

Dodecanese Islands Old Prizes Of War Conquest

Lie 25 To 150 Miles North-east Of Famous Greek Island Of Crete

IX. DODECANESE ISLANDS
This is the ninth of a series of ten articles under the general title, "Orphan Areas of Europe." The stories have been prepared by the National Geographic Society for the Wilmington Star-News to inform readers about disputed areas in Europe whose forms of government and economic relations with neighboring countries may have to be determined by negotiations among the Allied Powers. The final article of the series will appear in the Wilmington Star-News next Sunday.

BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
In the blue Aegean sea between Turkey and Greece, 25 to 150 miles northeast of the Greek island of Crete, lie the islands long known as the Dodecanese.

When Italy seized the group from Turkey in 1912, it became merely the most recent conqueror of these strategic islands that straddle the sea lanes between the main body of the Mediterranean and the Black sea. Other owners of all or various islands of the group have been ancient Greece, Rome, the city-states of Venice and Genoa, the Knights of Rhodes, and Turkey.

Just as the islands have had many masters, so they have had a misleading one, geographically, historically, and numerically. Turkey and Greece have at various times applied this name to islands, some within and some without the limits of the area so-called today. The islands of Rhodes, Coo (Cos), and Lissos, members of the prewar political unit set up by Italy, were never before in history considered part of the Dodecanese. And finally, the word Dodecanese, derived from the Greek, means dozen, while there are today 14 islands in the enlarged cluster.

Greek, Turkish, and Italian names for individual islands appear on some maps. Many recent charts designate the Dodecanese the "Italian Islands of the Aegean," and use Italian spellings because Italy, as the ruling power, established the official nomenclature. However, historic Greek names show through this modern veneer. Turkey conquered the islands in 1523, and they were under Turkish rule with a few minor breaks until 1912. History shows that the region developed under the influence of Greek civilization. In modern as well as in ancient times the islanders, for the most part, have been of Greek blood, and the Greek language has predominated.

The 14 main islands are, in order of their size: Rhodes, Scarpanto (Carpentus), Coo (Cos), Calino, Stampalia, Lero, Caso, Simi, Piscopi, Patmo, Nisiro, Calchi, Lisso, and Castelrosso.

Ikaria, one of the Dodecanese while Turkey was in control, was united with Greece in 1912. The

Island of Lissos, formerly identified as a dependency of Lero, was separated for administration when the Italians took over. Castelrosso came into Italy's hands by cession from Turkey in 1924.

The value of the Dodecanese islands is in their position. After the islands came under the control of Italy, the government encouraged colonization with Italian farmers, and introduced modern agricultural methods and machinery.

Nature endowed the islands with an almost ideal climate. Sunshine bathes the land year round. Temperatures rarely fall below freezing, and average from 65 degrees to 75 degrees in summer. Rainfall is heavy in winter. From April to October warmth and dryness are the rule. The islands are virtually free of mosquitoes and malaria. Tempestuous winds occasionally sweep over island waters, driving small craft to shelter and dispersing fleets of sponge and fishing boats.

Living on a combined area less than that of Rhode Island, much of it rocky and barren, the 141,000 islanders face difficult living conditions. The chief export of the islands has been people. Islanders have sought their fortunes in Australia, in Argentina, and in the United States. A colony of Greek sponge fishers, transplanted from the Aegean, has long operated at Tarpon Springs, Florida.

At home islanders make a frugal living by keeping bees, raising sheep and cattle, producing butter and cheese, growing fruits and vegetables, and making sweet wines and brandies. They quarry limestone and marble for building use, work small iron and silver mines, dig pumice and gypsum, catch octopuses and squid. They fashion potters' clay into distinctive shapes, make silk goods and carpets, and process and market sponges.

For diversion there are cock fights and harvest festivals. Pilgrimages to island monasteries are occasions for travel from one island to another in flag-bedecked skiffs.

Biggest city in the islands is Rhodes (Rodi) with about 27,400 prewar dwellers. Other sizable centers are Calino, population 15,200; Coo, with 9,800 people, and Simi, with 6,100.

Thickly crusted with legends, myths, and history, each of the islands has its special appeal to interest. Rhodes was the headquarters of the crusading Knights of St. John from 1310 to 1523. The evidence of their occupation still stands in ancient walls and stone barracks along the Street of the Knights where lived the "tongues" or companies, the national groups into which the force of knights was divided. Centuries earlier great Roman orators were trained in the Rhodes school of rhetoric, among them Cicero, Cato, Cassius, and Brutus. Colossus of Rhodes, which was said to have spanned a harbor inlet and which ranked as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Mountainous Scarpanto has the greatest variety of minerals. Coo, green and picturesque, is the site of a temple of Asclepius, Greek god of medicine, and reputed birthplace of Hippocrates, "father of medicine." Calino, land of honey has the Cavern of the Seven Virgins. Stampalia has been distinguished for the quality of its sponges. Flat and fertile Lero is valuable for its spacious Bay of Lekki, developed by the Italians as a Naval base.

Butter is the stock in trade of Caso. Simi is the home of expert shipbuilders and sponge divers. Ancient ruins are scattered over Piscopi, source of medicinal salves and herbal unguents. St. John the Evangelist lived on Patmo, where, it is believed, he had visions that he recorded in the Book of Revelations. A monastery on the island bears his name.

