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Istanbul



DARDANELLES

On the afternoon of the 24th of September the ship navigated through the strait of DARDANELLES (anciently called the Hellespont) that unites the Sea of Marmora with the Aegean. The city of Dardanus in the Troad, where Mithridates and Sulla signed a treaty in 84 B.C., gave the strait its name. The shores are formed by the peninsula of Gallipoli on the north-west and by Asia Minor on the south-east; it extends for a distance of about 47m. with an average breadth of 3 or 4 miles. At the Aegean extremity stand the castles of Sedil Bahr and Kum Kaleh respectively in Europe and Asia; and near the Marmora extremity is the town of Gallipoli (Callipolis) on the northern shore, and that of Lamsaki or Lapsaki (Lampsacus) on the southern. The two most famous castles of the Dardanelles are Chanak-Kalehsi, Sultanieh-Kalehsi, or the Old Castle of Anatolia, and Kilit-Bahr, or the Old Castle of Rumelia. The strait has long been famous in history since the passage of Xerxes' army by a bridge of boats. It is the scene of the story of Hero and Leander, and of Byron's successful attempt to rival Leander. The strategic importance of the strait has always been very great, since it is the gateway to Constantinople and the Black Sea from the Mediterranean. Although easily capable of defence, the strait was forced by the English admiral, Sir J.T. Duckworth, in 1807; and during World War I a British submarine under the command of Lieutenant-commander Stoker penetrated through the Turkish minefields and sank a Turkish battleship off the Golden Horn. Its strategic importance has given to it an international political importance that has found expression in what is known as the Straits (Dardanelles and Bosphorus).

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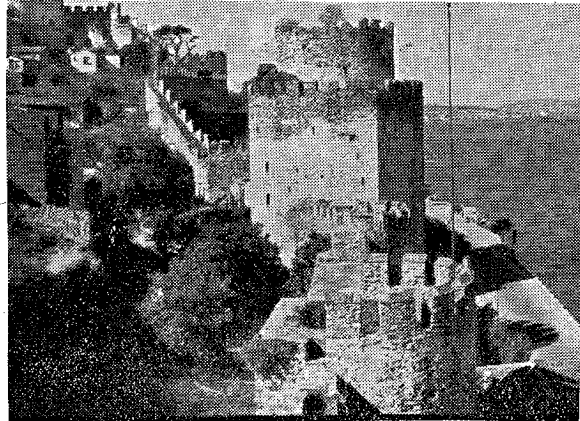
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Present day Istanbul includes within its confines all of the little villages and towns on both sides of the Bosphorus. The old city is on the south side of the Golden Horn about the Galata Bridge. This is on the site of Byzantium, the first Greek settlement founded in 658 B.C., which was for brief periods under the domination of Persia and Macedonia, and, even before the Christian era, came under the rule of Rome. In 72 A.D. it was stripped of its independence and became a provincial town, but in 328 A.D., Byzantium was made the capital of the East Roman Empire and renamed New Rome or Constantinople.

The Emperor Constantine rebuilt the city and celebrated its completion by a feast and general festivities lasting forty days. In 1205 the city was captured by the Crusaders and was held as a Latin Kingdom until 1261 when the Greeks again took possession. The Ottoman Turks under Mohammed the Conqueror captured it in 1453.

The Moslem portion of Constantinople was called Stamboul. ATATURK changed the name of the city officially from Constantinople to Istanbul in 1935. Like Rome, the city is built on seven hills. Disastrous fires have caused the city to be rebuilt from the foundations on an average of every fifty years. People of all nationalities live in Istanbul. The customs, the vehicles and modes of transportation are as interesting and diverse as the people.

The modernization of Turkey was started by the "young Turks" in 1908 when they forced the grant of a constitution. Sultan Abdul Hamid was deposed the following year. The young Turks under Enver and Talaat soon lapsed into despotism and adopted Pro-German policies. After World War I, the Turks under Ataturk cleared the country of foreign military occupation, and assured its complete independence with the Treaty of Lausanne in July 1923. The republic was proclaimed in October. The Sultanate and Caliphate were abolished and all members of the Ottoman Imperial Family left the country.



