



Dr.
Mehmet ARSLAN

Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi Atatürk
İlkeleri Ve İnkılap Tarihi Enstitüsü
mehmetrsln@windowslive.com

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4936-2531>

Eser Geçmişi / Article Past:

Başvuruda bulundu.
Applied
05/08/2020

Kabul edildi.
Accepted
07/09/2020

Araştırma Makalesi

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21551/jhf.777342>

Research Paper

Orjinal Makale / Original Paper

Anılarla Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nda Osmanlı Devleti Seferberliği ve İstanbul'da Verilen Askeri Eğitimler (1914)

*The Mobilization of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War
and the Military Training in Istanbul with Memories (1914)*

Öz

Balkan Savaşı'ndan yenik ayrılan ve Avrupa'daki varlığı Doğu Trakya ile sınırlı kalan Osmanlı Devleti, aldığı ağır yenilginin altından kalkmak ve bir daha aynı faciayı yaşamamak için seferberlik hazırlıklarında ve asker alım usullerinde yenileşme hareketlerine girişti. Bu doğrultuda Osmanlı Devleti, Almanya'nın yardımlarıyla ordu içerisinde yenileşme hareketlerini gerçekleştirirken, Avusturya-Macaristan veliahdının öldürülmesi, sanayileşme ve silahlanma yarışında olan Avrupa ülkelerinin birbirlerine savaş ilan etmesine neden oldu. Avrupa ülkeleri birbirlerine savaş ilan ederken Osmanlı Devleti de yaşanan bu gelişmeler karşısında seferberliğini ilan etti ve asker alımlarına başladı. İstanbul ve çevresinde zorunlu askerlik görevi bulunanlar da seferberliğe uygun olarak bağlı buldukları askeri kamplara gidip, askeri eğitimlerini aldıktan sonra Çanakkale'de görev yapmak üzere yola çıktılar. Bu makalede I. Dünya Savaşı'nın başlamasıyla birlikte Osmanlı Devleti'nin seferberlik hazırlıkları, asker alma işlemlerinin yapılması ve İstanbul'daki askeri eğitimler yayınlanmış anılar üzerinden anlatılacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Seferberlik, Osmanlı, Anılar, Birinci Dünya Savaşı, Asker.

Abstract

Defeated in the Balkan War and its existence in Europe limited to the Eastern Thrace, The Ottoman Empire started to mobilize in military preparations and military recruitment processes in order to get rid of the severe defeat and not to experience the same disaster again. In this direction, while the Ottoman Empire was reorganizing movements within the army with the aid of Germany, the killing of the Austro-Hungarian throne caused European countries to declare war against each other in the race for industrialization and arms. While the European countries declared war on each other, the Ottoman Empire declared its mobilization in the face of these developments and began recruiting troops. Those who had compulsory military service in Istanbul and its vicinity went to the military camps where they were affiliated to mobilization, and after taking their military training, they set out to serve in Dardanelles. In this article, the preparations for the mobilization of the Ottoman Empire for World War One, the recruitment process and military training in Istanbul will be explained through the published memoirs.

Keywords: Mobilization, Ottoman, Memories, World War I, Soldier.

ATIF: ARSLAN Mehmet, "Anılarla Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nda Osmanlı Devleti Seferberliği ve İstanbul'da Verilen Askeri Eğitimler (1914)", *Tarih ve Gelecek Dergisi*, 6/3 (Eylül 2020), s. (911-927)

CITE: ARSLAN Mehmet, "The Mobilization of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War and the Military Training in Istanbul with Memories (1914)", *Journal of History and Future*, 6/3 (September 2020), pp. (911-927)

1. The Status of the Ottoman Empire Before the First World War and its Participation in the War

Although the preparations for mobilization in the Balkan War were not completed, Turkish officers acted in optimism and regarded themselves as superior to enemy forces. Unregulated troops were transported to the front by train in irregularity¹. Even, health preparations that were to be made before the war were ignored by company and battalion² commanders and soldiers to carry the wounded and dress the wounds could not be found. These procedures were carried out by sick, crippled and green soldiers³. Along with this and similar irregularities and irresponsibility, the soldiers going to the front had no food the soldiers got wet in the cold and no effort was made for the soldiers in this situation. On the other hand, the soldiers did not have a single grunt or even a single discourse⁴. They were also fighting in their positions until the last moment and they continued their struggles in a self-sacrificing manner⁵. In the end, due to the Balkan War disaster, the Ottoman Empire, whose presence in Europe was limited to Eastern Thrace, made new arrangements in the preparations for mobilization and recruitment procedures in order to get rid of the severe defeat and not to experience the same disaster again⁶. For the arrangements to be made, a treaty with Germany was signed⁷ and the improvement of the Army and the Turkish War Office were left to the Germans⁸. In this context, on 14 December 1913 a group of 42 officers under the command of General Liman Von Sanders arrived in Istanbul⁹. Enver Pasha, who was appointed as the Chief of the General Staff, changed his staff cadres in January 1914¹⁰.

On 12 May 1914, the law on the draft of soldiers was issued upon Sultan Mehmed Reşad's declaration¹¹. In addition to the new regulations in the military field, the political and social institutions of Western civilization and the sense of admiration that they naturally awakened in the Ottoman Empire caused a desire to benefit from the experiences of the Western nations. This desire brought a different character to the thought structure of the Ottoman Empire and a different character to political and social activities¹². This admiration for the West led to a great deal of

1 Gustav Von Hoch Wachter, *Balkan War Chronicles*, Translator: Sumru Toydemir, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2008), 3-9.

