

# The News-Record

AN X MARK HERE  
Means that your sub-  
scription has expired.

Madison County Record  
Established June 22, 1901  
French Broad News  
Established May 14, 1907  
CONSOLIDATED NOV. 2, 1911

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN MADISON COUNTY

VOL XXI

MARSHALL, MADISON COUNTY, N. C. FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th 1923.

No 3

## A Letter From Constantinople TURKEY.

Constantinople, Turkey,  
U. S. S. No. 235  
Dec. 12, 1922.

Editor News-Record,  
Marshall, N. C.,  
Dear Sir:—

Since leaving Marshall, seven years ago I have been in several foreign countries and it may be of interest to you or some of your readers to learn that I am now in the near east with the Navy. I am serving as Radio Operator aboard an American Destroyer which is at present engaged in diplomatic and relief work in Turkish, Greek and Russian waters.

Our ship, starting from Constantinople, has visited all ports of prominence in the refugee districts to the South and North; visiting first Smyrna, which was in flames and where many dead bodies were still lying uncared for in the fields and on the hillside which rises above the city toward the mountain ranges, most of the outskirts sections of the city were destroyed, though the central portion and much of the residential section on the hillside and on the peninsula in the harbor, is intact except for the effects of a few scattered fires. Very few of its former inhabitants were remaining, most of them had fled to Mitylene, Piraeus, or other Greek-governed cities offering refuge in the vicinity, and Smyrna was under the military government of the Turkish Nationalists.

We next visited Mitylene, on the island of the same name, some sixty miles to the North and slightly west of Smyrna, where we engaged in aiding Diplomatic relations between the American Consul and the Turkish and Greek authorities; in this connection trips were made to Dekili, on the mainland of Asia Minor and just a few miles across the channel from Mitylene. Mitylene was a city of refugees, it being conservatively estimated that there were nearly a half million in the city homeless, destitute, and knowing not where to turn except for the aid of the hardly adequate relief facilities, of which the American Relief Administration is the most important, having departments, each under the supervision of an expert, for child-feeding, transportation, medical aid, communication and numerous other facilities.

We then left Mitylene and engaged in visiting the many small towns along the Asia Minor coast and transporting the refugees collected there from the different Greek towns where protection was available. On this detail we visited, among others, the town of Chios, Budrum, Ephesus (where we saw the Temple of Diana, one of the seven wonders of the world), Chios, Sighajik etc., we were bound for Adalia and Beirut, and had gone some hundred miles southeast of the island of Rhodes before receiving, by radio, new orders to return to Constantinople. This we did, stopping enroute at Smyrna and conferring with officers stationed there. Four days were then spent in Constantinople, fueling and receiving supplies, after

which we were ordered to Odessa, Russia, in the Ukraine. Arriving at Odessa, after a very stormy voyage on the black sea we found the climate bitterly cold, in sharp contrast to the temperate weather to the south. Here, at first impression and before actually entering the city, was a prosperous-looking, impressive city; but after closer inspection it was seen that instead of its seeming prosperity the streets were teeming with humanity actually upon the verge of starvation. Most of the larger and once notable buildings were in ruins. People of all ages were on the streets, half-clothed, less than half-fed, and many bare foot in the biting cold, while others, fortunate, had been so lucky as to find a few rags in which to wrap their feet in lieu of the almost obsolete shoes. There were also, of course many of the more prosperous class, with fur overcoats and enormous furlined boots, who were looked upon with envy by the mass; but the number of these were not at all to be compared with the destitute. It was also learned here that the relief work of America is practically their only hope and consolation, as they are doing excellent work especially in the maintenance of children, giving preference to orphans.

The American in practically any of these towns in the war stricken East, is a marked person; the American sailor, especially, upon entering the town is immediately surrounded by great crowds, all eagerly praying for a few cents; in this respect bashfulness and dignity are thrown to the winds. The few cents which they entreat, at first hearing, sounds impressive, since the rate of exchange at present in Odessa is eighteen million rubles to the dollar. The most touching plea and also the one most often met, is that of the pinched-faced mother holding a starving little child and significantly indicating an empty milk-bottle; though they have not the words at their command to make their mere articulations understood, their plea is nevertheless very coherent the only pity is that it is so often and the facilities for relieving it so scanty that it is hopeless to relieve to any extent, the conditions here one finds the American sailor ready; he finds joy in giving and every way to forego some anticipated purchase in order to do his share. Gone, to these people, are the luxuries and even the utmost necessities to most of them, where a small loaf of unpalatable black bread costs two million rubles and twice that amount for a small bottle of almost-transparent milk. The Bolsheviks are in complete control, have laid waste to the country and have seized everything of value; they now patrol the cities and rigidly prevent anyone's escape from their regime of terror. They have no compunction as to their methods; the writer saw a sickly half-starved little girl of probably fourteen shot in cold blood for the sake of a small article of little value which she was hoping to sell to the newly arrived sailors for a trifle, nothing of course could be done regarding the matter, as our few men were strictly under mili-

tary rule and were allowed ashore only on condition that should any interference with their rule occur, the neutrality existing would immediately disappear; it was further disconcerting to hear the red, as he put away his pistol and pocketed the article for which he had taken a life, easily remark, with a smile to the onlookers, "it was nothing; we should have been here last winter."