By virtue of its contribution of a brigade in the Korean War, and its membership and active participation in the United Nations, NATO, the CENTO, and Balkan Pact, Turkey has shown its readiness to stand up and be counted on the side of the free world.

The government of the new republic under the leadership of its first President, Ataturk, instituted far-reaching reforms. Separation of state and church, universal suffrage, language reform, compulsory education and prohibition of polygamous marriages are a few of the more important ones. This work was continued by Izmet Inonou, Ataturk's trusted lieutenant, who succeeded to the presidency.

In the election of 1950, the Democratic Party, led by President Celal Bayar, and Prime Minister Adnan Menderes, swept the Republican Peoples Party, which had governed since the republic was instituted, from power, and assumed the duties of government.

The Menderes-Bayar regime immediately started the nation in a difficult industrial "revolution" or reorganization. Imports were largely restricted to items necessary for building new industrial economy and, as a result, other imported

items such as perfumes, clothing, automobiles, and certain foodstuffs became very hard to obtain and expensive.

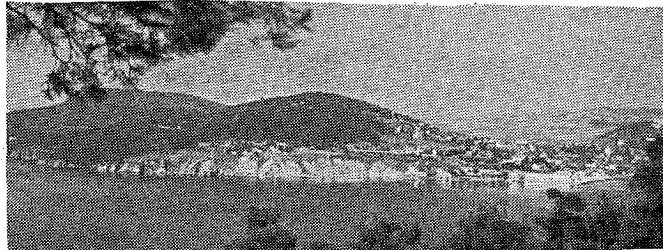
On 27 May, 1960 a successful, bloodless revolution was executed. The leaders of the coup, a group of 38 young officers of the army, navy, and air force named themselves "The Committee of National Unity", and declared themselves the provisional government of Turkey. General Cemal Gursel, former Commander of the Turkish ground forces emerged as the leader of the committee and new head of state.

Istanbul is still under martial law, but there is no curfew and little external evidence of this. All the principal civil posts such as governor, mayor, chief of police, etc, are held by officers of the armed forces, but the city is now settled, in a normal effort to regain its confidence and stability. On October 15, National elections will be held to select a new government. Following the election, the civil posts and government will be returned to the duly elected civilians.

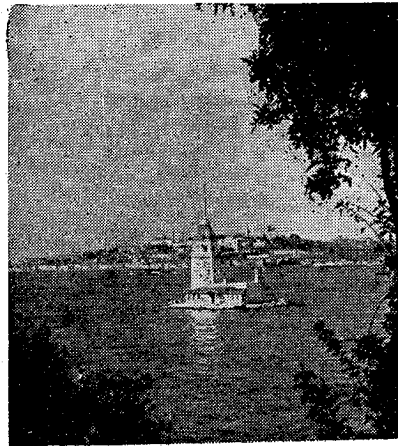
There are many famous cities in Turkey, including Bursa, Konya and Kutahya, but not one can compare in interest with Istanbul. This is by far the most fascinating city in the country, the only one that remains among the great cities of the world. It is the richest museum of Ottoman culture. Its Seraglio, its innumerable mosques, medressehs, and tombs, its cemeteries with turbaned grave-stones, its fountains and kiosks, its bazaars and flower and spice markets, even its flimsy old houses and many shabby streets, with here and there grapevine arbor, a splash of wisteria, a glimpse of garden or shaded courtyard--these give the most vivid impression of the magnificence of the Ottomans in the days of their glory, and of the color and charm of Turkish life down to their inglorious end. Istanbul then suffered from the rule of Ankara, losing much of its wealth and trade to state industries, but it has been compensated by some material improvements avenues paved and broadened, squares cleared and brightened. The city was dressed up for the celebration of 1953, the five hundredth anniversary of its fall to the conqueror. Since the destructive riots of 1955 an ambitious program of modernization has got under way.