2 Battalion: A military unit that consists of four companies and is commanded by a major. Company: the title of units consisting of persons of certain duties in the Ottoman military organization

3 Metin Özata, *The War and Country Memories of a Doctor*, (Ankara: Chief of Staff Publishing, 2009), 47.

4 Hoch Wachter, 17.

5 Hüseyin Cemal, *New War What Happened to Us Again, Battle of Edirne, Siege, Captivity and Esaret and the Reason of the Disaster*, Edited by: Aziz Korkmaz, (Ankara: Turkish History Association, 2014), 62.

6 Mehmet Arslan, "Military Drafting procedures to the Dardanelles Front in the First World War and the transportation of the Soldiers to the Front", *Dardanelles Research Turkish Annual*, Year:13 Spring:2015, Issue:18, (2015), 220./ While a raffle determined whether to go to the army or not, with the regulations, military service was made compulsory for everyone

7 Mehmet Selahattin, *What I Know is Opposing Memories*, (Ankara: Vadi Publishing, 2006), 86-87.

8 Kâzım Karabekir, *World War I Memories Why Have We Entered the War? How did We Enter the War? How We Administered the World War: Iraq Front Erzincan and Erzurum's Liberation Sarıkamış, Kars and Beyond*, (İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Publishing, 2011), 49.

9 Liman Von Sanders, *Five Years in Turkey*, Translator: Eşref Bengi Özbilen, 2. Issue, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2010), 9.

10 Arslan, 222.

11 Arslan, 225.

12 Said Halim Paşa, *Said Halim Pasha's All Works*, Edited by: N. Ahmet Özalp, (Ankara: Anka Publishing, 2003), 16.

confusion in the country, which would help the development of thought in the country. That's why the thought life came to a state that could be said to be completely destroyed¹³. However, getting the help of the Western civilization for the rise and progression of the country forced the formation of the new intellectual class in the Ottoman Empire¹⁴.

While this is the appearance of innovation activities in the Ottoman Empire, when we look at the situation of Europe, it is seen that there is a tense environment due to the race for industrialization and arms and a small spark will be sufficient for conflict between countries. In this period, on the 28th of June 1914, the Austrian-Hungarian army organized military maneuvers in Bosnia under the supervision of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir of the throne and chief of the army. Following military maneuvers, the Archduke was killed by a Serbian teenager while he was wandering around the city, he went with his wife for an official visit¹⁵. After the assassination, Austria-Hungary gave Serbia an ultimatum¹⁶. With the ultimatum given, the process leading to World War I started. As the effects of this event were going on in Europe, On 2 August 1914, the Ottoman Empire signed an alliance agreement with Germany as agreed before. An alliance agreement was also signed with Austria - Hungary in the same day¹⁷. On 3 August 1914, as Austria-Hungary did not get any response to its ultimatum to Serbia, it declared war on Germany, French and Belgium due to the alliances. On 4 August 1914 England declared war on Germany and on 6 August 1914 Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia¹⁸. Before the declaration of war, the Ottoman Empire predicted that a European war would be on the horizon, and the 1914 mobilization plan was based on the possibility of war with Greece and Bulgaria. The basic principle of the military builds up to be formed within this possibility is the protection of Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Therefore, it was decided to gather all forces around Istanbul and Marmara Sea. However, on August 2, 1914, all these considerations were deemed invalid and both Thrace and Eastern Anatolia border corps were instructed to further strengthen the border security¹⁹. Following the decision on reinforcements on border security, the Ottoman Empire decided to look for agreements with Greece and Bulgaria and sent ambassadors to Bucharest for talks with Greece about the Islands issue and Sophia for talks with Bulgaria. Although a treaty was not signed with Greece, Bulgaria was agreed with²⁰. After all, it was confirmed that the Bulgarians were on the side of the Ottoman Empire, and the units that provided border security in Edirne were told to work in the southern group of Dardanelles after Enver Pasha's inspection²¹. On August 10, 1914, Goeben and Breslau warships that led the Ottoman Empire into the war entered the Dardanelles²². On 11 August 1914

13 Said Halim Paşa, 123.

14 Said Halim Paşa, 17.

15 Ali İhsan Sâbis, *First World War and the Events Before the War, the Procedure of the War and Mobilization Declaration, How We Were Dragged into the War*, (İstanbul: Nehir Publishing, 1991), 45.

16 İ. Hakkı Sunata, *From Gallipoli to the Caucasus My World War I Memories*, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2008), 18-19.

17 Karabekir, 51.

18 Arslan, 222.

19 Carl Mühlman, *Dardanelles War, A German Officer's Memoirs*, Translator: Sedat Umran, 9. Issue, (İstanbul: Timaş Publishing, 2009), 34-35.

20 Mehmet Talat Paşa, *Talat Pasha's memoirs*, Edited by: Alpay Kabacalı, 6. Issue, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2011), 29-30.

21 Münim Mustafa, "From One Front to Another (1914-1918) My Memories of Canal and Dardanelles Fronts During my Time as A Reserve Officer", *Çanakkale Memories* Volume: III, (İstanbul: Arma Publishing, 2003), 365.

22 Necmettin Alkan, "The Entry of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War According to German Sources", *International*

Enver Pasha spoke at a meeting of Ottoman government officials, saying that Goeben and Breslau had arrived at the strait that morning and that he had allowed these ships to pass through the strait as they had been followed by the British Navy. He said that a decision must be reached for this matter. After the negotiations, it was decided that the ships should be temporarily and apparently disarmed. The next day, the Navy Minister Cemal Pasha, by giving an official statement to the newspapers in line with the decisions taken at the meeting, asked them to publish many positive articles about these two ships and government policies²³.

