of a medium to defend people's interests and voice their concerns.⁵³ From a broader perspective, Namık Kemal thought that the press was not only for educating but also for influencing public opinion. He insistently valued the role of newspapers above anything else.⁵⁴ He claimed that newspapers would influence public opinion for political ends and focus their efforts on this goal.⁵⁵ Furthermore, he strongly believed that they could convey their views to the public and educate people to become more conscious. Şinasi, who was among the pioneers of the Ottoman press, highlighted the significance of the national press as a tool to strengthen the ruling government. Newspapers were crucial for the government to inform its citizens about its activities and understand their expectations and priorities.⁵⁶ According to Mizancı Murad, a vanguard of journalism back then, the press was the sole tool to form public opinion. Another prominent Ottoman journalist with a notable role in guiding public opinion was Hüseyin Cahit. He believed that, in contrast to books which managed to enter each and every house despite being mostly scientific and difficult to read, newspapers could serve as a means of reshaping public opinion by influencing the public with little effort.⁵⁷

The first official gazette of the Ottoman Empire was "Takvim-i Vakayi [Calendar of Events]", which was first issued in 1831 in order to restructure public opinion and inform people of current events.⁵⁸ "Tasvir-i Efkâr [Illustration of Opinion]", whose inaugural issue was

⁴⁹ Hüseyin Kalemlı, "I. Dünya Savaşı Yıllarında Osmanlı Devleti'nde Sansür Uygulaması", *Atatürk Üniversitesi Türkiyat Araştırmaları Enstitüsü Dergisi* 62 (2018): 513, 528.

⁵⁰ Erdal Aydoğan-Umut Akçakaya, "I. Dünya Harbi ve Osmanlı Kamuoyu: Günlük ve Hatıralar Üzerinden Bir Değerlendirme", *Belgi Dergisi* 22 (2021/II): 696.

⁵¹ Kalemlı, "I. Dünya Savaşı Yıllarında Osmanlı Devleti'nde Sansür Uygulaması", 528.

⁵² Aydoğan-Akçakaya, "I. Dünya Harbi ve Osmanlı Kamuoyu: Günlük ve Hatıralar Üzerinden Bir Değerlendirme", 695.

⁵³ Gül Kızılcı Karagöz, "Osmanlı/Türk Basın Tarihi Yazımı Üzerine Eleştirel Bir Değerlendirme", *Ankara Üniversitesi İLEF Dergisi* 3 (2016): 79, 81.

⁵⁴ Orhan Koloğlu, *Osmanlı'da Kamuoyu* (İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi İletişim Fakültesi Yay., 2010), 93.

⁵⁵ Kenan Demir, "Osmanlı'da Basının Doğuşu ve Gazeteler", *Iğdır Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi* 5 (2014): 80.

⁵⁶ Oğuz Han Öztay, "Osmanlı'nın Siyasal Hayatında Basının Rolü: 19. YY. Örneği", *Social, Mentality and Researcher Thinkers Journal* 6 (29) (2020): 240, 243.

⁵⁷ Koloğlu, *Osmanlı Kamuoyu*, 50, 160, 187.

⁵⁸ Salim Alan, "Tanzimat Dönemi 1831-1876 Osmanlı Basını ve Vakayii Mısriyye", *Kastamonu İletişim Araştırmaları Dergisi* 3 (2019): 46.

released on 27 June 1862, was a paper valuing public opinion over all things.⁵⁹ The first newspaper "Tercüman-ı Ahval" [Interpreter of Situation], which was founded in 1860, independently of the state,⁶⁰ and "Tasvir-i Efkâr", which was founded in 1862, was the first privately owned papers respectively, served people as medium of expression, and the importance of public opinion was understood well thanks to these newspapers.⁶¹ They attempted to create a free public opinion in Turkish intellectual life.⁶² Later, "Muhbir [Informant]" was founded by Ali Suavi and "Hürriyet [Liberty]" by Namık Kemal and Ziya Bey. Muhbir and Hürriyet guided public opinion independently of and in defiance of the state. With the foundation of newspapers one after the other, an independent public opinion was formed in the Ottoman Empire, and a cohort of people who discussed and criticized the empire's policies emerged.⁶³

Despite the Ottomans' growing interest in the press, it failed to appeal to the large masses as in Europe. It can be observed in the newspapers published before and after the Second Constitutional Era that each attempted to appeal to/represent a certain community in the society. Among these groups were bureaucrats, civil servants, tradesmen, soldiers, villagers, merchants, laborers, bankers, brokers, and lawyers. Due to Babiâli's [High Porte] policies of control and oppression of the press, journalists were under incessant threat of persecution and exile because of the press' increasing influence on people. This pressure is indicative of the Ottoman press' capacity as a tool of communication to influence not only the upper class and elites but also such members of the middle and lower class as laborers, civil servants, bureaucrats, artisans, tradesmen, and even the illiterate.⁶⁴

The decree of censorship issued by the Ottoman Empire right before the First World War was strictly implemented despite some disruption, and the press and communication were kept under constant control. It was impossible to find decent coverage of the defeats on the fronts in the then-available press. The newspapers could not write about this matter due to the censorship or only featured the news approved by the government. The tight control over the press and communication continued until 1917. The political censorship, loosened as of the second half of the same year, was gradually softened as of the summer of 1918. Eventually, it was abolished on June 9, 1918. However, the military censorship was sustained but loosened on June 11, 1918. The most prominent reason behind the diminished pressure was the Empire's need for the establishment of a favorable public opinion through the press for the upcoming peace talks because of its gradual weakening toward the end of the war and its occasional political disagreement with the allies.⁶⁵

Considering the press' capacity to reshape public opinion, the present study reviewed the newspapers of the mentioned period, which were among the notable mass communication tools back then and were capable of influencing not only the upper class and the elites but also the middle and lower class, even the illiterate. Drawing on the hypothesis that the Turkish press, which had survived the censorship, would not remain indifferent to the developments of the period, the paper availed of a corpus of mass circulation Turkish newspapers thereof. Firstly, the prominent newspapers were reviewed to identify the pieces of information, documents, news, interviews, photographs, etc. pertaining to the Entente States' naval fleets' coming to Istanbul after the Armistice of Mudros and their activities in the city. Then, the collected data were classified, transcribed, simplified, and evaluated. Thusly, the paper attempted to reveal the

⁵⁹ Orhan Koloğlu, *Osmanlı'dan 21. Yüzyıla Basın Tarihi* (İstanbul: Pozitif Yay., 2013), 46.

⁶⁰ Demir, "Osmanlı'da Basının Doğuşu ve Gazeteler", 59.

⁶¹ Alan, "Tanzimat Dönemi 1831-1876 Osmanlı Basını ve Vakayii Mısriyye", 54.

⁶² Öztay, "Osmanlı'nın Siyasal Hayatında Basının Rolü: 19. YY. Örneği", 239.

⁶³ Demir, "Osmanlı'da Basının Doğuşu ve Gazeteler", 59, 85.

⁶⁴ Karagöz, "Osmanlı/Türk Basın Tarihi Yazımı Üzerine Eleştirel Bir Değerlendirme", 83.

⁶⁵ Kalemli, "I. Dünya Savaşı Yıllarında Osmanlı Devleti'nde Sansür Uygulaması", 536.

Entente Powers' naval fleets' arrival in Istanbul and what happened thereafter from the perspective of the Turkish press.

1. Experiences During and After the Armistice of Mudros

During the First World War, the Ottoman Army had initially fought successfully on various fronts since 1914, and gained success in Çanakkale and Kütü'l-Amâra. However, the subsequent defeats created demoralization among the Ottomans and consumed the country's human and economic resources.⁶⁶ Winning the war ceased to be "hope" in 1917, if not in 1916, and the Ottoman Empire and its allies Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria definitely understood in September 1918 that they had lost the war.⁶⁷ The Allies, whose situation was deteriorating with each passing day, began to see Wilson's principles as a solid guarantee to survive the horrible aftermath of the war that would soon end and maintain their national existence.⁶⁸ The idea of withdrawal from the war within the Allied Powers was pioneered by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a matter of fact, they applied to the USA on September 14, 1918 through Switzerland. Bulgaria, another ally state, requested peace on September 26 and withdrew from the war by signing an armistice on September 29.⁶⁹ On the same day, the German army determined that the war was now lost and asked the German Government to engage in peace negotiations.⁷⁰

Bulgaria's withdrawal from the war by accepting defeat affected the state of the Ottoman Empire. Because with the withdrawal of Bulgaria on September 29, 1918, the land connection of the Ottoman Empire with Germany was cut off. In addition, there was dynamism in the British and French forces in Thrace.⁷¹ As a matter of fact, the British and French started to prepare for action on Istanbul and the Straits by forming a force of seven divisions in Thrace. This withdrawal of Bulgaria played a major role in the process that led the Ottoman Empire to the armistice in 1918. In addition, the defeats in the Palestinian and Iraqi fronts brought with it a change in the Ottoman government, and the Talat Pasha cabinet, which was established in February 1918, resigned in October of the same year, and the İzzet Pasha cabinet held power. Thus, the ten-year rule of the Committee of Union and Progress came to an end.⁷²

The peace attempts of the Ottoman Empire started before the establishment of the Ahmet İzzet Pasha Government. The peace proposal of three allied states, including the Ottoman Empire, was notified to American President Wilson on October 5, 1918. Germany and Austria-Hungary sent their offers through Switzerland and the Ottoman Empire through Spain. Three states that wanted peace stated that they were ready to negotiate within the principles announced by Wilson.⁷³ After various correspondences between Wilson and the Germans on this issue, an armistice was concluded with Germany on November 11.⁷⁴ However, both the first proposal of the Ottoman Empire and the second application made on October 12 were left unanswered.⁷⁵ Understanding that the British should be applied for the armistice, the Ottoman Government assigned Governor Rahmi Bey to meet with the British. Thereupon, Rahmi Bey sent the Director of Foreign Affairs Charles Karabiber Bey and French national M. Edmond Giraud to

⁶⁶ Yücel Özkaya, "1919'un Siyasi Olayları", *Milli Mücadele Tarihi-Makaleler*, ed. Berna Türkdoğan, (Ankara: Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi Yay., 2002), 29.

⁶⁷ Sabahattin Selek, *Anadolu İhtilali, Mondros Mütarekesinden Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nin Doğuşuna Kadar Ulusal Savaşımızın Belgeseli*, Vol. 1, (İstanbul: Kastaş Yay., 2000), 37.

⁶⁸ Enver Ziya Karal, *Osmanlı Tarihi, İkinci Meşrutiyet ve Birinci Dünya Savaşı (1908-1918)*, Vol. IX, 2. pr., (Ankara: TTK Basımevi, 1999), 557.