Round and wooded Nisiro is known for its hot springs and its high volcanic cone. Fragments of a time-stained Greek acropolis stand on Calchi. Lissos' sole tie with the outside world has been the exportation of dried octopuses and squid. Tiny Castelrosso, crowned with the old red-stone fortress that gave it its name, and with more houses than families, looks abroad for some of its income. It produces charcoal for burning tobacco in Egyptian narghiles, smoking devices by which the smoke is drawn through water.

Sellers Furniture In Enlarged Store

Sellers' Furniture company, now occupying their enlarged new quarters at 525 N. Fourth street, today are better equipped than ever to provide Wilmingtonians with complete home furnishings and an electrical appliances.

J. K. Sellers, manager, is assisted by John B. Simmons, Southport, who is assistant manager. Among the excellent lines for which Sellers has the franchise in this territory are individual home deep freeze units, Ironrite Ironers and the Lear Radio and Wire Recorders. Electrical appliances include, beside the Ironrite Ironers, ABC Washers, Gibson Electric Ranges and Refrigerators and many other useful household devices. "We hope in the near future to offer complete electrical kitchens," stated Sellers, "which include the setting-up of an entire unit of cabinets and even a built-in breakfast nook if so desired."



Prizes of conquest through the centuries, the islands long known as the Dodecanese now include 14 in their expanded cluster. Shifts in foreign rule of the islands are revealed in the Greek, Turkish, and Italian names appearing on some maps. Italy occupied the islands in 1912, designated them the "Italian Islands of the Aegean." The group about matches the State of Rhode Island in area, and had some 141,000 prewar dwellers.

RECRUITER CITES AAF ADVANTAGES

The U. S. Army Air Forces provides the most complete aviation training in the world including training in many connected specialized fields. Lt. N. G. Cottle, Wilmington Army recruiting officer, said yesterday.

Emphasizing the openings existing in the various AAF branches, Cottle pointed out that enlistees in the Army have an opportunity to become radar operators, meteorologists, electrical and mechanical engineers, television operators and airport control tower operators.

Besides receiving excellent training, Cottle said, enlistees are paid while they train in addition to receiving, free, clothes, food and quarters. Army training, he added, provides an excellent background for men desiring commercial airline careers.

The Army also is offering enlistments and training in Signal Corps to men who are desirous of studying radio and telegraph. This training equips men with knowledge of repair, operation and installation. It has been announced by the Signal Corps who are in need of additional personnel in that branch of the service.

Good pay rates with regular increases in addition to vacations and opportunity for travel and promotion are being offered enlistees. Additional advantages include retirement at half-pay at the end of twenty years.

ISOLATED
ATHENS, Feb. 16—(AP)—An UNRRA plane piloted by Wes Shelton, of Peterborough, N. H., dropped emergency food supplies today to 22 UNRRA agents and Greek civilians isolated by a snowstorm on 4,000-foot Mount Parnes.

ROYAL TODAY AND MONDAY

TUGBOAT ANNIE'S BACK WITH A BOATLOAD OF RIP-ROARING ACTION... And The Port's Coming Apart at The Seams!



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Thursday WALLACE BEERY • TOM DRAKE • JAMES GLEASON in "THIS MAN'S NAVY"	Friday-Saturday Swift... Silent... Sinister! "TERROR BY NIGHT" with BASIL RATHBONE

BROOKLYN SEEKS TO KEEP NURSERY

Parents and teachers are making an effort to retain the Brooklyn Nursery school in the R. R. Taylor homes despite the recent loss of federal funds, according to E. W. Burnett, head of the school. "The school furnishes a safe, wholesome atmosphere for children of working mothers," Burnett said, "while providing educational and recreational facilities which help in the adjustment of the pre-school life of children."

The Brooklyn Nursery school is among the oldest in the city, having been established in the early days of the WPA and continued throughout the war. Highest enrollment has been between 45 and 50 children, with a faculty of four. "The Brooklyn group is asking for the support of the public in the maintenance of this work," Burnett said. "Monies will be used for the purchase of food—milk, fruit and a daily meal—school supplies, and to supplement teachers' salaries where necessary. Salaries will be paid, as far as possible, from the weekly rates charged for net said."

Graves Resigns Post On Birmingham Paper

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 16—(U.P.)—The resignation of John Temple Graves, editorial columnist for the Birmingham Age-Herald for 17 years, was announced by Graves today. "Because our points of view have come to be far apart you seem to feel that you cannot print my column in the same circumstances as heretofore," Graves said in a note to James E. Chappell, president of Birmingham News company. The resignation was effective yesterday.

Canada contains approximately 2,738,200 head of sheep and lambs and 46,487,200 head of poultry. "I had the experience of seeing the boom of those days disappear and know what it did to Wilmington then. I sincerely believe that condition can be avoided this time. Each merchant and citizen must cooperate, spend money in Wilmington, and thus build his own future and the future of Wilmington." Causey's service includes tire calls, gasoline delivery, battery re-

charging, towing calls and wrecker service. In addition, standard lines of merchandise, including Puro products, Goodyear tires, Autolite batteries and popular brands of accessories, are carried in stock.

When you are planning to work around the house dig your fingers in a cake of soap. It will help prevent accumulation of dirt under the nails and is very easy to remove.

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