One of the positive publications along with Cemal Pasha's official declaration was the İkdam newspaper's lead article dated 12 August 1914. The article says: "Ottomans, to arms!... We need extraordinary efforts, great durability. (...) Despite our government's absolute neutrality, we need to call for arms like all other nations against all odds; to arms!... This order showed the brilliant evidence of the truth. (...) "²⁴.

In the period of neutrality between August and November of 1914, the Ottoman Empire undertook propaganda activities in an organized and planned manner in order to eliminate the tranvance that occurred after the Balkan defeat. In this framework, the social war was tried to be revealed through the censored media for the war on the horizon. In addition, the rallies organized by the associations such as the Navy Association and the Turkish National Association, transformed the reactions of the public in favor of the war²⁵. For the same purpose, the Ottoman Power Associations, on the verge of World War I, were forced to establish a much wider youth population under a military discipline in every school, madrasa and official institution. Moreover, the organization that wanted to gather young people who did not go to school under the same roof, organized rapidly in the whole country with the names of Young and Vigorous associations. Experts from Germany were brought to these associations directly adhered to the Turkish War Office²⁶. By October 29, 1914, the Turkish Navy actively participated in the war by bombing the Russian ports of Odessa, Sevastopol and Novorossiysk in the Black Sea²⁷. On 11 November 1914, the Ottoman Empire declared war against the Allied Forces and the declaration of Sultan Mehmet Reşad, written to the army for the Navy, was published. The declaration stated that jihad was declared to protect the lives and existence of 300 million Muslims²⁸. After the declaration of the jihad, the necessity of jihad²⁹ and the defense of the homeland was expressed in the big mosques of the cities for weeks. Every young man was asked to join the war. Anyone holding guns, whether or not entered the military age, filled the way for military branches to remove the pain of the Balkan War³⁰.

Symposium, from 1914 to 2014 Understanding the First World War in Its 100th Anniversary 20-21 November 2014, Symposium Memorandums, Army Academies Command Strategical Research Institute, (İstanbul 2015), 160-167.

23 Ahmed Cemal Paşa, 4. Issue, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2010), 144-145.

24 Murat Çulcu, *Memories Union and Progress World War I Memories Cemal Pasha Navy Secretary and Commander of 4th Army*, Volume 1, (İstanbul: Denizler Printing, 2004), 25.

25 Mehmet Beşikçi, *Ottoman Mobilization in the First World War*, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2014), 64-65.

26 Tarık Zafer Tunaya, *Political Parties in Turkey the Second Constitution Era (1908-1918)*, Volume 1, (İstanbul: İletişim Publishing, 1998), 485-486.

27 Ziya, Şakir, *1914-1918 How We Administered The World War, Muallim Fuat Gücüyener*, (İstanbul: Anadolu Turkish Book Depot, 1944), 7.

28 Arslan, 223.

29 War for Religion.

30 Reşit Güngör Kalkan, *Dardanelles Heroes of Gaziantep*, (İstanbul: Yarımada Publishing, 2007), 18.

2. Announcement of Mobilization and Preparations

On 2 August 1914, the Turkish War Office announced the mobilization of all land and naval troops, with the exception of the 21 th and 22 th Division in Hijaz and Yemen, with the 7th Corps. In order to announce the mobilization order to the troops and the public, an announcement was made with the posters hanging in the corridors of the Turkish War Office and on the streets. The posters that are made on a red background have “Tuğrayı Humayun”³¹, a sword crossed with a rifle, a cannon and several bullets. At the bottom three lines read: There is mobilization. Those who are soldiers to arms. The first day of the mobilization is the 21st of July³². The papers and posters, in which the mobilization order was written, were distributed to the villages and neighborhoods in sealed envelopes. Envelopes were forbidden, and the neighborhood headmen had three days of detention in case of prematurely opening the sealed envelopes³³.

The Turkish War Office also issued a declaration of mobilization and published declarations on how the handlers and drummers were to be used to announce the mobilization order³⁴. In this direction, a drum-zurna was announced in the village squares to declare mobilization and war³⁵. In the newspapers published in the same period, the mobilization orders were transferred to the readers³⁶. The first day of mobilization is also the 9th day of Ramadan³⁷, and many Muslims are fasting. Fasting people do not understand anything from the posters hanging on the walls with the morning awkwardness and fasting pleasure. In the discussions, it is also question what the military branches³⁸ they have to go to. These issues were tried to be disclosed to the public by official announcements and special news in the newspapers which came a little later that day³⁹.

In addition to the statements made by the Turkish War Office, it was declared that the draftees would be reported to be counted as fugitives and executed if they did not go to the military branches within seven days. In addition to this declaration, the Turkish War Office decided to make reserve officers of high school, university, college and some of the of the madrasa graduates. It was reported in newspapers that all university and college students should go to the Army Academy’s reserve officer camp with the documents provided from military branches⁴⁰. In addition, the Turkish War Office decided to have the medical faculty students to do a medical internship in a military hospital for 3 months in order to help physicians in the front⁴¹.

31 Symbolic mark of the Ottoman sultans which has a special form.

32 Cemil Conk Paşa, “Dardanelles Campaign”, *Dardanelles Memoirs*, Volume: II, Edited by: Metin Martı, (İstanbul: Arma Publishing, 2002), 109. /Due to calendar differences, mobilization dates differ.

33 Emin Çöl, *Dardanelles-Sina Wars*, 2. Issue, (İstanbul: Nöbetçi Publishing, 2009), 22.

34 Beşikçi, 91.

35 Kalkan, 47.

36 Şakir, 29-30.

37 The ninth month of the moon calendar. Muslims’ fasting month.

38 The place where draftees first apply to and registered.

39 Şakir, 28-29.