⁶⁹ Selek, *Anadolu İhtilali*, 37-38.

⁷⁰ Karal, *Osmanlı Tarihi*, 557.

⁷¹ Rifat Uçarol, *Siyasi Tarih (1788-1999)*, 5. pr., (İstanbul: Filiz Kitabevi, 2000), 508.

⁷² Fahir Armaoğlu, *20. Yüzyıl Siyasi Tarihi (Volume: 1-2: 1914-1995)*, 14. pr., İstanbul: Alkım Yay., 2004, 142.

⁷³ Selek, *Anadolu İhtilali*, 38-39.

⁷⁴ Karal, *Osmanlı Tarihi*, 557.

⁷⁵ Cemil Öztürk, "Mondros Mütarekesi", *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi*, Vol. 30, (İstanbul: TDV Yay., 2005), 272.

the British representative in Lesbos on October 5, together with a letter containing Talat Pasha's offer of peace. However, the representative here said that this issue should be discussed with the British ambassador in Athens. However, he did not want to meet with the envoy Karabiber Bey in Athens. He told Edmond Giraud that the Ottoman Government was too late to ask for peace.⁷⁶ Thus, this peace attempt by the government failed.

The first action of Grand Vizier Ahmed İzzet Pasha, who established the new government on October 14, 1918, was to establish peace with the Allied States. As a matter of fact, British General Townshend, who was captured by the Ottoman forces on the Iraqi Front and resided in Büyükkada, was offered to act as an intermediary between England and the Ottoman Empire.⁷⁷ General Townshend, who had previously stated that he could be an intermediary in the ceasefire negotiations with England, met with the Grand Vizier on this issue on 17 October. Following the meeting, he set out on 18 October and reached Mudros on 20 October and conveyed the Ottoman State's ceasefire offer to the British commanders.⁷⁸ Subsequently, the Commander of Britain's Mediterranean Fleet, Admiral Calthorpe, sent a telegram to Ahmet İzzet Pasha from the Mudros Port on Limnos Island on October 22, 1918. Calthorpe asked in the telegram that "he was assigned to sign the terms of the armistice with the Ottoman Empire and asked the Ottoman delegates to be sent."⁷⁹ Upon this, a delegation consisting of Minister of the Navy Rauf (Orbay) Bey, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Reşat Hikmet Bey, and Staff Lieutenant Colonel Sadullah Bey was formed, and Ali (Türkgeldi) Bey was appointed as the Secretary of the Delegation.⁸⁰ In summary, in the instruction and authorization given to Rauf Bey, who was the head of the Turkish delegation, in such matters as the preservation of the sovereign rights of the sultan, the keeping of the Straits and the capital in the hands of the Turks, the granting of a passage license to the merchant ships of other countries except Greek warships through the Straits, the demobilization of the army, etc.⁸¹ Trust in Wilson's principles lay in the instruction given to the delegation to Mudros. There were many Ottoman rulers and intellectuals among those who hoped for Wilson's principles. Some of them thought that even some lands lost before the First World War, such as Western Thrace, could be regained according to Article 12.⁸²

The Ottoman Delegation departed from Istanbul to Lesbos on October 24, 1918 and arrived at Mudros Port on October 26. In the first session held on October 27, the "Armistice Project Text" was read, which was not given to the Ottomans before. Severe conditions were put forward in the meetings and the members of the delegation were asked to sign them. During the negotiations, an 11-point instruction was sent to the Delegation members from Istanbul on October 29. In this instruction, it was reminded that Istanbul should be excluded from Article 7 of the Armistice, Greek ships should not benefit from Turkish ports⁸³, and Greek and Italian soldiers should not be among the forces to occupy the Straits. The government focused on the issue that Istanbul should not be occupied. Finally, after four days of lengthy discussions, the Armistice of Mudros was signed on October 30, 1918 at 20.03 and it was decided to take effect on the afternoon of October 31, 1918.⁸⁴

⁷⁶ Selahattin Tansel, *Mondros'tan Mudanya'ya Kadar I*, (Ankara: Başbakanlık Basımevi, 1973), 18.

⁷⁷ Öztürk, "Mondros Mütarekesi", p. 272.

⁷⁸ Mahmut Akkor, "Mondros Mütarekesi'nin İmzalanma Süreci ve Mütareke Tutanaklarında Boğazlar Konusu", *Tarihin Peşinde-Uluslararası Tarih ve Sosyal Araştırmalar Dergisi* 21 (2019): 278.

⁷⁹ Cemal Kemal, "Mustafa Kemal'in Mondros Mütarekesi'ne Tepkisi", *Ankara Üniversitesi Türk İnkılâp Tarihi Enstitüsü Atatürk Yolu Dergisi* 46 (2010): 369.

⁸⁰ Kemal, "Mustafa Kemal'in Mondros Mütarekesi'ne Tepkisi", 369.

⁸¹ Zekeriya Türkmen, "İstanbul'un İşgali ve İşgal Dönemindeki Uygulamalar (13 Kasım 1918-16 Mart 1920)", *Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi Dergisi* XVIII/53 (July 2002): 329.

⁸² İhsan Şerif Kaymaz, "Wilson Prensipleri ve Liberal Emperyalizm", *Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi Dergisi* XXIII/67-68-69 (March-July-November 2007): 154.

⁸³ Özkaya, "1919'un Siyasi Olayları", 28.

⁸⁴ Türkmen, "İstanbul'un İşgali ve İşgal Dönemindeki Uygulamalar (13 Kasım 1918-16 Mart 1920)", 330.

The Armistice of Mudros was the first step of the Treaty of Sevres, which was dictated to the Ottoman Empire two years later. The Armistice includes slippery provisions and traps that could be fatal if interpreted and implemented in bad faith.⁸⁵ The Ottoman Government signed the Armistice, which in fact, marked the end of the Empire. The impact of the Wilsonian Principles on the Armistice was evident. In Article 12 of the Principles, it is stated that the independence of the Ottoman Empire and the inhabited regions with the Turks will not be touched.⁸⁶ However, this Armistice gave the Allied Powers the right to occupy the places determined by the secret treaties they signed during the war and foresaw the occupation of the Straits region and of the regions where the Allies saw their security under threat.⁸⁷ Thus, the provisions of the Armistice allowed the victorious states to occupy these areas of influence, which they determined through secret treaties, and enabled the minorities to take action. Because when the Armistice is implemented, the hands of the state will be tied. Indeed, the Allied Powers began attempts to occupy Turkish lands and break them up shortly after the Armistice of Mudros came into effect.⁸⁸

One day after the signing of the Armistice on October 31st, demonstrations and riots of the Ottoman minorities started. The flags of the Allied Powers were hoisted on some buildings in Istanbul and Izmir. This was followed by the occupations of the Allied States. The British occupied Mosul on 3 November and Antakya, Altınözü, Kırıkhan, Reyhanlı, Samandağ, Yayladağı and İskenderun on 8/9 November.⁸⁹ A French unit that left the French forces in Bulgaria crossed the border on November 6, 1918 and came to Uzunköprü and seized the railway between Uzunköprü and Sirkeci from November 9, 1918. The French came to the town of Dörtöyl on December 11, 1918 with a platoon of four hundred, mostly Armenians, dressed in French military uniforms, under the command of three officers in the south.⁹⁰ The İzzet Pasha cabinet, which could not withstand the developments and the pressure of the Allied Powers while the occupations were continuing, retired from power on November 8, and the Tevfik Pasha cabinet was established on November 11. However, occupations continued during this cabinet period as well.⁹¹ On December 7, 1918, a British cruiser named Liverpool came to the port of Batumi and the British started military control in the city. As of December 24, Batumi was officially occupied by the British. As an indication, the British lowered the Ottoman flag in Batumi and hoisted the British flag in its place.⁹²

The Straits have also been affected by unfair occupations. Because while negotiations on the Armistice were still ongoing, no change was made in the British proposal as a result of the four-day negotiations on the opening of the Dardanelles and the Black Sea Straits and the occupation of the fortifications by the Allies. During the negotiations, the main problem of the allies and especially the UK was to isolate and occupy the Straits from their weapons and to cross freely from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea. In fact, the first three articles of the Armistice, which were not even welcome to be discussed during the negotiations, provided this

⁸⁵ Bilâl N. Şimşir, “Sèvres Antlaşması Sürecinde Osmanlı Payitahtı İstanbul ve Türk Boğazları”, *Sempozyum: Osmanlı'dan Lozan'a Batı'nın Paylaşım Projeleri*, Ankara, 26-27 Nisan 2006, ed. Ahmet Zeki Buluç, (Ankara: Başkent Üniversitesi Stratejik Araştırmalar Merkezi, 2006), 13.

⁸⁶ Mehmet Temel, *İşgal Yıllarında İstanbul'un Sosyal Durumu*, (Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı Yay., 1998), 2.

⁸⁷ Oral Sander, *Siyasi Tarih İlkçağlardan 1918'e*, 16. pr. (İstanbul: İmge Kitabevi, 2007), 407-408.

⁸⁸ Adnan Sofuoğlu, “Mondros Mütarekesi Sonrası Türkiye'nin İşgaline Karşı Millî Direniş: Kuvâ-yi Milliye (1918-1921)”, *Türkler*, Vol. 15. ed. Hasan Celal Güzel, Kemal Çiçek, Salim Koca, (Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Yay., 2002), 618-619.

⁸⁹ Salahi R. Sonyel, “Mondros'tan Samsun'a Türk Kurtuluş Mücadelesinin Doğuşu”, *Türkler*, Vol. 15. ed. Hasan Celal Güzel, Kemal Çiçek, Salim Koca, (Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Yay., 2002), 606-607.

⁹⁰ Özkaya, “1919'un Siyasi olayları”, 29-30.

⁹¹ Sonyel, “Mondros'tan Samsun'a Türk Kurtuluş Mücadelesinin Doğuşu”, 606-607.