As with the other cities, its new dress is undistinguished in style and not very becoming. A visitor welcomes the new avenues chiefly as more convenient means of access to the old buildings. Except for the abiding Bosphorus, the fascination of Istanbul derives almost wholly from its past and is confined to Stamboul, the city within the ancient walls. Galata, the old Genoese quarter across the Golden Horn, is simply squalid; Pera, the modern European section on the hill above it, is oppressively dull. Old Stamboul itself has a patchy, tumble-down appearance, due immediately to the many fires that have laid it to waste, which recalls the failings of the Ottomans. They restored the great city they conquered, they adored it with many monuments, they gave it an enchanting skyline, they made it their own by more than squatter's right; but even so Istanbul is a great and magical city primarily because of the peoples before them. One must deplore the loss of its storied name, Constantinople.

A simple tourist who wants to know the name and date of everything he sees may at first be troubled as he wanders about the old city. Everywhere he runs into crumbling walls or piles, unidentified by his guidebook, which may be a hundred or fifteen hundred years old, the remains of a Turkish bath or a Byzantine palace. Such a palace was recently discovered in a warehouse, the ornate capitals of its half buried columns almost hidden by bales of



paper. But all about are the guidebook wonders, beginning with Hagia Sophia--still the greatest building in the city--and running through other Byzantine churches, colonnaded cisterns, and columns in the Hippodrome to the fabulous city walls. While only sections remain of the sea walls, the city is still almost entirely enclosed by the fifth-century land walls, a triple row with towers. At their gates one may brood over "the boredom, and the horror, and the glory" of all the history made by Constantinople always an imperial city, and never a



really joyous one. Near the Golden Gate through which the Byzantine emperors returned in triumph peasants come in with their donkeys and vegetables, no doubt as they did a thousand years ago, with as little sense of history. Near the Edirne Gate, where the Turks first breached the walls, youngsters play soccer in the depression left by the old moat. Elsewhere the moat is filled with vegetable gardens, which grow a delicious variety of lettuce. Apparently blood-drenched soil is good for lettuce.

Of Byzantium, the Greek city before Constanine, nothing remains except some stone built into later foundations. Its own foundations lie beneath the Seraglio, on the sight of its acropolis. Here one can only admire the beauty of its situation and the wit of its early colonists. Across the bay lies the ordinary town of Kadikoy on the ordinary site of ancient Chalcedon, chosen by the uninspired Greeks who first settled in the region, but from here one can also look up the Bosphorus, the "cow ford" of Greek legend; and then the east may come back.

It is difficult to define the peculiar charm of the Bosphorus that so many have felt. Although it is an obviously beautiful piece of water, winding between hills, its natural beauty is not spectacular or incomparable. It has a pleasant life of its own: dolphins playing in it, gulls and ducks bobbing on it, other birds often sweeping up and down in a straight line a foot or so above its surface--lost souls, according to Turkish legend. Man has contributed more to it by the becoming minarets, yalis, and medieval castles along its shores. The villages that line it give it endless variety, each having its own character even a different climate (depending upon the degree of exposure to the north winds from the Black Sea), and all having picturesque nooks and corners. Perhaps most fascinating, however, is the indefinable--an aura of antiquity emanating from all the legend and historic event associated with it. The geographical fiction of Asia and Europe, the continents it separates, has something to do with this: and here it is no longer pure fiction. The Ottoman Turks, appropriately, favored the Asiatic shore, settling in such villages as Vanikoy ("the weary man's village") and Kanlija ("the bloody village"). The Greeks concentrated on the European shore with which most of the ancient legends are associated.