40 Sunata, 20-21.

41 Behçet Uz, *Atatürk’s İzmir, The Rebirth of a City* Edited by: L. Ece Sakar, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2007), 21.



Figure 1. Mobilization Declaration⁴²

Young people who want to be an officer after the announcements run at the Military Academy to enter training camps for reserve officer candidates and fill all the gates, courtyards and corridors. Crowds are so big that officers can't keep up with their registration⁴³.

In this density, the reserve officer candidates go to the reserve officer training camp in Harbiye, take the imprint paper⁴⁴, give them their sequence numbers and then sent back to be called⁴⁵. As a result, with the circulars issued every two days from the Turkish War Office, troops were collected from all over the country⁴⁶.



Figure 2. People Reading the Mobilization Poster With Curiosity⁴⁷

42 (<https://onedio.com/haber/10-maddede-sene-1914-415615>)

43 Mustafa, 335.

44 The register showing a person's name, surname, country, place of birth, occupation etc.

45 Sunata, 20-21.

46 İbrahim Arıkan, *Memories of a Turkish soldier on the Gallipoli-Galician-Palestinian Front My Memories of War 2*. Issue, (İstanbul: Timaş Publishing, 2007), 23.

47 (<https://www.beyaztarih.com/makale/suikast-ittifak-ve-seferberlik-birinci-dunya-savasi-nasil-basladi>)

The military branch managers, who were responsible for the recruitment of soldiers, were eager for military recruitment, but had difficulty in obtaining the documents used for substitute soldiers. Accordingly, the military authorities often could not find the opportunity to determine when the people of each region had entered the age of compulsory military service. In addition, people who could not report their own age, often had to report their age through prediction. In addition, the military branches were hesitant to disarm the demobilized groups due to incorrect recordings or lack of records. There were even false recruitments⁴⁸. So that those who completed their military service 15 days before the campaign was announced were called to military service again. Despite all these uncertainties, those who were called under arms left their families behind, knowing that the enemy would attach their homeland if they did not go⁴⁹.

The majority of young people who leave their families behind and are in military age are engaged or married. There are even those who are taken to the military branch, accompanied by officers on their marriage day⁵⁰. In addition to military service, headmen⁵¹ were also appointed to carry out recruitment procedures. The headmen, who were assigned to the recruitment of soldiers, acted with the thought of being gossiped about⁵² and did the legislation related to military affairs quickly. In the neighborhoods where the headmen are leading, the recruitment works, which should be carried out, are done by means of drums. The declarations decreed that everyone muslim or nonmuslim, teacher or no teacher, local or foreigner should go to the nearest recruitment office or they will be severely punished⁵³. From the first day of the mobilization, what to do according to the mobilization plan every day, how many soldiers will be recruited and how much load animals will be bought, and similar works were recorded in the battle registers by mobilization detachments. Every day the corps reported these to the Turkish War Office and the former mobilization branch of the General Staff. This mobilization is the first mobilization of the Germans. Everyone is somewhat inexperienced. Because of the absence of population records of the people to serve in the army, how many would be called to arms, how many of these would come, how many of them were abroad, how many classes of soldiers were needed to fill the mobilized regiments and corps, organize new mobilized units, form ammunition and transportation lines, how many extra soldiers and animals would remain and what to do with them were uncertain. In addition, because the number of people who were invited to the military invitation was high, first priority was given to the warehouse agency⁵⁴. Then the older soldiers were discharged. It was also decided to recall them in case of need⁵⁵.

In the face of this intense interest, Sultan V. Mehmet Reşat published the declaration that the army's needs were met before the end of the week of mobilization and that many people were sent back on leave due to the excess drafting's and he expressed his satisfaction⁵⁶. Although the

48 Mühlman, 23.

49 Emin Çöl, *Dardanelles-Sina Battles*, 2. Issue, (İstanbul: Nöbetçi Publishing, 2009), 22.

50 Kalkan, p.18.

51 The elected person who is in charge of administering the legislative affairs of people living in a neighborhood or a village

52 Turhan Seçer, *Dardanelles Front with the Memories and the Result*, (Ankara: Chief of Staff Military History and Strategic Studies Presidency Publications, 2008), 291.

53 Mühlman, 23.

54 The organization created to hold the soldiers aged 30 and over to host the large masses who are recruited.

55 Sâbis,159-160.

56 Arif Baytın, *The Caucasian Front in the First World War, the Nine Flags and 3 Regiments (Memories)*, (İstanbul: Vakit

procedures of those who answered the military service call were done, those who do not want to perform their military service even though they were invited and bribery issues are among the problems of this period.

One of these problems is taking a disability report and trying to be exempted from military service. Because some doctors working in the Ottoman army organized bribe-related disability reports. Not only the doctors but also the headsmen got involved in bribery to forge identity cards and help people get rid of military service. Apart from the doctors and the headmen, some of the policemen helped those who tried to get rid of the military by taking bribes⁵⁷.



Figure 3. Drum and Zurna Players Calling for Volunteers⁵⁸

While the deserters diminished the fighting capacity of the army on the one hand, on the other hand they caused a serious domestic security problem. The reason why there was a domestic security problem was that a considerable number of the deserters got involved in numerous crimes including banditry. Apart from the deserters, those who left their units on leave and never came back also got involved in similar crimes. In this respect, deserters were not only a military problem but also a domestic security and social problem⁵⁹.

All preparations made with the announcement of mobilization turned Istanbul economy upside down. This situation led to an increase in the prices of consumption goods and a decrease in the purchasing power of the people. So much so the okka⁶⁰ of cheese, was twelve kurushs. In such an environment, the people are running to withdraw the money from the banks, and the small traders who do business on loan do not know what to do. Organizations established with

Printing,1946), 9-10.