⁹² Mustafa Budak, “Mütareke Döneminde İtilaf Devletlerinin Müdahaleleri (30 Ekim 1918-15 Mayıs 1919)”, *İlmi Araştırmalar: Dil, Edebiyat, Tarih İncelemeleri* 5 (2014): 88-89.

purpose.⁹³ With the Armistice of Mudros, the Ottoman Empire accepted the occupation of both the Straits and facilities by the armies of the Allied States and the removal of the Turkish troops in this region. At the time of the Armistice, there were 273 cannons of all sizes and 579 mines on 12 mine lines, 2 underwater obstacle nets and 1 torpedo battery, and 16 searchlights on both sides of the Dardanelles Strait. In addition, 3 divisions of land forces were deployed on the Gallipoli Peninsula and 1 division on the Anatolian side to defend the Strait against landings. During the armistice lines, the defense weapons of the Black Sea Strait consisted of 136 cannons, 76 mines on 4 mine lines, 8 searchlights, and 1 torpedo battery.⁹⁴ Within the scope of the activities of the Allied Powers to seize fortifications, the soldiers in the batteries in the Dardanelles were taken from their positions, and Allied soldiers were placed in their places. The seizure of fortifications, which started on November 6, 1918, was completed on November 12. During this period, an Allied force of 200 soldiers was placed in Seddülbahir and a force of 400 soldiers in Kumkale.⁹⁵

During mine-clearing activities in the Dardanelles Strait, British search and scanning ships started mine-collecting activities in the Strait on November 7, 1918. 6 motorboats and 10 search-screening ships participated in these activities. A French search dredge, named "Arian", passed from the Strait to Marmara, carrying the French Control Commission from the Allied Forces.⁹⁶ Although there was no statement indicating that the capital city of the Empire, Istanbul, could be occupied in the Armistice of Mudros, the Allied Powers did not delay taking steps for its actual occupation. The French officers who sailed off this ship, which berthed at the Galata dock on November 8, were the first foreign officers to set foot in Istanbul.⁹⁷ On the same day, towards the evening of November 8, a British torpedo named "Basra" headed for Istanbul. A British delegation consisting of Colonel Murphy, Major Chilton, Captain Hoylet, and Lieutenant Dveyk came to Istanbul and seized the shipyard. In this process, the British and French continued to come to Istanbul almost as if competing. As a matter of fact, on November 10, 1918, British Generals Gory and Vaugh and French General Brunoust also came to Istanbul.⁹⁸ On 12 November, a French Brigade reached Istanbul by road.⁹⁹

On the other hand, the Allied States captured the Dardanelles Strait effortlessly in a week between 6-12 November 1918, which was closed to them for four years during the First World War. The passage of the Allied Fleet, which started with auxiliary ships on November 7, 1918, at 11.40, continued with the passage of warships on November 11, 1918, at 09.20. Meanwhile, the Averof armored cruiser and four torpedoes of the Greeks entered Marmara from the Dardanelles at 15.45 on November 12, 1918. As a result of the ongoing passages on 9-12 November, the number of British, French, Italian and Greek warships passing from the Dardanelles to Istanbul until the evening of 12 November 1918 reached 60. During this passage of the Allied Fleet, a cargo ship crashed into a mine and sank, and a plane crashed into the sea around Nara [Cape].¹⁰⁰ On November 13, 1918, approximately 60 pieces of the Allied Fleet were anchored in the Port of Istanbul. On the same day, 2616 British, 540 French, and 470 Italian soldiers entered Istanbul as the forces of the Allied States. The occupation forces

⁹³ Tevfik Bıyıklıođlu, "Mondros Mütareke Anlaşması", VI. Türk Tarih Kongresi, Ankara 20-26 Ekim 1961, *VI. Türk Tarih Kongresi Tebliğleri IX*. Dizi, No. 6, (Ankara: TTK Yay., 1961), 577.

⁹⁴ Tevfik Bıyıklıođlu, "Birinci Dünya Harbinde (1914-1918) ve Mondros Mütarekesi Sıralarında (30 Ekim 1918-11 Ekim 1922) Boğazlar Problemi" *Bellelen XXV/97* (1961): 91-92.

⁹⁵ Mehmet Okur, "İtilâf Devletlerinin İstanbul'daki Faaliyetleri, Osmanlı Hükûmetleri Üzerindeki Baskıları ve Hükûmetlerin Tutumu", *Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi Dergisi XIX/57* (2003): 1135.

⁹⁶ Tevfik Bıyıklıođlu-Tevfik Ercan, *Türk İstiklal Harbi Mondros Mütarekesi ve Tatbikatı I*, 3. pr. (Ankara: Genelkurmay ATASE Başkanlığı Yay., 1999), 169.

⁹⁷ Bülent Bakar, "Esaretten Kurtuluş: İtilâf Devletlerinin İstanbul'u Tahliyesi" *Muğla Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi (İLKE)* 23 (Güz 2009): 14.

⁹⁸ Abdurrahman Bozkurt, *İtilaf Devletlerinin İstanbul'da İşgal Yönetimi*, (Ankara: AKM Yay., 2014), 5-6.

⁹⁹ Gotthard Jaeschke, *Türk Kurtuluş Savaşı Kronolojisi Mondros'tan Mudanya'ya Kadar (30 Ekim 1918-11 Ekim 1922)*, 2. pr. (Ankara: TTK Yay., 1989), 4.

¹⁰⁰ Bıyıklıođlu-Ercan, *Türk İstiklal Harbi Mondros Mütarekesi ve Tatbikatı I*, 159, 170-171.

established a military administration in the city on December 8, 1918, and tightly controlled the port, tram, defense, gendarmerie, and police services.¹⁰¹ Thus, not only the port but also the capital, Istanbul, came under the occupation and control of the Allied troops.

2. Press Reports about the Allied Fleet after the Armistice of Mudros

It was seen that the signing of the Armistice of Mudros was widely reported in the Turkish press. As a matter of fact, the Allied Fleet's activities were also included in the assessments made on this subject. In a report titled "Repair of the Allied Ships in Our Shipyard" it was reported that control of places such as shipyards and gunpowder houses in Istanbul would be left to the soldiers of the Allied states. In the continuation of the news, it was stated that the Allied States could make minor repairs to the warships in these shipyards if they wanted.¹⁰² Indeed, it would be seen that an agreement was reached between the representatives of the Allied Fleet and the Government who will come to Istanbul in the coming days.

In the report titled "What About Our War Ships?", it was stated that as a requirement of the Armistice, Ottoman war ships would be captured by the Allied Naval Forces in a safe zone. It was emphasized that it was not even regarded as possible for the Allied forces to capture the warships for various reasons. Additionally, it was predicted that war would end in the west, as well as in the east, and it was not regarded as possible that the Allied forces would need to utilize sundry ships of the Ottoman Empire.¹⁰³

The press reports, which were published before the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, were primarily about when the Straits would be open and when the Allied Fleet would come to Istanbul. However, the question of whether the fleet would stay in Istanbul or not became the current issue as well. The press reports and comments expressed that the Allied ships would begin passing through the Straits as soon as the Straits were opened. Furthermore, in the assessments, these ships were not predicted to stay permanently in the Port of Istanbul. These ships were thought to enter the shipyard only during their repairments.¹⁰⁴

After the Armistice of Mudros, one of the first issues on this subject was whether the Allied Fleet passed through the Dardanelles or not. It was conveyed to the reader that the newspapers published in Greek wrote reports stating that the Allied Fleet went through the Dardanelles; however, as a result of several investigations, it was understood that this report was not accurate.¹⁰⁵ Another issue being wondered about the Allied Fleet was whether Italian or Greek ships would be involved in this fleet or not. A report concerning this issue conveyed that activities aimed not to allow any ships belonging to these two states. Even though relationships between the Ottoman government and aforesaid states, particularly Greece, were in conflict, it was expressed that there was no enmity, so an armistice was not required. Because of being allies with England and France, it was pointed out that it was impossible to forbid the ships belonging to Italy and Greece from arriving in the Black Sea. However, when it was resolved for the ships of these two states to cross into the Black Sea, it was indicated that these ships could pass through Istanbul only at night. After the announcement of Armistice of Mudros to the press, in an interview which was conducted with Mister Rauf, Minister of the Navy, the issue of the Straits was the main topic, and it was asked to him whether it was reasonable to

¹⁰¹ Temel, *İşgal Yıllarında İstanbul'un Sosyal Durumu*, 3-4, 11.

¹⁰² "İtilaf Sefâininin Tersanemizde Tamiri" [Repair of Allied Ships in our Shipyard], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 31 Teşrin-i evvel 1334 [31 October 1918], 1.

¹⁰³ "Sefâin-i Harbiyemiz Ne Olacak" [What about Our War Ships?], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 31 Teşrin-i evvel 1334 [31 October 1918], 1.

¹⁰⁴ "Mütareke ve Netâyici" [Armistice and Its Results], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 2 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [2 November 1918], 1.

¹⁰⁵ "İtilaf Donanması Çanakkale'den Girdi mi?" [Did the Allied Fleet Enter from the Dardanelles?], *Hadisat*, 2 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [2 November 1918], 2.

open the Straits and to allow the invasion of fortifications by the Allied forces. In his reply, Mister Rauf declared that it was the right decision to open the straits.¹⁰⁶

3. The Issue of the Straits and the Cleaning of the Straits According to the Armistice of Mudros

The issue of the Straits is remarkable because it constitutes the first article of the Armistice of Mudros, signed on October 30, 1918. The first article of the Armistice, which consisted of 25 articles, was related to the straits and their fortifications.¹⁰⁷ According to this, the opening of the Dardanelles and the Black Sea Straits for crossing the Black Sea and the transition to the Black Sea would be ensured. In addition, the Dardanelles and The Black Sea fortifications would be occupied by the Allies.¹⁰⁸ In the press reports regarding the application of the Armistice's first article, it was noted that there were some misunderstandings about this issue. As a matter of fact, in this context, a report reminded that the occupation of fortifications in the Dardanelles and Black Sea [Istanbul] Straits by Allied forces was in accordance with the articles of the signed Armistice. In the rest of the news, it was suggested that ten percent of the Allied occupation forces would consist of Ottoman forces. Some newspapers misinterpreted this news and wrote that the Armistice had been amended to the article on the occupation of the Straits. According to the newspaper, the article on the straits was not changed; only the application of the article was determined in this way.¹⁰⁹ As a matter of fact, it would be seen that the English, who occupied the positions in the Bosphorus, left two soldiers at each cannon.

From the signing of the Armistice of Mudros to the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, it was seen that efforts to clean the Dardanelles from torpedoes were frequently mentioned on newspaper pages. According to a report in *Hadisat* newspaper on November 7, 1918 that the effort of cleaning the torpedoes in the Dardanelles continued rapidly. In the rest of this report, it was expressed that there were many torpedoes that were replaced by the currents of seawater for four years, and when the collection of them would end was not known, even by the Navy.¹¹⁰ Another report on this subject stated that the cleaning of the torpedoes in Çanakkale is not yet over, and one of the Allied ships that carried out the scanning activities sank by hitting the torpedo.¹¹¹

Efforts to clean the Straits from torpedoes were also interrupted from time to time due to weather conditions caused by wind and fog. This situation caused the Allied delegation to come to Istanbul delayed for a day or two.¹¹² Another report of *Hadisat* newspaper referring to the weather in connection with the clean-up of the Dardanelles was that the work to clean the Strait continued; however, there were difficulties in the works due to wind and fog. Floating torpedoes were torn apart and prevented the free passage of the ships, the report said; therefore, it was reported that the warships coming to Istanbul were expected to be in the city only three or four days later.¹¹³

In addition to the Dardanelles, the Black Sea [Istanbul] Strait was quickly begun to be cleaned of torpedoes. The media reports that scanning activities were being carried out in the Bosphorus through torpedo-searching vessels, if the weather was favorable, it may be possible

¹⁰⁶ "Mütareke ve Netâyici" [Armistice and Its Results], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 2 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [2 November 1918], 1.