The legends begin within the city proper, in the district known as Beshiktash. Its name comes from "five stones," a row of pillars to which Barbarossa moored his galleys in the time of Suleiman the Magnificent; but long before this Jason had landed here, to give it the name of Jasonium. A celebrated laurel grove in the valley behind it was sacred to Apollo. Several miles up the Bosphorus Jason's witch-savior Medea planted a laurel tree at Kuruchesme, now a coaling station. In Byzantine times this district became known for its stylites, including Simeon; he steadily increased the height of the pillar on which he lived, from six to thirty-six yards. "I conclude," wrote the Byzantine historian Cedrenus, "that

this mode of life could not have been possible without Divine direction for the advantage of the idle." Today some might conclude that Kuruchesme serves a better purpose as a coal dump. The next village, Arnautkoy ("Albanian village"), had a great church to St. Michael, the Byzantine favorite, which ended more ignominiously. Pulled down by Mohammed the Conqueror, it survives in the walls of Rumeli Hisar, the castle he built to cut off aid to beleaguered Constantinople.

At Rumeli ("Roman" or European) Hisar one is outside Istanbul proper, and in the thick of ancient history. At this narrowest point of the Bosphorus, an Ionian architect built a bridge for the Persian Emperor Darius. On the site of Rumeli Hisar, Darius sat in a rock-cut throne, to watch his army cross over and set foot in Europe for the first time. Beneath the castle may lie the columns on which the passage was described in both Greek and Assyrian inscriptions. At this point Goths, Crusaders, and many another host later crossed into Asia.

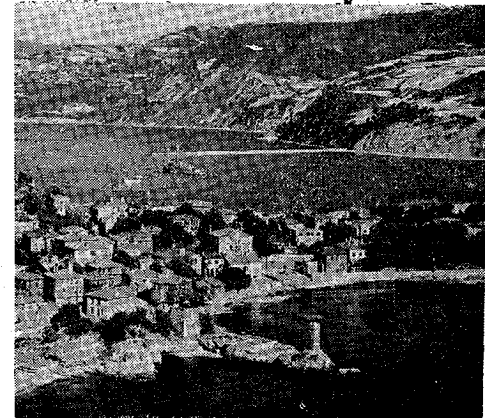
The European villages farther up the Bosphorus also saw their share of history. Istinye, on a bay in which many sea battles have been fought, got its name from the temple of Sosthenia, "Safety," built by Jason and the Argonauts in gratitude for their safe return. Later it had another church to the Archangel Michael, dedicated by Constantine the Great. Tarabya, likewise the scene of many sea battles, comes from Therapia, "Healing." The superstitious Greeks so christened it, euphemistically, because Medea threw poison on its shore when she returned with Jason. And at the entrance to the stormy Black Sea, euphemistically called the Euxine, "Hospitable," the gods did double duty. On the European side Jason erected an altar to Asiatic Cybele, later to be joined by Serapis in another temple. On the Asiatic side he dedicated altars to the Olympian gods, of whom Zeus and Poseidon were subsequently singled out and honored by a temple. From the ruins of this temple Justinian built still another church to the Archangel Michael, who had taken over the job of guarding the entrance to the Bosphorus. The more realistic Sultan Murad IV built fortresses on either side to keep out the Cosacks--a purpose served today by submarine nets as well.

Needless to say, we cannot believe all these Greek fables. Nevertheless they symbolized a major historic event--the coming of the Greeks into the region. Whether or not they captured gold on the Black Sea coast and carried off a princess, they settled at the entrance to the Bosphorus and began the history that has made the region so important. In a similar spirit they established a frontier in Ionia, and prepared the way for Homer. They bring me back to the major theme of the history of Asia Minor as I read it. (From The Loom of History by Muller).

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation on Municipal buses and streetcars is free to U.S. servicemen in uniform but is not recommended during rush hours.

There are ample taxis in Istanbul. As in most of the world, taxi drivers will overcharge whenever possible. Fares should be the meter reading plus 10%. If the meter is not used, the fare should not be over seven lira per ride, regardless of number of occupants, for any reasonable distance within the city limits. When in doubt, call a policeman to arbitrate.

SIGHTSEEING: The entire city of Istanbul and its environs are interesting. Particular points of interest include Dolmabahce Palace, the Seraglio, Aya Sofia Mosque and the Sultan Ahmet Mosque (Blue Mosque).