57 Ali, Kaşyüğü, "Recruiting and Bribing during the First World War," *International Journal of Social Science*, Issue: 68, Summer I, (2018), 425-445.

58 War Magazine, Issue 20, Year 2, (July 1333), 313.

59 Hakan, Yaşar, "A General Evaluation on the Problem of the Deserters of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War", *Contemporary Turkey Research Magazine*, Issue: XVI/32 (2016- Spring), 8.

60 Weight measurement unit used in the past, 1283 grams.

large capitals take serious measures to avoid the risk of bankruptcy⁶¹. The wholesaler traders who dominate the market have agreed to establish an economic dictatorship. Traders who establish the economic dictatorship often hold meetings in Galata, Bahçekapı and in the offices located in the lower Hanp of Mahmutpaşa and raise the goods every day according to the previous day and get new profits and benefits by reporting these prices to the second third traders and tradesmen through their own men⁶².

As a result, there is no usual mobility in Istanbul's bazaars and markets. In the city, occasional drums are echoing, while volunteers who want to go to the front are gathered in squares. Every morning, several drums and flags are taken out and long people crowds are walking in various districts; and military camps are established in districts such as Üsküdar and Göztepe⁶³.



Figure 4. March Of The Draftees⁶⁴

Apart from the military camps established in the districts, military officer candidates who want to receive military training at the Military Academy fill everywhere. Due to excessive demand, these crowds were taken to Istanbul Hürriyet Hill one day and a written examination was made in scattered form. What was wanted was writing answers opposite the questions. The result of the exam was a major liquidation. Nearly 80% of the big crowd was sent to the regiments and the army academy was divided into five battalions with all its numbers and the battalions were given numbers. After that, the lot was drawn and the places where the battalions were to be sent were determined. The first and fifth battalions remained at the Military Academy. The second battalion was taken to the Artillery School in Halıcıoğlu; The third battalion was sent to the Minor Officer School in Maçka; the fourth battalion was sent to Orhaniye Camp in Yıldız. Thus, the confluence

61 Fikret Yılmaz, *Letters from Gallipoli (1912-1915)*, (İstanbul: Başakşehir University Publishing, 2014), 119. /in 1913, the retail price of white cheese was 6.25 kuruş. The Kuruş is the currency used in the Ottoman Empire. For more information, see: Vedat Eldem, *A Survey on the Economic Conditions of the Ottoman Empire*, Ankara 1994,149.

62 Şakir, 31-32.

63 William M. Pickthall, *In the War with Turks*, Translated by: Kemallettin Yiğiter, (İstanbul: Yeditepe Publishing, 2009), 14-15.

64 <http://s.arkaguverte.com/2016/08/tev.jpg>

in the school ended⁶⁵.

The first training process of the new soldiers, who were taken to the military camps, was launched after the military deployments were finalized. However, the first training period coincided with the month of Ramadan and the soldiers were fasting. Soldiers' fasting and their insistence on not disrupting their fasting interrupted the execution of mobilization works. As fasting interrupted the mobilization process, the shayk-al-islam⁶⁹ gave a fatwa⁷⁰ which decreed that sahur⁶⁶ and iftar⁶⁷ were removed from the army. Enver Pasha signed a decree in the direction of the fatwa and imposed a ban on fasting in the army⁶⁸. Thus, on September 12, 1914, when the soldiers carried out their gun fire trainings in Istanbul Ortaköy they broke their fast⁶⁹.

3. Soldiers' Barracks and Trainings for Soldiers

After the recruitment process of men, training period was started and new recruits were taken to education every day⁷⁰. In this direction, the soldiers who were woken up by a wake-up trumpet got dressed until the trumpet ceased to be blown. Some soldiers sang the song "You were coddled why did you join the army?", which cheered other soldiers up. Meanwhile coffee and tea servers introduced themselves with a low voice and served those who wanted to drink tea or coffee. Half an hour after the wake-up trumpet, the mess call was sounded and those in charge of the meals came. Another half an hour after the mess call were led to a restaurant-like place by a corporal. Everybody had a plate and a spoon in front of them. Beans with pastrami was put in the plates and the bread was sliced before it was served. Everybody sat according to their squad⁷¹ number. After the soldiers ate their meals, the training trumpets were sounded and the soldiers started their training⁷².

The trainings given to the soldiers were usually practiced during the day and theoretical lessons in the evening. Thanks to the knowledge given here, the draftees learned military training and upbringing in a short time⁷³. Initial trainings included simple movements like ducking and pruning⁷⁴. Those who got training for the first time performed their training with civilian attire at first and they continued with military uniforms. They learned how to stand at attention, stand at ease, how to turn as a squad, free march, how to form a line in battle order, how to turn wrist, how to strengthen fingers, how to swing feet, how to duck and prone, how to turn to various directions and ceremonial salute. After the training the soldiers were given an exam. The first exam tested whether the soldiers could read and write or not. Madrasa and university students were exempted

65 Halil Ataman, *The Years of Captivity, The World War Memories of a Reserve Officer*, Edited by: Ferhat Ecer, (İstanbul: Kardeşler Printing, 1990), 27.

66 During Ramadan, those who fast eat at certain hours before sunrise

67 Breaking fast

68 Sâbis, 153.

69 Arıkan, 20.

70 Ataman, 27.

71 A military unit of 10 soldiers

72 Hüseyin Fehmi Genişol, *From Dardanelles to Baghdad, From Captivity to the War of Independence 8 Years 8 Months on the Front (1914-1923)*, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2014), 5-7.

73 Mustafa, 336.

74 Sunata, 24.

from this exam⁷⁵.