¹⁰⁷ "Mütareke Metni ve Şerhi" [Armistice Text and Its Explanation], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 2 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [3 November 1918], 1.

¹⁰⁸ "Mütareke Şerâitinin Metn-i Resmisi" [Official Text of the Armistice's Conditions], *Hadisat*, 3 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [3 November 1918], 1.

¹⁰⁹ "Boğazların Kuvve-i İşgalıyesi" [Occupation Forces of the Straits], *Hadisat*, 7 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [7 November 1918], 2.

¹¹⁰ "Boğazların Tathiri" [Cleaning of the Straits], *Hadisat*, 7 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [7 November 1918] 2.

¹¹¹ "Çanakkale Boğazı" [The Dardanelles Strait], *Hadisat*, 8 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [8 November 1918], 2.

¹¹² "Boğazların Tathirâtı Niçin Gecikmiş" [Why the Cleaning of the Straits Was Delayed?], *Hadisat*, 9 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [9 November 1918], 2.

¹¹³ "İ'tilâf Sefâin-i Harbiyesi" [The Allied War Ships], *Hadisat*, 10 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [10 November 1918], 2.

for ships to move freely to the Black Sea for up to a few days.¹¹⁴ In another report by *Hadisat* newspaper on the Black Sea Strait, it was reported that the units coming to Istanbul in two or three days would occupy the shipyard with the Black Sea Strait fortifications and that the majority of these units would be formed by English troops.¹¹⁵

4. Pioneer Ships and Military Delegations Arriving in Istanbul before the Arrival of the Allied Fleet

Long before the arrival of the Allied Fleet to Istanbul, an English delegation came to Istanbul to have contact with the Ottoman Government in compliance with the Armistice of Mudros. Within the delegation, which was under the presidency of Colonel Murphy, there were two lands and two navy officers, and the delegation settled in the Pera Palace Hotel.¹¹⁶

In the days following the Armistice of Mudros, before the arrival of the fleet, it was seen that some warships had arrived in Istanbul. Indeed, it was the first time that there was a French warship in Istanbul after 4 years. The French ship, named *Arian*, was captured by the Germans and sent to Çanakkale as a torpedo-searching ship. In company with this ship, a French military delegation arrived in Istanbul, as well. A French officer who made a statement to the press under the title of "Istanbul Range Point Commander", which was organized for the subsistence of the Allied armies, conveyed that the demining activities of the Dardanelles were not completed. Therefore he preferred this ship and arrived in Istanbul by traversing the torpedo fields. The officer alleged that the first ship arriving in Istanbul among the Allied Fleet was a French ship [themselves] and expressed that the voyage, which occurred amid the stable or dislocated torpedoes, was not pleasurable at all. As a reply to a question concerning when the Strait would be opened, the commander stated that demining activity would continue for eight or nine days. Additionally, besides the torpedo fields, he noticed collecting the drifting mines and emphasized that this was not simple at all. When a pressman inquired about which warships would come to the Strait, he replied that he did not have information on this matter. However, he declared that English dreadnoughts *Agamemnon*, *Superb*, and *Temeraire*; French dreadnoughts *Mirabeau*, *Diderot*, *Verino*, *Justin*, and Italian dreadnoughts *Roma* and *Piyemote*, and multifarious cruises were found in the Port of Mudros.¹¹⁷

French officer stated that there were 200 ships of all sizes just outside of Strait, including many transport vessels containing flour and similar ingredients to be brought into the city.¹¹⁸ When the date was 10 November, around 15.30, a French torpedo followed by an English torpedo came to Istanbul, as well. French torpedo with a single mast and 4 funnels bearing the label of M.J. One Ottoman navy officer and two steamboats, bearing navy private, provided guidance for the torpedo. The torpedoes were welcomed in the dock by several marine and ground officers and defenders of Istanbul, Fevzi Pasha.

After the French torpedo approached the dock, a newspaper reporter interviewed a French crew officer. The crew of the French ship consisted of people who had known Istanbul beforehand. Apart from the questions addressed by the reporter, they addressed some questions to the reporter. Thus they exhibited that they had a grasp of the political environment of the country. During the interview, the reporter first asked why and with which essential mission this ship arrived beforehand. In their answer, they laughed, and the French officer and his friends

¹¹⁴ "Karadeniz Boğazının Tathirâtı" [Cleaning of the Bosphorus], *Hadisat*, 10 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [10 November 1918], 2.

¹¹⁵ "Karadeniz Boğazındaki İstihkâmlar" [Bulwarks in the Bosphorus], *Hadisat*, 13 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [13 November 1918], 1.

¹¹⁶ "İngiliz Heyetinin Ziyaretleri ve İhtisasları" [Visits and Specializations of the English Delegation], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 1 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [1 November 1918], 1.

¹¹⁷⁵¹ "Fransız Gemisinde" [In French Ship], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 1 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [1 November 1918], 1.

¹¹⁸ "Boğazlar Önündeki tilaf Sefâini" [Allied Ships in front of the Straits], *Hadisat*, 10 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [10 November 1918], 2.

said that their ship was pacey. When the reporter asked when the other warships could arrive, they left this question unanswered by stating that this was a military secret. Afterward, they addressed questions to the reporter, and firstly, they inquired whether French newspapers were published in Istanbul or not. An officer, who did not want his name to be revealed, inquired about those who formed the Government; what happened to Enver Pasha, Cemal Pasha, Talat Pasha, Bahattin Şakir, and Doctor Nazım. When the reporter said they absconded an answer, the officer inquired why they escaped. In response, the reporter said that this was a political secret, so the French officers laughed. After a while, cars assigned for them came to the dock, and the reporter left the area.¹¹⁹

It was seen that the Allied ships gradually anchored at Istanbul. Thus, Orion-Shark, a French torpedo, and Esrey, an English torpedo arrived in Istanbul. The master of the French torpedo was ranked as a lieutenant, and the master of the English torpedo was ranked as a commander. After the arrival of torpedoes to the harbor, the harbor master Mr. Mahmut welcomed each one.¹²⁰ In another report concerning the arrival of the Allied Fleet, on November 12 around 5 pm, 3 torpedoes came to Port of Istanbul from Çanakkale, and after 10 minutes of roaming in front of Sarayburnu, they turned back in the same direction.¹²¹

5. Movement of the Allied Fleet to Istanbul and Anchoring in the Bosphorus Waters

Before the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, many press reports appeared on this issue. The reports announced that the Navy consisted of sixty ships and that the Allied Fleet would arrive in Port of Istanbul next Thursday. It was reported that no statement was made from the official authorities as to whether Greek ships would be present in the Navy.¹²² In addition to the Allied Fleet, it was reported that many merchant ships belonging to the Allied states reached Piraeus and the Mediterranean Islands to arrive in Istanbul and Izmir harbor.¹²³

According to a report of Hadisat newspaper on the arrival of the Allied Fleet, it was announced that the warships began passing through the Dardanelles as of November 12. According to the news, 6 warships were on the evening of November 11, 9 warships at 8 in the morning of November 12, and 17 warships at the same time in the afternoon acted towards Marmara. Among the ships were freighters loaded entirely with dry goods and commercial materials. Most of the ships were English and the rest were French and Italian ships. On November 12 at 1 am, 7 more Italian ships sailed to Marmara. In the afternoon of the same day, six French warships entered the Bosphorus. Five of them had five funnels and one had six funnels, and they were all huge ships. 3 torpedoes and 1 armored ship from the ships in the Allied Fleet were Greek-flagged. 12 torpedoes, 5 cruisers, and 4 armored ships were English flagged; 2 torpedoes, 2 armored ships, and 1 cruiser were Italian flagged; 7 armored ships and 5 torpedoes were French-flagged. Thus, the number of ships entering the Bosphorus reached 43 by November 12.¹²⁴

A statement was made from the Admiralty regarding the arrival of the fleet in Istanbul as the Allied Fleet passed through the Dardanelles and proceeded towards the Marmara. In the statement of the Admiralty, on November 13, it was reported that the Allied Fleet would reach the Port of Istanbul and return. In the rest of the statement, it was announced that all kinds of ships and vessels were banned from passing through the Port of Istanbul from eight in the

¹¹⁹ “Dün Gelen Fransız ve İngiliz Torpidoları” [French and English Torpedoes Arrived Yesterday], *Hadisat*, 11 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [11 November 1918], 2.

¹²⁰ *Hadisat*, 11 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [11 November 1918], 2.

¹²¹ “İtilâf Torpidolarının Ziyareti” [Visits of the Allied Torpedoes], *Hadisat*, 13 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [13 November 1918], 1.

¹²² “İtilâf Filosu” [The Allied Fleet], *Hadisat*, 12 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [12 November 1918], 1.

¹²³ “İtilâf Sefâin-i Ticariyesi” [Commercial Ships of the Allies], *Hadisat*, 6 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [6 November 1918], 2.

¹²⁴ “İtilâf Sefâin-i Harbiyesi Geliyor” [Allied Warships Are Coming], *Hadisat*, 13 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [13 November 1918], 1.

morning to two o'clock in the afternoon in order to avoid any damage to its attendants, Ncollisions, and accidents in the course of the fleet's arrival and departure.¹²⁵ It was understood from this statement that the Admiralty had expectations that the Allied Fleet would not be anchored in Istanbul and they would return.

Led by British Admiral Arthur Somerset Calthorpe, the Allied Fleet, which was announced to have entered the Dardanelles days ago with the first lights of November 13, was seen in the waters of Istanbul like dark clouds. At eight o'clock in the morning, 4 English torpedoes entered Istanbul from Marmara with their leading mission and sailed quickly to the Bosphorus through Kabatas and Besiktas way. After 4 British torpedoes reached the waters of the Bosphorus, the *Superb* dreadnought carrying the Fleet General Arthur Calthorpe advanced slowly in front, *Temeraire* dreadnought at the rear, and two English ships moved on slowly and roamed the Maiden's Tower, came in front of Dolmabahce Palace through Kabatas and anchored there.