Local ferry boats provide an excellent and inexpensive method of viewing most of the area. Trips to the Princes' Islands with lunch at one of the many good restaurants, trips up the Bosphorus with lunch at Canli Balik or a trip around the Golden Horn with a stop at Pierre Loti's famous cafe are recommended for camera enthusiasts.

CURRENCY: The present rate of exchange is Nine Turk Lira to one U.S. Dollar.

Very strict currency control laws are enforced in Turkey, only 200 Turk Lira may be brought into Turkey by any person, in banknotes not exceeding Turk Lira 10.

U.S. dollars shall not be used, bartered, or traded ashore. Turkish Secret Police are empowered to employ entrapment in enforcing currency control laws. Infractions are invariably followed by severe punishment and, if an American is involved, extremely unfavorable publicity.

Tipping: A service charge of 10-15% is added to most bills. In addition, it is the custom to give an extra tip (5-10%) for good service.

Representative Prices

Taxis - 5-7 lira per ride (in the city)

Hotels - 40-90 lira per night per person

Lunch - 10-40 lira per person

Dinner - 15-40 lira per person

Local Beer - 3 lira per bottle

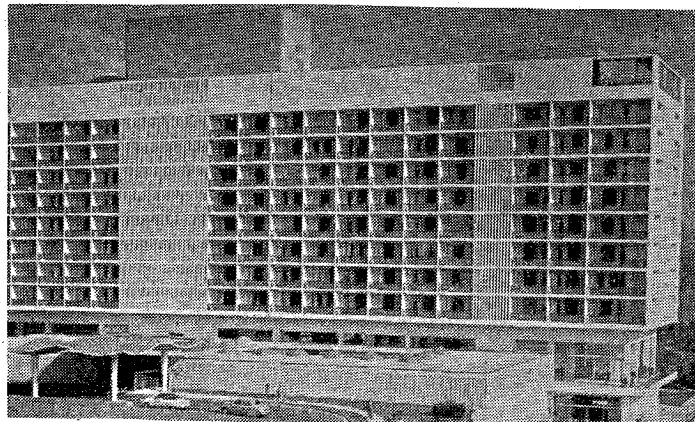
Imported Beverages - (Scotch, bourbon, etc.) - prices extremely high, check before ordering.

DRY CLEANING: Most local "dry cleaning" establishments wash the clothes. It is therefore recommended that good quality or expensive garments not be cleaned in Istanbul. The "Express Cleaners" (Taksim, Elmadac 3/6) can provide actual dry cleaning services at a cost of 12 Turk lira per uniform (white/Khaki) to 15 Turk lira for blues with pickup and delivery at Fleet Landing. The Hilton Hotel also provides dry cleaning services, but at considerably higher prices.

SHOPPING: The main business section in the city is along the Pera (main street). Shops are generally reliable. All goods are required by law to carry price tags, and no bargaining is done.

In the curio and antique shops as well as in the Bazaar, goods carry price tags but bargaining is still expected and recommended. The old "Covered Bazaar" (Kapali Carsi) located across the Galata Bridge, is a world famous tourist attraction and occasionally excellent purchases may be made there.

USO: A permanent USO headquarters is now established in Istanbul. It is a well equipped facility located at 295 Cumhuriyet Caddesi. (Across from First Army Headquarters, on the same street as AFEX). During fleet visits a floor show composed of the top local night club acts is provided each night. Additionally there is an information center lounge, light snacks, table tennis,



writing materials, record player, and city maps available at all other times. A fine group of accredited junior hostesses are also on hand during the evenings for dancing and pleasant companionship. It is a very popular and highly recommended stop.

The USO also, maintains a booth at Fleet Landing where information booklets and maps of the city may be obtained.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: Courtesy cards to the Istanbul City Club and the Istanbul Golf Club are available for visiting officers on request. The Moda Yacht Club (Uskudar side) extends guest privileges to all U.S. officers.