The trainings given in later periods included bayonet drills, firing drill bullets, hunter drills, battle order, forming company and squad columns. Also, the soldiers were given some topographical knowledge by first lieutenants. Sometimes the soldiers were taken to night marches. Also, they were taught “explorers and their duties” and “pathfinding” and “range determination”. On a windy hill overlooking Zincirlikuyu, how a column should make safety arrangements while marching on the enemy was shown practically and mistakes were evaluated. After this training, how a resting column should make safety arrangements was shown. On a hill overlooking Kağıthane and Haliç, soldiers were trained on attacking and retaking the hill back from the enemy⁷⁶.

The trainings took seven or eight hours some days⁷⁷. In the evening lessons, how and when the defense line is made, the amount of bread and water in a soldier’s ammunition and similar subjects were mentioned. Soldiers with completed trainings were now ready to be dispatched and their equipment was completed⁷⁸. As a result, those who enrolled at the Military Academy in Istanbul were sent to the divisions⁷⁹ after a training period of short duration of three to four months. After this phase, those whose names were called in Selimiye Barracks were distributed to the regiments⁸⁰.

Apart from theoretical courses, gun shooting trainings are carried out in Galata Creek in the vicinity of Mecidiyeköy in Istanbul. The soldiers who come in first and second in these trainings shoot a head target five times from fifty meters while the captain is standing up with his clock in hand. Also, soldiers were taken to Hürriyet Hill, Maslak and Kağıthane for ceaseless fire and maneuvering. Soldiers got up very early, marched from Harbiye to Maslak and sang marches every day for training, they were also sent to Maçka and the Turkish War Office, which is now the Istanbul University building⁸¹.



75 Falih Rıfki Atay, *Zeytinadağı*, Edited by: Nurer Uğurlu, (İstanbul Yenigün News Agency Press and Publishing, 1998), 33.

76 Abidin Ege, *War Diaries from the Çanakkale, Iraq and Iranian Fronts*, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2011), 11-48.

77 Faik Tonguç, *The Memoirs of a Reserve Officer in the First World War*, (İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2008), 16-20.

78 Ege, 11-48.

79 Military force of ten thousand soldiers.

80 Gücüyener, Şükrü Fuad. “Heroes I Know in World War I, Major Şevki Bey, Taşköprülü Aloş, Bursali Mehmet Onbasi, Çerkesli Ömer”, *Çanakkale Memoirs Volume: III*, (İstanbul: Arma Publishing, 2003), 183-184.

81 Mustafa, 336-337.

Figure 5. Soldier Doing Pt⁸²

Aside from the trainings, the soldiers were inspected during their training. After the inspections, some units were taken to the Sultanahmet Mosque, where they are laid for a period of time. Soldiers also did shoot training in watery and muddy areas in Kağıthane area, one of the training zones. In the days when there was no shooting training, soldiers were marched as a company and did assault training⁸³. Taksim Officer School was another military camp and the soldiers were taken to Çatalca for manoeuvring every month⁸⁴. Being sent for maneuvering on a monthly basis, soldiers were given a strict exam in the camps and were divided into divisions according to their success in these exams⁸⁵.

After the trainings, in November, health checks were started. Firstly, the chest, heart and all the limbs of the soldier were examined. The soldiers were asked if they smoked. Those who were put in category “a” were deemed sturdy and sent to cold places like the Erzurum front. Those who were not sturdy enough for cold places were sent to hot and warm places. In accordance with their physical condition, the cold place the soldiers were sent was Erzurum while the hot places were Iraq and Sina fronts and the warm places were places like İzmir, Adana and Antalya. Besides, the soldiers were given cholera and typhoid vaccinations before they were sent to these places⁸⁶.

Following the preparations, Sarikamis offensive took place on December 22, 1914 under the command of the Chief of General Staff Enver Pasha. However, it resulted in failure and the destruction of half of the 3. army due to ill season and time choice⁸⁷. On the other hand, when the Ottoman Empire entered the war, the Muslims living in the Syrian coast, especially in Beirut, began to emigrate to cities such as Damascus, which were far from the shores, with the concern that the Allied Powers would bomb the shores. Zeki Pasha, who was the commander of the military units in the region where the Muslims began to migrate, ordered the collection of weapons in the hands of Christians living in Jabal-i Lebanon. The reason why Zeki Pasha gave this order was that he believed that the Christians in Lebanon could rise up with the provocation of the Entente States and that the Empire would be damaged. In addition, Zeki Pasha searched the consulates of the states fighting the Ottoman Empire and seized the documents found there. In addition, Zeki Pasha searched the consulates of the states fighting the Ottoman Empire and seized the documents found there⁸⁸.

In 1915, the military units were sent to the region for the war in Dardanelles. Nizamettin Çoray, a member of the troops sent to the Dardanelles Front and serving as an artillery lieutenant, says in his memoirs of the Dardanelles Campaign: “The enemy ships had been bombarding our lines for days. The offensive was at its highest. The enemy saw us in the morning of 18 March

82 War Magazine, Issue 10, Year 1, June 1332, 154.

83 Sunata, 36.

84 Zafer Güler, *Gallipoli Battalion Captain Mustafa Tevfik's Death and Survival Challenge*, (İstanbul: Truva Publishing, 2007),103.

85 Arıkan, 21.

86 Sunata, 46.

87 Mehmet Esat Paşa, *Esat Pasha's Memories of the Dardanelles War*, Edited by: İhsan Ilgar, Nurer Uğurlu, 2. Issue, (İstanbul: Örgün Publishing, 2004), 29.