Afterward, French warships named *Bearn* and *Mirabeau* entered the waters of Istanbul, accompanied by four French torpedo destroyers and by changing course to Bosphorus, anchored in front of Kabatas. Following the French warships, two large Italian warships, along with 4 torpedoes, moved in the direction of the Bosphorus and anchored across Ortaköy. On the other hand, it was observed that Greek ships, which eagerly waited for days as to if they would come to Istanbul or not, entered the waters of Istanbul. Accompanied by the Allied Fleet, the Greek armored cruiser named *Averof* and 3 Greek torpedo destroyers deployed across the Ahırkapı without entering the Bosphorus. Behind the Greek warships, the other warships that constituted the Mediterranean fleet, especially cruisers, torpedo destroyers, torpedoes, and other ships anchored offshore of Kadikoy, Haydarpaşa, and Fenerbahçe. As the English, French and Italian warships traveled towards the Bosphorus, it was seen that three planes roamed for a while above the ships from which they departed.

According to the intelligence received the Allied Fleet that arrived at the harbor on November 13 consisted of 60 ships of all sizes. As soon as the Navy anchored at the harbor, the Chief of Staff, Colonel Rıza, and the undersecretary of foreign affairs went to flagship *Superb* dreadnought with a steamboat, and they said to welcome the Allied Fleet commander, Sir Arthur Calthorpe, on behalf of the Ottoman Government. The Dutch ambassador also went to the flagship, and he said welcome to Calthorpe. After the Allied Fleet stayed in Port of Istanbul for 4-5 hours, at first English warships left at 12, French warships at 13, Italian warships at 14, and behind them, the Greek one left the harbor and sailed to the Marmara and went the Gulf of Izmit. According to the intelligence received, the warships of the Allied Fleet determined the Gulf of Izmit as a base of operation.

The names of the most important ships that constituted the 60-pieced Allied Fleet to Istanbul were also published in the press. The large English warships arriving at the port consisted of *Superb*, *Temeraire* dreadnoughts, and warships *Agamemnon* and *Lord Nelson*. Besides there were also many cruisers, torpedo destroyers, and torpedoes. According to various sources, the French warships consisted of *Bearn*, *Diderot*, *Mirabeau* dreadnoughts, *Démocratie* armored ship, *Arnest Renan*, *Jules Michelet* cruisers, and many torpedoes. While the number of the Italian fleet was unknown, the Greek fleet consisted of 3 torpedo destroyers with the armored cruiser *Averof*.¹²⁶

Technical characteristics of the significant ships, which constituted the Allied Fleet, also appeared in the press. According to this, dreadnought *Superb*, which was assigned to the general of the Allied Fleet, Admiral Arthur Calthorpe, had 19.000 tonnages of capacity and 21-22 miles

¹²⁵ “İ'tilâf Donanması Bugün Geliyor” [Allied Warships Are Coming Today], *Hadisat*, 13 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [13 November 1918], 2.

¹²⁶ “İ'tilâf Filosunun Muvasalatı” [Arrival of the Allied Fleet], *Sabah*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

per hour velocity. With 2 funnels and 2 masts, this dreadnought was equipped with 10 units of 30.5cm, and 16 units of 10.5cm. There were three dreadnoughts in the *Superb* system of England. *Temeraire* dreadnought, which was anchored along with *Superb* dreadnought before the Dolmabahçe Palace, was the pair of the *Superb* dreadnought. *Agamemnon* armored ship had 16,750 tonnage of capacity and 19 miles per hour velocity. This armored ship, one of the most exquisite warships possessing the system before the dreadnought class, was equipped with 4 units of 30.5cm, 10 units of 23.0cm, and 24 units of 7.6cm. *Lord Nilson* armored ship was the pair of *Agamemnon* armored ships, and England had only these 2 warships belonging to this class.

Being assigned to a French admiral, general of the French fleet in the Mediterranean, *Bearn* warship was one of the most powerful dreadnoughts within the Allied Fleet arriving in Port of Istanbul. *Bearn* dreadnought had 25,200 tonnages of capacity and 21 miles per hour. This dreadnought was equipped with 12 units of 34cm, and 24 units of 14cm, and France had 5 dreadnoughts belonging to this class. *Mirabeau* and *Didero(t)* dreadnoughts had 18,400 tonnage of capacity and 20 miles per hour velocity. Each of these warships, with 5 funnels and 2 masts, was equipped with 4 units of 30.5cm, 12 units of 24cm, and 16 units of 7.5cm. Another French ship *Démocratie* had 14,900 tonnages of capacity and 19.5 miles per hour velocity. *Démocratie* warship, with 2 funnels and 2 masts, had 4 units of 30.5cm, 10 units of 19cm, and 13 units of 6.5cm. *Ernest Renan*, which was one of the rapid and state-of-the-art armored cruisers, had 13,640 tonnages of capacity and approximately 25 miles per hour velocity. This armored cruiser, with 6 funnels and 2 masts, was equipped with 4 units of 19.4cm, 12 units of 16.4cm, and 16 light cannonballs. *Jules Michelet*, which was another fast cruiser, had 12,600 tonnages of capacity. Its velocity was 23.5 miles per hour. This cruiser was equipped with 4 units of 19.4cm, 12 units of 16.4cm, and 24 units of 4.7cm and had 4 funnels and 2 masts.¹²⁷

In a report concerning the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, it was announced that the Admiralty and the Allied military delegation signed an agreement about the mending of war and transportation ships in Haliç (The Golden Horn) and Izmit shipyards. According to this, the mending and cleaning operations would be conducted under the supervision of a French-English-Ottoman commission. This commission would determine the price of the ship being mended, which needed to be paid by the state it related.¹²⁸

In the reports concerning the Allied Fleet's activities in Istanbul, it was pointed out that a fleet, which consisted of *Averof* armored ship, several English, French, and Italian ships and destroyers, would seize the German fleet in Sevastopol.¹²⁹ On the other hand, the Allied soldiers began occupying the Black Sea fortifications after the arrival of the Allied Fleet to Istanbul. *Sabah* newspaper stated that English soldiers occupied the Black Sea Strait fortifications, and therefore, the Allied soldiers settled in Büyükdere.¹³⁰ The same newspaper noted that the Allied soldiers occupied the Black Sea Strait fortification and that the Allied soldiers would be placed in suitable houses in and around Büyükdere.¹³¹ Meanwhile, the transfer of the Allied soldiers to Istanbul proceeded. As a matter of fact, an English transport vessel arrived in the harbor on November 16, and then shipmasters and infantries landed from it. These English soldiers marched from Galata to Beyoğlu with a military band ahead of them.¹³² Meantime, besides the Allied ships, the Allied planes were seen patrolling above the city. In a report on this issue, it

¹²⁷ "İ'tilâf Sefâin-i Harbiyesi Hakkında Malumat" [Information About the Allied Warships], *Sabah*, 14 Teşrin-i sânî 1334 [14 November 1918], 2.

¹²⁸ "İ'tilâf Filosu" [The Allied Fleet], *Hadisat*, 22 Teşrin-i sânî 1334 [22 November 1918], 2.

¹²⁹ "Müteferrik Havadis" [Various Incidents], *Hadisat*, 26 Teşrin-i sânî 1334 [26 November 1918], 2.

¹³⁰ "Karadeniz İstihkâmlarının İşgali" [Occupation of Black Sea Fortifications], *Sabah*, 14 Teşrin-i sânî 1334 [14 November 1918], 2.

¹³¹ "Karadeniz Boğazı İstihkâmâtı" [Bulwark of Bosphorus], *Sabah*, 15 Teşrin-i sânî 1334 [15 November 1918], 1.

¹³² "Dün Gelen İngiliz Askerleri" [English Soldiers Arrived Yesterday], *Sabah*, 17 Teşrin-i sânî 1334 [17 November 1918], 2.

was conveyed that 4 Allied planes were roaming above the city on November 14 in the afternoon, and they flew one or two hours around Boğaziçi, Kadıköy, and Haydarpaşa.¹³³

6. Activities of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul

It was understood from the newspaper that after the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, a ship movement began in the direction of Izmit Port, Marmara Sea, the Dardanelles, and the Black Sea, with the Port of Istanbul. One of the actors in this movement was the warship Italian *Regina Elena*. On November 14, the ship carrying an Italian admiral arrived at the Port of Istanbul moved to Izmit and returned to the port.¹³⁴ After the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, the ships carrying the soldiers of the Allied powers continued to arrive at the port. As a matter of fact, on November 14, two French transport vessels carrying French soldiers also reached the port.

During this period, stray torpedoes that broke off from the Bosphorus posed a danger to merchant ships in their crossings to the Black Sea. The English, who also saw this as dangerous for the Allied Fleet ships, directed two torpedo-scanning vessels to the Strait on November 14 to collect torpedoes in the Black Sea [Istanbul] Strait.¹³⁵ On the other hand 20 transport vessels loaded with soldiers and ammunition passed through the Dardanelles to Marmara. Apart from these ships, 10 warships entered through the Strait, as well. These were all cruisers and torpedoes, and they were all expected to arrive at Istanbul Port. These ships were considered to include the “Kalkış” (Departure) cruiser of the Greeks.¹³⁶ The report of Hadisat newspaper on the Greek warship said the Greek armored ship, named *Kalkış* (Departure), passed through Çanakkale on Friday.¹³⁷ However, on November 15, a Greek torpedo arrived in Istanbul and began waiting off the Dolmabahçe. In addition, an English hospital ship arrived at the port. Besides, a side-wheeler French ship came to Istanbul and crossed into the Bosphorus.¹³⁸

In the context of the mobility of the Allied ships, on the afternoon of November 20, a large French cruiser with 4 funnels and 2 masts arrived at Istanbul Port and anchored off Kabataş. Another French transport vessel left the port on the same day to go to Marmara. Additionally, an English torpedo, which was more rapid than the torpedoes that had ever arrived at the port and were numbered with the new system (14), arrived at the port at 4 on the same day and berthed at Galata Dock.¹³⁹ An English transport vessel, *Katorya*, which carried English soldiers, also arrived at the port on November 16. All English soldiers were disembarked, and their belongings and supplies were placed in dock warehouses. Furthermore, the shipping office building in Sirkeci and the warehouses in its vicinity were evacuated for the Allied soldiers who came to Istanbul.¹⁴⁰

The mobility of the Greek ships in the Allied Fleet was closely monitored by the press of the period. Thus, in a report published by Hadisat newspaper on this issue, it was informed that the Greek armored ship *Averof* in Izmit Port would arrive in Istanbul Port up to a day or two. A French torpedo number 34, which took part in the Allied Fleet, also departed for Izmit at 4 pm on the evening of November 24.¹⁴¹ It was understood from the press reports that Greek airplanes were in Istanbul as well as Greek ships. In a report on this issue, it was stated that on the morning of November 26, a Greek airplane flew from Ayastefanos and wandered above the city. In the news about the mobility of the Allied ships, it was announced that the English torpedo

¹³³ “İtilâf Tayyareleri” [The Allied Airplanes], *Sabah*, 15 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [15 November 1918], 2.