Throughout the city, which is of a size comparing favorably with Atlanta. We found the destitute class with one desire, food; and the class with means also with one desire, to leave the terror stricken country. We were told confidentially by several of the latter class that it meant instant death to attempt flight, that all paths were guarded, that the reds were so completely in command of the situation that they could think of no single instance, for the past year, in which anyone had been successful in escaping or had retained all his possessions and income for any length of time. They added that the chief reason for this strict retention of the inhabitants was to prevent any news of actual conditions from spreading. Since the writer is in the position, as well as mood, to ignore such censorship it is possible to tell this, but beyond the power of words to convey the full horror of the situation, even after the short season of experience with the ravages of the Turks. The outstanding feature of it all is the comparative comfort of the Bolshevik troops who are occupying the territory so rigidly under their thumb. Though the entire region does not afford many such facilities as are common property in the United States and accepted as a matter of course by their inhabitants, still the reds have all things of value and continually take by force, often with unnecessary bloodshed, all which they desire wherever they find it. We were glad when orders called us away after a week, and our new duties took us to Varna, or Bapha, the principal port of Bulgaria. Here we found conditions much better; in fact the city was peaceful and apparently almost normal, taking into consideration the different definition attached to this word due to the periods of unrest through which it has passed; neither the Turkish nor Russian reigns of terror has set its mark here. Our duties here were concerned almost entirely with communication facilities between the Black Sea ports and the American Relief Headquarters in Constantinople. Conditions were endurable among the population and food not wholly or even unduly inaccessible.

Our next port was Trebizond, in Anatolia and directly across the Black Sea from Varna, in reaching it two days and nights of storms altogether different from the usual open-ocean storm had to be endured. "During the second night, in a wild sea, a human voice in distress was plainly heard by all hands on the ship; it was repeated several times but due to the storm its direction or distance could not be ascertained, the ship was stopped, searchlights manned, and for an hour in all directions but the source of the cries could not be located even though they were heard after stopping the

ship. Two hours were spent in vainly searching for what must have in all probability been a boatload of indiscreet refugees or a fishing-smack far from its track, but the incident still remains a mystery. Trebizond was found in a state of turmoil, due to the large numbers of refugees from the interior of Anatolia who were seeking transportation to Constantinople and Athens, and the friction incident to their presence and needs. Here was seen the immense precipice from the brink of which over a hundred Christians, some three years ago were driven to their death without compunction as to age or sex, by the Turks. This was known as the Trebizond Massacre.

Leaving Trebizond, we next spent over a week at Samsoun, also in Anatolia, here the number of refugees awaiting relief was enormous; bands of several hundred arrived daily, over the famous road to Bagdad, from Sivas and other cities in the interior. The mountainous country as well as all roads were deeply covered with snow and most of the refugees in sadly delapidated state-ships of Turkish, French, Greek and British flag were engaged in carrying them to Constantinople preparatory to further evacuation into Greek and Armenian territory, while the American Relief Administration furnished camps and subsistence while awaiting transportation and handling the routine of evacuation very efficiently. There were few permanent residents in the city and those chiefly Turks; here it was that some two dozen members of the crew of this ship outwitted the Turks at the game of foreign Exchange? All funds on the persons of the crew were in the form of one pound and ten shilling (half-pound) English bank notes. At a professional money-changer's office, they were reluctantly exchanging one pound notes for six and one-half liras, at this time the official rate was nine liras to the pound but no other method could be of obtaining Turkish money, which is all that is accepted in the shops. However, the Turkish clerk made the big mistake of thinking a ten-shilling note was one of ten pounds, giving sixty-five liras in exchange; he did not notice his mistake until he had lost the equivalent of perhaps two thousand dollars. The writer would like very much to be able to commend these men upon their honesty in redeeming the mistake but facts do not allow of it.