88 Emir Sekip Arslan, *Ottoman History and World War I Memories from the Eyes of an Arab Intellectual*, Translated by: Selda Meydan-Ahmet Meydan, (İstanbul: Çatı Books, 2005), 331-333.

again when they thought that they had completely destroyed us. The sea was suddenly shaken with white foams. Mutual fire rain was renewed. The power of faith given by God was piercing the enemy's heart. Their favorite Bouvouet and two torpedo boats sunk in the water one after another. Formidable battleships named Irresistible and Ocean followed them.”. Ali Tezcan, who went to the area at the age of 23 says: “As we arrived at Kanlı Sirt we encountered the 57th Regiment, Mustafa Kemal and Şefik Bey, commander of the 27th regiment: Mustafa Kemal asked me: Yalova man, what happened? Is the enemy down there? Commander we are devastated. The captain was buried under the earth. The shore line is filled with the English I said. The answer of Mustafa Kemal, whose veins became evident suddenly was this: “no retreat, go forward”.” that loud voice is still in my ears. I still hear that voice now, we went forward, we spilled blood. We got killed and won”⁸⁹.

Moreover, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk says: “We are not engaged in individual heroic scenes. However, I cannot help telling you about the bomb ridge incident. The distance between the corresponding trenches is eight meters, so death is definite... Those in the first trenches are martyred all, those in the second take their place. But you cannot imagine how faithfully and submissively they go! They saw those who died. They knew they would also die in three minutes, but they show no dread. No being shaken at all! Those who are literate read the Quran. Those who are not say the Kelime-i Shahadet (İslamic confession of faith). They are getting ready for the heaven. This is an example of the marvel of the spirit of the Turkish soldier. You must be sure that this is the high spirit that won the battle of Dardanelles.”⁹¹. As it is understood from the statements of those who fought in the Dardanelles Campaign, the soldiers who went to the front defended the territory of the motherland in a high spirituality and ensured the retreat of the states of Çanakkale on January 9, 1916⁹¹.

Result

According to the published memoirs of Ottoman soldiers who participated in World War I, the Ottoman Empire took sides with Germany which was strong in the military and political fields in Europe, where the alliance ties were established because of the colonialism and arms race, in Germany. In Europe, which became polarized because of the colonialism and arms race, the fuse of the war was ignited as a result of the killing of the candidate of the Austrian-Hungarian throne by a Serbian youth. After this event, all countries strengthened their alliance ties and declared war on each other. The Ottoman Empire declared its mobilization and started its preparations.

First of all, the mobilization order was delivered to all parts of the country. In this context, the military branches and headmen were tried to be used. Within the framework of the new recruiting law, the recruitment criteria were determined and the inclusion of individuals in the military service was carried out. However, due to intensity, transactions could not be carried out properly and due to the fact that the population registration information had not been kept regularly, there was confusion in the transactions in the military branches. In addition, due to the intense participation of soldiers, those who were redundant were sent to places called warehouses. In the

89 *Akşam Newspaper*, 18 March 1964.

90 Ruşen Eşref Ünaydın, *Interview with Mustafa Kemal, The Commander of Anafartalar*, (İstanbul: İstanbul State Printing, 1930), 49-50.

91 Mehmet Şevki Yazman, *If You Don't Have Ammunition, You Have Your Bayonets, "Turkish Dardanelles"*, *Written by An Officer*, Edited by: Tuncay Yılmaz, (İstanbul: Yeditepe Publishing, 2008), 433.

end, the recruitment of soldiers was completed and they were sent to military camps. In the camps, the soldiers received basic military training as well as a strict training in the night classes. In the camps, the soldiers completed their training in a complete discipline and soon adopted military training and upbringing. Following the training period of three-four months, the soldiers were put to health check and their places of service were determined according to which climate their health conditions were fit for. In addition, the necessary vaccinations were made before the soldiers were transferred to their regions and the prevention of infectious diseases were tried to be prevented. As a result, the Ottoman Empire, completing all kinds of mobilization preparations, participated in the First World War with the Sarıkamış Offensive and carried out the shipment of troops from Istanbul to other fronts, especially the Dardanelles.

REFERENCES

I. Archive

Periodicals

The War Magazine:

The War Magazine, Issue 10, Year 1, June 1332.

The War Magazine, Issue 20, Year 2, July 1333.

Akşam Newspaper:

Two Çanakkale Veterans Explaining March 18, 18 March 1964.

II. Research Works and Articles

Arslan, Mehmet “Recruiting Transactions to the Çanakkale Front in the First World War and the Transition of the Soldiers to the Front”, *Çanakkale* Researches Turkish Yearbook, Year:13 Spring:2015, Issue:18.

Alkan, Necmettin, “Ottoman Empire’s entering the First World War According to German sources,”, International Symposium, Understanding the First World War in its 100th Anniversary From 1914 to 2014 20-21 November 2014, Symposium Proceedings, Military Academies Command Strategical Research Institute, İstanbul 2015.

Beşikçi, Mehmet, Ottoman Mobilization in the First World War, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2014.

Çulcu, Murat, *Çanakkale* Front in *İkdam* Newspaper, 3 November 1914- 3 February 1916, News-Interpretation-Interview-Observation and Memories, 1. Issue, İstanbul: Denizler Publishing, 2004.

Tunaya, Zafer Tarık, Political Parties in Turkey, Second Constitutional Era (1908-1918), 1. Issue, İstanbul: İletişim Publishing, 1998.

Yaşar, Hakan, “A General Evaluation on the Problem of the Deserters of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War”, Journal of Modern Turkey Research, Issue: XVI/32 (2016- Spring), 5-41.

Kaşıyüğun, Ali, “Soldier Recruitment and bribery in the First World War years”, International Journal of Social Science, Issue:68, Summer I 2018, 425-445.