¹³⁴ “İtalyan Amiralı” [Italian Admiral], *Hadisat*, 15 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [15 November 1918], 2.

¹³⁵ “Müteferrik Havadis” [Various Incidents], *Hadisat*, 15 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [15 November 1918], 2.

¹³⁶ “İtilâf Donanması” [The Allied Fleet], *Hadisat*, 16 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [16 November 1918], 1.

¹³⁷ “Kalkış Zırhlısı” [The Departure Battleship], *Hadisat*, 19 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [19 November 1918], 2.

¹³⁸ “Dün Gelen Gemiler” [The Ships Arrived Yesterday], *Hadisat*, 16 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [16 November 1918], 1.

¹³⁹ “Müteferrik Havadis” [Various Incidents], *Hadisat*, 21 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [21 November 1918], 2.

¹⁴⁰ *Hadisat*, 17 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [17 November 1918], 2.

¹⁴¹ “Müteferrik Havadis” [Various Incidents], *Hadisat*, 25 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [25 November 1918], 2.

number 24, which provided a post transport between Mudros Harbor and Dersaadet, docked at Galata Dock on the evening of November 26.¹⁴²

Greece's flagship *Averof* armored ship, located in the Port of Izmit, arrived at the port on November 28 and the commander of *Averof* sent an invitation to newspapers, which broadcasted in Greek. It was announced in the invitation that the *Averof* warship could be visited every day from 1 pm until the flag was lowered. Moreover, there was also a warning informing that any noisy show-offs and cheers that would disrupt the port's silence and public order were prohibited.¹⁴³

7. Demonstrations Before and After the Arrival of the Allied Fleet to Istanbul

It was told in the press reports before the Allied Fleet came to Istanbul that the Greeks longed for the navy to come to Istanbul and saw it as an opportunity. It was also reported that Greeks began preparations to celebrate the arrival of the navy by demonstrating in a way to offend Turks' feelings of homeland and nation. The rest of this report stated that the government, which was aware of this situation, took severe and decisive measures to ensure that the bad events in Izmir would not happen in the capital city. In this context, where such demonstrations were likely to take place, necessary security measures were taken; thus, the noisy community, which feared and trembled against the dignity shown by the Ottoman nation and the force put forward by the government, they were unable to perform their malicious actions. In the rest of this news, when the Allied Fleet arrived in the port, they were warned that they would see the government retain the same power and ability. In addition, the Greeks wished to stay away from actions that would threaten the security of the country with the intricacies that would humiliate themselves. The report also cited Armenians in the empire and Armenian citizens were declared to be able to demonstrate their calm, composure, and clairvoyance at a time when the country was in a state of catastrophe.¹⁴⁴

In the report of *Hadisat* newspaper on this issue, it was announced that the terms of the Armistice between the Allied states and the Ottoman State, which were contracted nine days ago, gradually continued to be applied. In this context, it was reported that the necessary efforts in order to make the straits passable would end entirely as soon as possible, and it was ordered for the Allied ships to arrive in Istanbul soon. In the rest of this news, it was reminded that unfortunately, some of the outrages were witnessed and it was advised all citizens who loved the country without discrimination of race or sect maintain their composure.¹⁴⁵

While the arrival of the pioneer ships in Istanbul was greeted with joy by the Greeks, it was met with a reaction from the Turks. As a matter of fact, on November 10, the people who saw the French-flagged torpedo crossing in front of Sarayburnu attacked the dock. However, since a few days, the government took a position on the roads with a clairvoyant stance, the marine personnel and police and military police officers immediately began the task and did not leave anyone in the direction of Karaköy in the dock, to ensure all aspects of public order provided.¹⁴⁶ In the media reports about the arrival of the Allied Fleet arrival in Istanbul, it was said that there were some people with cheer and curiosity running to the docks, hills, and scenic places to see the Allied Fleet entering the port. Citing four years ago, the same unaware community reminded four years ago when they were running to the same docks, the same hills

¹⁴² "Müteferrik Havadis" [Various Incidents], *Hadisat*, 27 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [27 November 1918], 2.

¹⁴³ "Averof Kumandanının Daveti" [Invitation of Averof's Commander], *Hadisat*, 29 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [29 November 1918], 2.

¹⁴⁴ "Mutasavvir Nümayişler" [Intended Demonstrations], "Hükümetin Tedâbir-i Sâibesi" [Governments's Right Measures], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 1 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [1 November 1918], 1.

¹⁴⁵ "Vaz'iyet-i Siyasiye-i Umumiye" [State of General Politics], *Hadisat*, 9 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [9 November 1918], 1.

¹⁴⁶ *Hadisat*, 11 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [11 November 1918], 2.

and places with the same view, fluttering with joy to see two calamity ships-Goeben/Yavuz and Breslau/Midilli.¹⁴⁷

According to a report from Sabah newspaper, a crowd gathered on the coast and bridge to watch them as the Allied Fleet arrived at the port. There were numerous patrols all over the place especially on the Galata sides, to maintain public order, thus preventing an incident that would disrupt public order. On the other hand, the subjects of the adversary states asked the Police Department permission to raise the flag to celebrate the arrival of the fleet. Upon permission given by the Directorate, the subjects of the adversary states unfurled various flags according to their nationalities, together with the Ottoman flag.¹⁴⁸

In addition to the Entente navy, the soldiers who came to the city by ship were also met with demonstrations. In a report, which was published in Hadisat newspaper concerning this issue, it was conveyed that a malignant crowd and non-Muslim children tended to organize impertinent demonstrations while a battalion of English cavalries was passing through Beyoğlu in order to arrive in the barracks held for them, in the evening of 16th of November. In the report, it was written that the group was silenced and dismissed through commissars and policemen sent from the police station. On the other side, being decorated with the Allied flags and ensigns, the foreign buildings and jubilation and noise on the streets towards evening reached the condition of immobilizing the trolley cars, on 17 November, Sunday.¹⁴⁹ A coterie of Greeks occupied pedestrian ways by gathering before the French club. Even though a malignant crowd, who tagged along with 5 English privates having a bayonet passing by, attempted to clamor, they were inhibited by the constabulary. Turks and other people possessing will and self-esteem behaved much more solemnly without detriment to their dignity and tranquility.¹⁵⁰

After the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, it was seen that some of the buildings were decorated with the flags of the Allied states. Flags of the Allied states, particularly Greek flags, began to be raised on the foreign buildings and Greek houses around the Makriköy and Beyoğlu. Moreover, according to the information received, it was conveyed that some English and French officers who could not find anywhere to dwell in finding an easy solution for this situation. According to this, since every single place raising flags to celebrate the arrival of the Allied Fleet hosted the homeless officers, soldiers with bayonets were posted in front of these building's doors. However, although Greeks quite bothersomely regretted that they raised flags, they handled this hardship by allocating one room for each officer.¹⁵¹ On the other hand, in the reports on this issue, it was conveyed that an official announcement was made about the removal of the flags by the Security General Directorate through the press.¹⁵² Thereupon, flags raised in certain places were fully lowered within 24 hours; as a result, serenity was provided in the streets of both Beyoğlu and Galata. In the directive dispatched, the Greek Patriarchate ordered Greek school principals to set the schools on holiday for 3 days in order to celebrate the arrival of the Allied Fleet in the harbor.¹⁵³ Besides the non-Muslims, English, French, and Indian soldiers, who were situated in the city and disengaged in accordance with the terms of the armistice, participated in the welcome of the Allied Fleet and army. They deployed along with the dock and a naval platoon participated in the official welcome ceremony, as well.¹⁵⁴

In the press reports concerning the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Izmit, it was received that a commotion occurred pursuant to the coming of the fleet. However, it was reported that such a

¹⁴⁷ “İki Sefine-i Müsibet” [Two Sinister Ships], *Hadisat*, 15 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [15 November 1918], 1.

¹⁴⁸ “İ’tilâf Filosunun Muvasalatı” [Arriving of the Allied Fleet], *Sabah*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

¹⁴⁹ “Men’i Nümayış” [Prohibition of Demonstrations], *Hadisat*, 17 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [17 November 1918], 2.

¹⁵⁰ “Beyoğlu Ahvali” [Conditions of Beyoğlu], *Hadisat*, 18 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [18 November 1918], 2.

¹⁵¹ “Bayraklar Meselesi” [Issue of the Flags], *Hadisat*, 20 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [20 November 1918], 2.

¹⁵² “Bayraklar Kalktı” [Flags Were Abolished], *Hadisat*, 20 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [20 November 1918], 2.

¹⁵³ “Rum Patrikhanesinin Bir Emri” [An Order of the Greek Patriarchate], *Sabah*, 16 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [16 November 1918], 1.

¹⁵⁴ “Rihtımda İ’tilaf Askerleri” [Allied Soldiers in the Dock], *İkdam*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

thing possessed no rhyme or reason as a result of the inquiry made.¹⁵⁵ In another report written on this issue, it was repeated that rumors of a commotion in Izmit possessed no rhyme or reason. In the rest of this report, the issue's reality was adverted, and it was conveyed that a fire broke out in Izmit Balıkpazarı [Fish Market]; therefore, gunfire was heard repeatedly. It was mentioned that the gunfire was heard from the Allied Fleet ships, and the blaze of the fire was seen, too. Thereupon, it was reported that soldiers and pumps were immediately disembarked ashore.¹⁵⁶

8. Activities and Declarations of the Allied Fleet's Officials

After the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, it was seen that some high-grade Allied officers landed beside the Allied soldiers used for occupation. Without wasting any time, the Allied officials who landed began their activities. As a matter of fact, the English military committee visited the Grand Vizier in Babiali (Ottoman Porte) and discussed some issues on the 13th of November.¹⁵⁷ After the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, French admirals landed, as well. French Admiral Amet got off from the torpedo boat that approached the dock and was welcomed with an official ceremony by the French navy. Amet went to the French embassy by getting in a car which was bedecked with French flags.¹⁵⁸ On the 17th of November, Admiral came into Babiali and met with Grand Vizier.¹⁵⁹

It was not only French admiral Amet arriving in Istanbul on the 13th of November. On the same day, 2 English admirals came into Istanbul, as well.¹⁶⁰ In the reports leaking to the press, the declaration of the French admiral ship's (*Diderot*) master was given place. The French admiral stated that they would stay for a short time, and sundry ships from their fleet would be sent to the Black Sea to visit their friends and allies awaiting them.¹⁶¹ In an interview conducted with Colonel Murphy from another French ship in Istanbul, the reporter inquired when they would depart from Istanbul. In his reply, the Colonel expressed that it was not certain when this would occur; their ships arrived in Izmit Harbor and would go into the Black Sea soon.¹⁶²

In this period, another high-ranking official arriving in Istanbul was the commander of the Thessaloniki Allied forces and the presidency of general staff. He and his senior officials landed at Galata Dock, and there they were welcomed by Cevad [Çobanlı] Pasha, Minister of General Staff, Fevzi [Çakmak] Pasha, and Protector of Istanbul. The Allied commander and his senior officials shook hands sincerely with Cevad Pasha and expressed that he appreciated Cevad Pasha's heroic deeds in defense of Çanakkale. Subsequently, general and senior officials went to Pera Palace Hotel, which was assigned to accommodate them.¹⁶³ In this period, besides the English military high officials, English colonel Tempy was interviewed. In his interview, the Colonel stated that he was not allowed to make statements concerning political issues and said that it was his first time in Istanbul. Afterward, he conveyed that the view was beautiful from Çanakkale to Istanbul, and he was in the blockade of Çanakkale for two, three years. Mentioning that he deplored Turks being involved in the World War, Tempy expressed that they were always on good terms with Turks, who were a friend to them, and they wanted to

¹⁵⁵ "İzmit'te İğtişâş Şâyi'ası" [Commotion Rumors in İzmit], *Hadisat*, 15 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [15 November 1918], 2.