Train trips to Florya, the best swimming beach, are free to American Naval personnel in uniform. The train leaves from Sirkeci (across the Golden Horn) every 30 minutes.

Other recreational activities will be handled by the ship's athletic officer.



HOTELS: Hotels which Americans generally use are crowded and reservations are frequently difficult to obtain on short notice. The Istanbul Hilton is the best but most expensive hotel in town. The Divan and Park Hotels are comfortable and less expensive. The Pera Palas and Istanbul Plaza are also adequate. Across the Golden Horn are the Teras Hotel (Beyazit) and the Ipel Palas (Sirkeci). In Yesilkoy (near the airport) is the modern and popular Cinar Hotel.

RESTAURANTS: In addition to the hotel dining rooms, the following restaurants usually offer good, reasonably priced meals; Liman Lokantasi (2nd floor Customs Building, noon meals only), Abdullah's, Rejans, Pandeli's, Canli Balik and Bogazici (both up the Bosphorus, Lido on the Bosphorus, with swimming pool) and Kuli's.

NIGHT CLUBS: There is a wide selection of night clubs catering to all tastes and pocket-books.

CLIMATE: Although Turkey as a whole has a climate comparable to that of Florida, Istanbul's climate is more like that of New York. Weather-wise, Istanbul's October temperatures range from 57 to 68 degrees, and about 7 days of the month are expected to be rainy ones.

THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY: Home-loving and clannish, the Turks are the kind of people who make an elderly grandmother or grandfather as much a part of the household as the youngest child. At the same time, the Turks are very strict with their children, and, it should be added, the country has a very low rate of juvenile delinquency.

The Turks are also inquisitive, and the foreigner visiting a Turkish village will quickly find himself the center of inquiring attention. At such times, the offer of a handshake and a cigarette will turn a curious stare into a quick and friendly smile. If you can pick up a few words of Turkish, you will be warmly welcomed.

The average Turk is physically tough and a hard worker. He is also frugal because his income is small that he has little money to spend lavishly. The visitor who squanders his money will quickly earn the contempt of his Turkish hosts.

DO'S AND DONT'S:

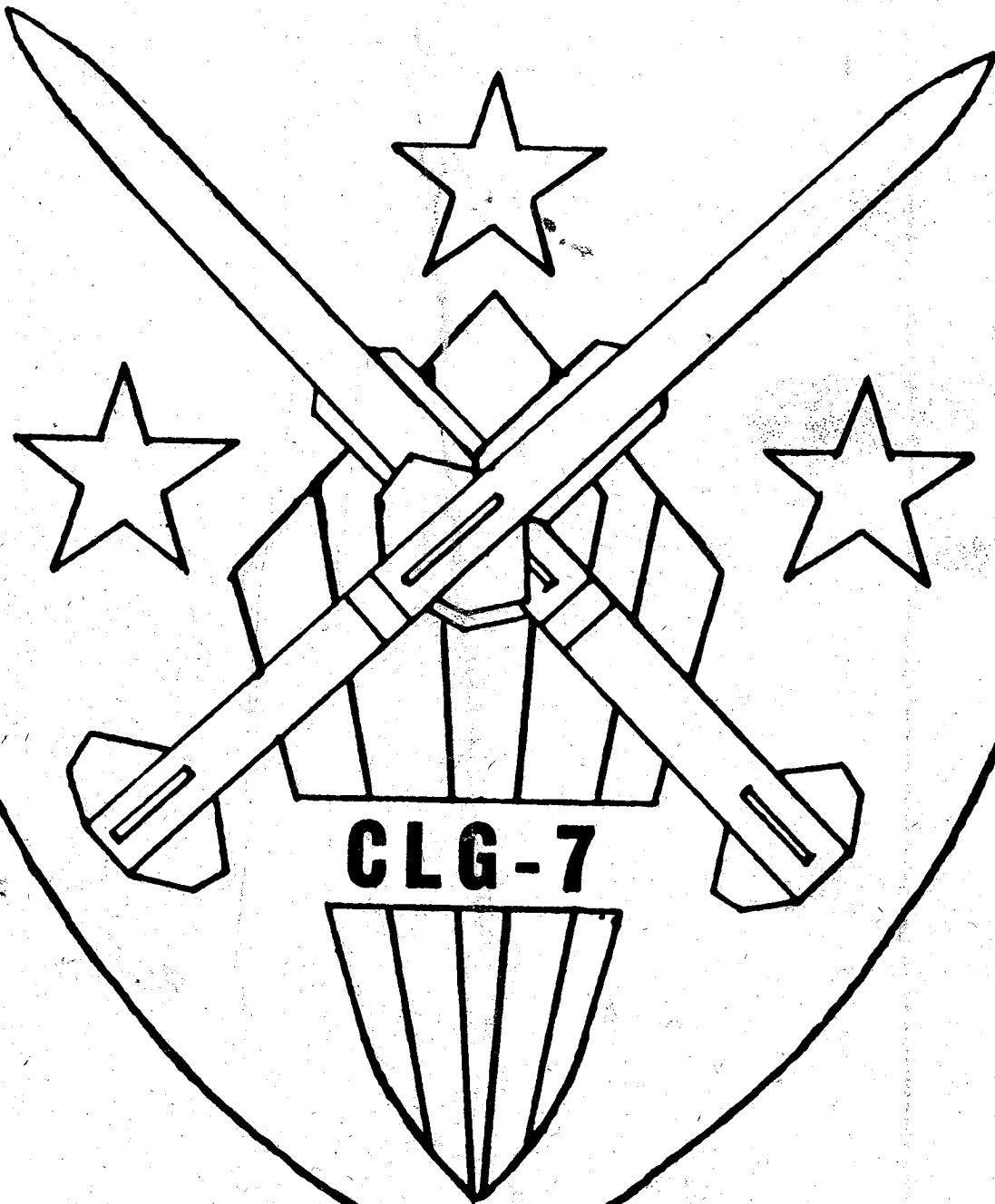
Turkish people also have a great deal of national pride. One should respect this and avoid any remark or action which might offend. Following are some "Do's and Dont's":

- (1) Do not criticize political, religious or economic beliefs or principles.
- (2) Do not say Ataturk's name disrespectfully. Law provides severe penalty for this violation.
- (3) Do not refer to Istanbul as "Constantinople."
- (4) Always remove one's shoes prior to entering a Mosque. Men should remove their hats and women cover thier heads as in a church. Do not walk among the rows of worshippers.
- (5) Do not refer to the people as "Turks" but rather as "Turkish People."
- (6) It is necessary to remove one's hat in hotel lobbies. Generally speaking: Observe local customs and you will not be conspicuous.
- (7) Never ask a lady to dance with you unless you have been properly introduced.
- (8) Do not expectorate or throw litter on the street or sidewalk. This is illegal.
- (9) Public demonstrations of affection are taboo.
- (10) Do not walk along poorly illuminated or sparsely populated areas late at night. Do not engage taxicabs when the driver is accompanied by a friend.

ENGLISH - TURKISH EQUIVALENTS

YES.....	EVET
NO.....	HAYIR
UNDERSTAND ME.....	ANLADINIZ MI
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.....	ANLAMIYORUM
I DON'T KNOW.....	BILMIYCRUM
PLEASE.....	LUTFEN
GOOD BYE.....	GUN AYDIN
GOOD EVENING.....	TUN AYDIN
HOW ARE YOU.....	NASILSINIZ
THANK YOU.....	TESEKKUR NEDIR
WHAT IS YOUR NAME.....	ISMINIZ MEDIR
MY NAME IS.....	ISMIN ___ DIR
WHAT IS THIS.....	BU NEDIR
HOW MUCH.....	KAC
WHERE IS IT.....	NEREDE
TOO MUCH MONEY.....	CHOKE PARA
HELLO.....	MARE-HAABA
EXCUSE ME.....	OFFENARSINIZ
NOW.....	SHUMDY

USS SPRINGFIELD



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