We are returning to Constantinople today, just one month after leaving for the Black Sea, and find conditions not greatly changed. The Christian population are in expectation of being forced to evacuate on short notice; in fact, some have already been forced. The great majority of the inhabitants are Komalists, and every day sees the streets filled with their parades, with occasional street sights and religious murders, generally of Armenians or Greeks. Through it all the American is respected alike by both elements and is treated with courtesy. Here we had the opportunity of seeing such sights as the Mosque of St. Sophie, another of the original seven wonders; the ex-Sultan's palace and the summer home; the many

ancient buildings and towers of Stamboul and Pera and the fortifications of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. I wish I were able to divulge some of the information which has passed through me in my capacity as Radio Operator but this is manifestly prohibited.

Let me close with the assurance that I will willingly supply any information within my capacity, and with my best regards to all my former, but not forgotten friends in Marshall, and elsewhere.

JOHN ROBERSON,  
U. S. S. K A N E (European Naval Detachment) % P. M. New York City.

## Hell--Is There Really Such A Place?

If I Thought There Wasn't I Would Be In For Making One For Some Folks That I Know.

At the Baptist Church on Sunday morning we will consider, from a Commonsense—Historical and Biblical standpoint a question that was asked of me some time ago by a dear friend. He was earnest and sincere about it, and we will be the same in our reply on Sunday morning. The question was that which heads this article, that is—"Hell Is There Really Such A Place?" We will do our best to make it as interesting and profitable as possible, and we cordially invite you to be present if you can.

Sunday night we will go down to the Methodist Church for the regular monthly Union Service. It is our turn to preach and we will take as our subject—"The Greatest thing in all the World." Glad to see a number of those who have been real sick out to our services last Sunday. We hope and pray that all will be well soon.

Good-by for the present,  
E. R. EVANS.

## A Pounding That Made Us Feel Good.

A few nights ago while wife and I were seated by the fire, each working at our tasks, we heard a door call, and when we answered the call, we found a number of friends, waiting at the door with flour, meal, coffee, sugar and many other things for the pantry, as these retired others came, with their gifts, until the dining table was laden with good things. The Methodist people of Marshall are not strong in numbers, but they are like Gideon's soldiers, they are the choice kind. They stand by their church and preacher. While I say this nice thing about the Methodist, I feel bound to say that the Baptist and Presbyterians of Marshall are a high class church people, as well as the Methodist.

Our town is made up, mainly, of a high class class of citizens, but do not understand me to make this a sweeping statement, like all other towns, we have a few that might not pass a real searching examination, but as for such as any town in N. C. of the same number in population. C. M. C.

## Notice!

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has sold all his interest in the N. B. McDevitt Company, to the N. B. McDevitt Company, who will assume all the indebtedness.  
This November 20, 1922.  
E. N. Holcombe

## Federal Officers Are Out On Raiding Trip.

A raiding force numbering about 20 men and headed by Chief R. B. Sams, of this federal division, left here at midnight for what was expected to be one of the biggest raids on whiskey blockaders ever staged in North Carolina. The destination of the force was not definitely given, though it is known to be in one of the counties north of Winston Salem. Information revealed was that the officers expected to begin activities about daybreak this morning and that their work was expected to continue throughout the day.

R. B. Sams, divisional chief of prohibition agents and force of 13 men returned to the city last night from one of the most successful raids ever pulled off in North Carolina. The party spent all Wednesday night and today in country northwest of Winston Salem and during this time destroyed eight stills, one of 300 gallon capacity, poured out 30,000 gallons of beer and 165 gallons of corn whiskey, and destroyed numerous vats and other equipment. One arrest was made and there will be six prosecutions.

## American Forces Are Preparing To Return.

Coblentz, Jan. 11.—The order for the withdrawal of the American forces in Germany reached Major General Henry T. Allen at his headquarters only this morning but preparations to move has been tentatively planned overnight on the basis of yesterday's news dispatches so the headquarters staff are ready immediately to begin the preliminaries.

The troops will depart from Antwerp on January 21, aboard the transport St. Mihiel, which sails from New York tomorrow.

General Allen will remain after that date to supervise the general cleaning up of affairs.

The more or less secret marriages to German girls of about 200 American soldiers of the 1,080 remaining here are giving the army authorities concern.

## Dear Editor.

Please allow space in your paper for a few items from this part of Madison.

Farmers of this part are beginning to prepare for their next crop. The Sunday School at this place is getting along fine this winter.

Mr. W. C. Silver made a business trip to Asheville Monday of this week.

Misses Fay and Ada Silver returned to the Asheville Normal Monday of this week after a short vacation.

## Prompt Work Saves Woman from Burning.

Mrs. Gaddy, an aged woman residing at 308 Southside avenue, had a narrow escape from burning when her clothing caught fire Tuesday. E. O. Chandley, who chanced to be passing the place, noticed fire through a window. He first supposed it to be a newspaper burning, but perceiving that the woman's dress was afire, rushed in and extinguished the flames. Mrs. Gaddy was only slightly burned.