¹⁵⁶ "İzmit'teki Vak'a Ne İmiş?" [What Was the Issue in İzmit?], *Sabah*, 16 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [16 November 1918], 2.

¹⁵⁷ "İ'tilâf Zâbitânı Babialide" [Allied Officers in Ottoman Porte], *İkdam*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

¹⁵⁸ "Fransız Heyet-i Bahriyesi" [French Navy Delegation], *İkdam*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

¹⁵⁹ "Amiral Amet Bâb-ı âlide" [Admiral Amet in Ottoman Porte], *Sabah*, 18 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [18 November 1918], 1.

¹⁶⁰ "Üç Amiral Geldi" [Three Admirals Came], *İkdam*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

¹⁶¹ "Bir Fransız Zırhlısı Kumandanının Sözü" [Words of a French Commander], *İkdam*, 16 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [16 November 1918], 1.

¹⁶² "Miralay Mörfi" [Colonel Murphy], *Hadisat*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1, 2.

¹⁶³ "Çanakkale Müdâfi'i Cevad Paşa" [Defender of Dardanelles Cevad Pasha], *İkdam*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

generate a friendship with Turks. According to him, Turks were deceived by Germans and found themselves in a troublesome situation.¹⁶⁴

One of the significant actors of this period was Admiral Arthur Somerset Calthorpe, the Allied Fleet commander. In the reports about his arrival and activities in Istanbul, it was informed that Admiral Calthorpe would arrive in the city with *Superb* dreadnought on the 14th of November at two-thirty pm and would go to the English embassy by visiting the official harbor department. Great dreadnought would be anchoring in Istanbul Harbor permanently. According to this report, Calthorpe's dwelling place would be the English embassy. When the Admiral arrived at the embassy, an English flag would be raised with a spectacular official ceremony. Furthermore, there was a private office for Calthorpe to inform reporters consistently.¹⁶⁵

Admiral Calthorpe's arrival and activities in Istanbul appeared excessively in the press in this period. In the press reports about this subject, it was expressed that he willingly accepted a welcoming ceremony of a press committee and stated his opinions on several issues. According to the press report, in his speech, Calthorpe stated that the current war was not beneficial for allied countries, particularly Turkey. He added that misfortune was the main reason for this situation and conveyed that the valor and bravery of the Turkish army would possess a privileged place in history, which is an appreciation every single Allied country approved. In the report, Admiral Calthorpe's mission within the city was adverted. Moreover, it was emphasized that he was the captain-general of all Allied Fleets arriving in the harbor and political representative of countries mentioned above in the care of the Ottoman Empire throughout the process until the peace treaty was signed.¹⁶⁶

Arriving on 14th November, Admiral Calthorpe directly began contacting and visiting Grand Vizier in Ottoman Porte with a few people from his senior officers.¹⁶⁷ In the report of Sabah newspaper concerning the activities of Admiral Calthorpe in Istanbul, it was written that he visited Foreign Minister Mustafa Reşid Pasha by coming to the Foreign Ministry.¹⁶⁸ In another report of newspaper about the Admiral's activities, it was announced that Admiral Calthorpe reacted against telegraph and railway connections between Istanbul and Sofia, which were expected to start. According to report, Admiral Calthorpe wanted to cut down the telegraph communication and postpone the railway subject.¹⁶⁹ In the coming days, this demand by Calthorpe would be fulfilled by the government. In a press report on this subject, it was stated that the government consented to cut down political connection with Bulgaria due to demands of the Allied admirals in Istanbul. Moreover, it was announced that the Bulgarian ambassador would leave the city in a few days and Bulgaria embassy officers would be called back.¹⁷⁰

This report and similar ones were seen to keep occupying newspaper columns. This was because the Allied countries increased their oppression against the government of endless demands of officials and their fulfillment.

¹⁶⁴ "Miralay Mister Tempy ile Mülakaat" [Interview with Colonel Tempy], *Sabah*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 2.

¹⁶⁵ "İ'tilâf Filosunun Muvasalatı" [Arrival of the Allied Fleet], *Sabah*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

¹⁶⁶ "Amiral Calthorpe'un Beyanı" [Declaration of Admiral Calthorpe], *İkdam*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

¹⁶⁷ "İngiliz Heyeti Babiâli'de" [English Delegation in Ottoman Porte], *İkdam*, 15 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [15 November 1918], 2.

¹⁶⁸ "Amiral Calthorpe Hariciyede" [Admiral Calthorpe in Foreign Affairs], *Sabah*, 17 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [17 November 1918], 2.

¹⁶⁹ "Amiral Calthorpe'un Emri" [The Order of Admiral Calthorpe], *Sabah*, 18 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [18 November 1918], 1.

¹⁷⁰ "Bulgaristanla Kat'-ı Münasebat-Sefir Gidiyor", [Breaking off the Relations with Bulgaria-The Ambassador Is Going], *Hadisat*, 29 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [29 November 1918], 1.

9. Reflection of the Arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul in Articles

The arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul has also been the subject of different articles. For instance, this issue was discussed in the article entitled “As the Allied Ships Entered Our Holy Place...” [Harîm] was published in the *Tasvir-i Efkar* on 14 November by Velid EbuZZiya, one of the well-known writers of the period. In Walid EbuZZiya’s article, it was stated that the center of the caliphate first witnessed the implementation of one of the harshest conditions of the armistice on November 13, with sadness and anguish. It was reported that, in addition to British warships, French, Italian and even Greek ships arrived in Istanbul Port in the early hours of the morning, and that some of the ships anchored in front of the Imperial Palace and Selimiye Barracks, and some in the Bosphorus. Afterward, it was stated that the nation, which was involved in a disaster, such as the First World War, without any idea or desire, endured all kinds of sacrifices, sacrificed everything it had, gave millions of martyrs, and patiently endured the most terrible deprivations and calamities, that the nation certainly did not deserve such a fate, and that they should not have seen these days after all those troubles.

In the article, it was pointed out that some people who gathered on the bridge to watch the ships coming to Istanbul had an inexplicable glint of joy on their faces and eyes. On the other hand, it was emphasized that the attitudes and faces of the majority, who were the true sons of the country, revealed that there were deep wounds in the hearts. The arrival of the ships was described as an image that made the calamity of the defeat feel very painfully in the hearts, and it was stated that everyone thought deeply in order to make a salvation provision for their future in the face of such a scene. In the article, self-criticism was also made, and it was underlined that there was no lesson learned from the past, that the painful experiences in the past did not cause an awakening that would bring them to safety, and that they eventually had to comprehend the present. In the article, it was also warned that the ships, which entered the nation’s holy place [harîm] one by one as the representatives of the devastating power with their majestic appearance and formidable cannons, should prompt them as a nation to understand their real situation and to help them become aware of their national service to the nation.

In the continuation of Velid EbuZZiya’s article, it was stated that the nation did not seem incapable of determining the degree of the disaster and comprehending the lessons that should be drawn from the disaster, in the face of the scene witnessed by the nation, which did not lose its real power despite everything. On the other hand, the intelligentsia in the country’s decision-making authority was accused of not being able to comprehend what happened and not learning from what happened. The press was described as the interpreter of the feelings and thoughts of the intellectual class, and the attitude of the press was criticized for making the patriots sadder and more hopeless than the arrival of the Allied ships in Istanbul. It was stated that the ones that should scare them the most about their future were the newspapers. The article also mentioned the cabinet change, and it was stated that it was a mistake for İzzet Pasha to resign at such a time. On the other hand, the reflections of this resignation in the press were criticized. At such a time, it was requested that the office of the Grand Vizier is kept away from gossip and that journalists should not be the subject of discussion. In the article, the reaction of those who seemed calm, moderate and prudent until yesterday to be so strong and extremist on such a day was reacted, and it was asked whether the mind could accept such a change. At the end of the article, attention was drawn to the fact that this change took place at a time when the Allied ships came to Istanbul and the security of Payitaht (Capital City) was threatened by certain elements, and it was emphasized that it was in their hands not to despair about their future in the face of such a scene.¹⁷¹

¹⁷¹ Velid EbuZZiya, “İtilâf Gemileri Harîmimize Girerken...” [As the Allied Ships Entered Our Holy Place...], *Tasvir-i Efkar*, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

The arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul was also discussed by Velid Ebuzyiya in another article entitled “This Also Passes” published in the *Tasvir-i Efkar* on 16 November. In Velid Ebuzyiya’s article, it was first pointed out that in the application of the terms of the armistice, a period that would hurt the honor and dignity of the nation was reached. It was stated that the parts of the conditions related to Payitaht (Capital City) were thought to consist only of warships coming and going to Istanbul Port. In this matter, it was stated that the delegates who returned to Payitaht after signing the Armistice of Mudros attributed a little too much meaning to the interest and courtesy they received, and that they thought that the implementation of the armistice would be quite light due to that kindly treatment. As evidence for this, the delegates, who made statements to the press on their return, gave assurances that Istanbul would never be invaded and that no soldiers would be disembarked from the ships. However, it was stated that there was a huge difference between today’s situation and yesterday’s guarantee and that it was, however, unnecessary to blame the delegates for the situations they witnessed because they were not in a situation to waste time with criticism and accusations. It was stated in the article that the implementation of the terms of the armistice did not begin to take place as expected, and it was reported that the number of French and British soldiers coming to the city increased day by day.

In the article, in which it was revealed that a new place and a new building were occupied every day, the attitudes of the minorities in Istanbul were also criticized. It was stated that apart from the effect this invasion actually caused, they had another problem that was not seen in other countries, and that this was the attitude of some Ottoman citizens in the face of this disaster. In fact, it was stated that if the nation had been left alone without foreigners, the effect of the enemy soldiers coming in as a result of the defeat could have been alleviated by sharing each other’s troubles. However, it was underlined that the special situation of the country deprived them of this remedy that would contribute to overcoming their problems. In this context, it was emphasized that the demonstrations of the minorities and the inappropriate demonstrations of various elements of the country made the very pathetic aspect of the occupation completely unbearable. It was reported that those who demonstrated in the streets with flags in their hands and joy in their eyes for days increased the suffering of the real sons of the country.

In Velid Ebuzyiya’s article, it was stated that this situation, which had been witnessed for two or three days, should be enough to give them an idea about the imperfections they would encounter in the next phase of the occupation. However, it was pointed out that even though these demonstrations, which were far above their expectations, increased the pain in their hearts, they should also have a saving effect for the future. In the article, in which it was noted that the nation did not deserve this fate, it was stated that these days were experienced as a necessary result of the ignorance and the disasters that those who attacked their destinies, as if deliberately inflicted on their lives. In addition, recommendations were made, and it was argued that what needed to be done was to be patient and enduring. It was reported that this was not only due to weakness but also an optional obligation in terms of future benefits. It was emphasized that the only thing that could be done to get out of the current situation was to maintain fortitude and dignity, and that those who were defeated could not expect help from anyone in accordance with the proverb “the one who falls has no friends”. It was stated that the current situation seen with the promises given to them in Mudros once again proved this fact. In the article, it was emphasized that they would save themselves from this misfortune they fell into and that the first thing to do for that was to make enough sacrifices to endure the new disaster, and then do whatever they could to pull themselves together and not allow such calamities to happen again.

In the article, it was pointed out that lessons should be learned from the last events, and that the events that took place in front of their eyes contained great awakening lessons for the future. It was stated that these days would surely pass, and that events and disasters, however, seemed to be beyond their tolerance. However, it was stated that if these disasters served to

increase their efforts and awakened them in a way that would ensure their future, they would not consider themselves to be inconclusive. It was emphasized that what needed to be done was to decide to learn from the demonstrations that emerged and were witnessed under the influence of external and internal factors.¹⁷²

In both articles of Velid EbuZZiya, it is seen that the Allied Fleet's arrival in Istanbul was focused on. In the article, in which the attitude of the press after the cabinet reshuffle was also criticized, both the arrival of the Allied Fleet and the landing of soldiers in Istanbul and the demonstrations of the minorities after the arrival of the ships were evaluated. In this context, the arrival of the ships was described as a tool for the nation to understand its situation and show what it should do. It was stated that although the demonstrations of the minorities hurt the hearts of the own children of the nation and increased their suffering, this situation should have a saving effect for their future. In the articles emphasizing that the nation did not deserve this fate, the nation was expected to be calm, powerful and self-sacrificing. It was heralded that these disastrous days would certainly pass, and that lessons should be learned only from what happened. It was stated that these disasters should increase their efforts and serve their awakening to ensure their future. In the articles, it was emphasized that as a recipe for salvation, they would save themselves from that misfortune, which they fell into, by referring to the proverb "the one who falls has no friends". In this context, it was seen that the statement "the independence of the nation will be restored by the determination and decision of the nation" were included in the Amasya Circular that appeared on June 22, 1919, 7 months later.

Conclusion

For four years, the Ottoman Empire, which allied with the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary), warred in the Caucasus, the Suez Canal, Iraq, Dardanelles, and on the Galician Front as demanded by its allies. The empire suffered massive casualties on these fronts and was economically severed. All these predicaments forced the empire to look for an opportunity for a ceasefire and had to sign the Armistice of Mudros on 30 October 1918. After the pact took effect, the Entente States unrighteously invaded various parts of the country, including the straits. Hence, the naval mines in the Dardanelles were removed. Although the Armistice of Mudros does not include an article sanctioning the invasion of the capital city Istanbul, the Entente Powers wasted no time in initiating the *de facto* invasion of the city. The Entente officers' landing on the Galata Dock in Istanbul was hurriedly followed by the arrival of the British and the French. On 13 November 1918, the Entente fleet, consisting of around 60 ships, docked at the Port of Istanbul. With their ever-growing influence on the members of every community and every social class, the newspapers operationalized as a tool for informing people of the incidents and guiding public opinion did not remain indifferent to the happenings.

Really, according to this Armistice period's circumstances, it was seen that the Turkish press tried to follow the recent news and shared them with readers during and after the Armistice of Mudros. In this context, reports concerning issues such as the opening of the straits, of which countries the Allied Fleet consists, when the fleet would arrive in Istanbul, whether the Italian and Greek ships would exist among the Allied Fleet, occupation of the emplacements around the straits, activities of the Allied soldiers and command echelon in Istanbul, and so forth. Newspapers of this period closely followed the application of the armistice's first article and examined the mine-searching activities in Dardanelles and Istanbul Straits. The Allied Fleet was coddled in a privileged way and the question of which countries constituted the fleet was answered. Furthermore, technical specializations of significant ships found in the fleet were included. During the arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul, demonstrations organized by non-Muslim groups, especially by Greeks, composed the subjects of newspapers. It was detected that activities of the Allied Fleet, specifically movements of the

¹⁷² Velid EbuZZiya, "Bu da Geçer" [This Also Passes], *Tasvir-i Efkâr*, 16 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [16 November 1918], 1.

Greek ships, were followed by the press and data was conveyed to the reader. It could obviously be seen that emplacement, location, and sheltering of the Allied landing soldiers did not escape the press' attention. The main agenda items of the Turkish press in this period were the visits of the Allied states' military committees in the care of local government and declarations of the Allied Fleet military officers appearing in the press.

The arrival of the Allied Fleet in Istanbul was not only the subject of the news in the Turkish press of the period, but also evaluated in different articles. In the articles on this subject, the discomfort felt by the arrival of the ships and the demonstrations of the minorities and the lessons to be learned were discussed. In the articles, in which calmness, fortitude and self-sacrifice are called for in the first place to ensure the nation's future, it was emphasized that "they [would] save themselves again" from that misfortune. In this context, this emancipation prescription was included in the Amasya Circular with the phrase "the independence of the nation will be restored by the determination and decision of the nation".

Consequently, this paper showed that the Turkish press, as expected, was responsive to the developments, closely followed the activities, interactions, communications, and statements of the Entente officers and soldiers, and presented their readers with the information, documents, and photographs that they had retrieved. All in all, the press of the period to a certain degree fulfilled its responsibility to inform the Ottomans of the incidences and to form, manage, and direct public opinion.

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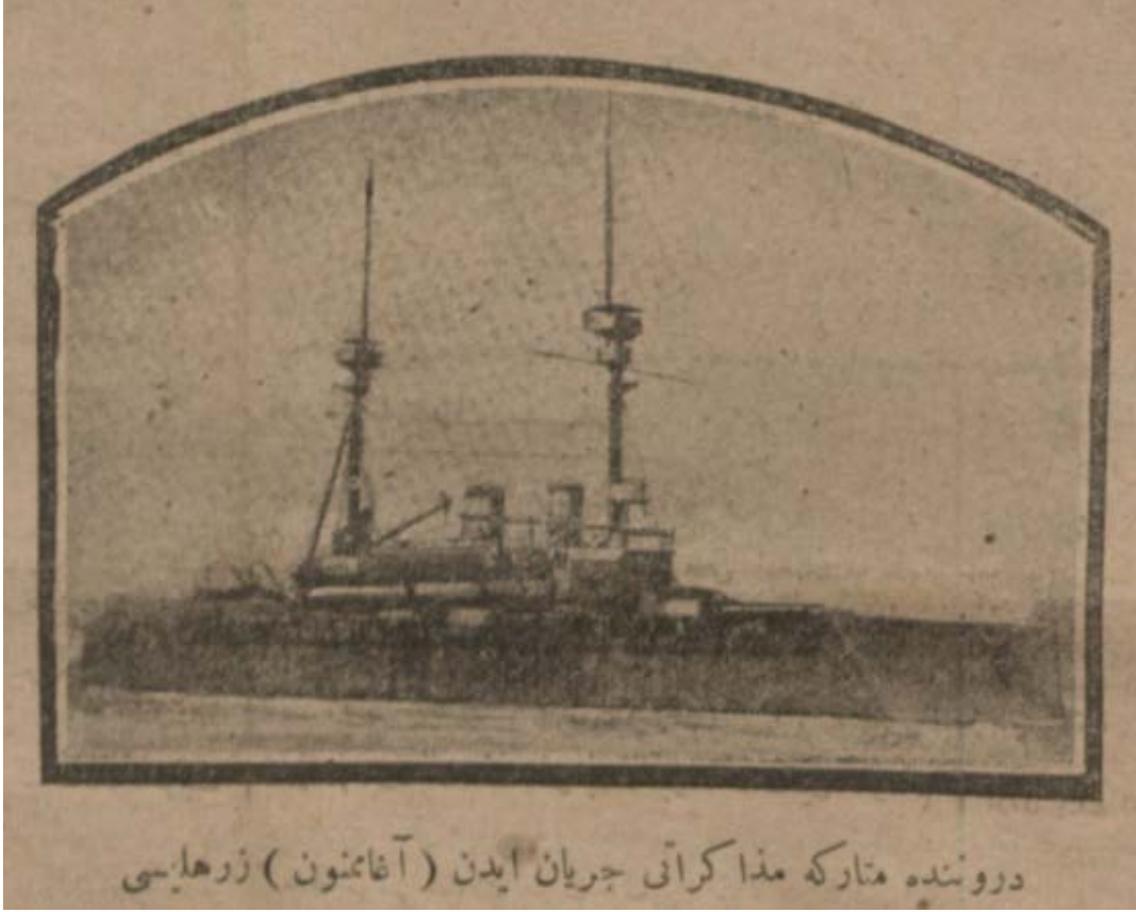
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Vicinage of the Strait That the Allied States Desired to Occupy



Vakit, 1 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [1 November 1918], 1.

APPENDIX 2: Armored Ship Agamemnon in which the Mudros Armistice was Signed



Vakit, 2 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [2 November 1918], 1.

APPENDIX 3: Mudros Harbor in which the Armistice was Signed and the Allied Ships Awaited



Vakit, 6 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [6 November 1918], 1.

APPENDIX 4: French Armored Ship Including French Admiral



Vakit, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.

APPENDIX 5: English Armored Ship Including English Admiral



Vakit, 14 Teşrin-i sâni 1334 [14 November 1918], 1.