III. Memoirs

Arıkan, İbrahim, Memories of Dardanelles-Galicia-Palestinian Front of a Turkish soldier, Memories of War, 2. Issue, İstanbul: Timaş Publishing, 2007.

Ataman, Halil, Years of captivity, World War memories of a reserve officer of the Eastern Front, Edited by: Ferhat Ecer, İstanbul: Kardeşler Publishing, 1990.

Arslan, Emir Sekip, Ottoman History and World War I Memories from the Eyes of an Arab Intellectual, Translated by: Selda Meydan-Ahmet Meydan, İstanbul: Çatı Books, 2005.

Atay, Falih Rıfık Atay, Zeytindağı, Edited by: Nurer Uğurlu, İstanbul: Yenigün News Agency Press and Publishing, 1998.

Bülkat, Mehmet Esat (Pasha), Esat Pasha's Memories of the Dardanelles War, Edited by: İhsan Ilgar, Nurer Uğurlu, 2. Issue, İstanbul Örgün Publishing, 2004.

Baytın, Arif, Caucasian Front in the First World War, 29th Division and 3rd Regiment Standard (Memories), İstanbul Vakit Publishing, 1946.

Cemal, Ahmed (Paşa), Memories Union and Progress World War I Memories Cemal Pasha, Navy Secretary and Commander of the 4th Army, 4. Issue, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2010.

Cemal, Hüseyin, New Harbiye Again, Edirne War, Damage, Survival and Reasons of Disaster, Edited by: Aziz Korkmaz, Ankara: Turkish History Association, 2014.

Conk, Cemil (Pasha), "Dardanelles Campaign", Dardanelles Memories Volume:II, Edited by: Metin Martı, İstanbul: Arma Publishing, 2002.

Çöl, Emin, Dardanelles-Sina Battles, 2. Issue, İstanbul: Nöbetçi Publishing, 2009.

Ege, Abidin, War Diaries from the Çanakkale, Iraq and Iranian Fronts, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2011.

Genişol, Hüseyin Fehmi, From Dardanelles to Baghdad, From Captivity to the War of Independence 8 Years 8 Months on the Front (1914-1923), Edited by: Mustafa Yeni, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2014.

Güler, Zafer, Gallipoli Battalion Captain Mustafa Tevfik's Death and Survival Challenge, İstanbul: Truva Publishing, 2007.

Güçüyener, Şükrü Fuad, "Heroes I Know in World War I, Major Şevki Bey, Taşköprülü Aloş, Bursalı Mehmet Onbasi, Çerkesli Ömer", *Çanakkale* Memories Volume: III, İstanbul: Arma Publishing, 2003.

Hochwachter, Gustav Von, Balkan War Diary, Translated by: Sumru Toydemir, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2008.

Kalkan, Reşit Güngör, The Dardanelles Heroes of Gaziantep, İstanbul: Yarımada Publishing, 2007.

Karabekir, Kâzım, World War I Memories Why Have We Entered the War? How did we enter the War? How We Administered the World War: Iraq Front Erzincan and Erzurum's Liberation

Sarıkamış, Kars and Beyond, İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Publishing, 2011.

Mühlman, Carl, **Çanakkale** War, Memoirs of a German Officer, Translated by: Sedat Umran 9. Issue, İstanbul: Timaş Publishing, 2009.

Münim, Mustafa, “From Front to Front (1914-1918) My Memoirs of World War and the Dardanelles During My Time As A Reserve Officer”, Dardanelles Memories Volume:III, İstanbul: Arma Publishing, 2003.

Mehmet, Talat (Pasha), Talat Pasha’s Memoirs, Edited by: Alpay Kabacalı, 6.Issue, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2011.

Sabis, Ali İhsan, First World War, The Events Before the First World War, The Continuum of the War and The Declaration of Mobilization, how we were dragged into the war, İstanbul: Nehir Yayınları, 1991.

Sunata, İ. Hakkı, World War I Memories from Gallipoli to the Caucasus, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2008.

Said Halim Pasha, All Works of Said Halim Pasha, Edited by: N. Ahmet Özalp, Ankara: Anka Publishing, 2003.

Seçer, Turhan, **Çanakkale** Front with the Memories and the Result, Ankara: General Staff Military History and Strategic Studies Publishing, 2008.

Selahâttin, Mehmet, What I Know, Opposition Memories, Ankara: Vadi Publishing, 2006.

Şakir, Ziya, 1914-1918 How We Administered the First World War?, İstanbul: Muallim Fuat Gücüyener Anadolu Turkish Book Depot, 1944.

Tonguç, Faik, The Memoirs of a Reserve Officer in the First World War, Issue 4, Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, İstanbul 2008.

Uz, Behçet, Atatürk’s İzmir, Rebirth of a City, Edited by: L. Ece Sakar, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2007.

Özata, Metin, A Doctor’s War and Homeland Memoirs, Ankara: Chief of Staff Printing, 2009.

Ünaydın, Ruşen Eşref, Interview with Mustafa Kemal, Anafartalar Commander, İstanbul: İstanbul State Publishing, 1930.

William, M. Pickthall, In the War with Turks, Translated by: Kemallettin Yiğiter, İstanbul: Yeditepe Publishing, 2009.

Von Sanders, Liman, Five Years in Turkey, Translated by: Eşref Bengi Özbilen, 2. Issue, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Cultural Publishing, 2010.

Yılmaz, Fikret, Letters from Gallipoli (1912-1915), İstanbul: Başakşehir University Publishing 2014.

Yazman, Mehmet Şevki, If You Don’t Have Ammunition, You Have Your Bayonets, “Turkish Dardanelles” Written by An Officer, Edited by: Tuncay Yılmaz, İstanbul: Yeditepe Publishing, 2008.

Internet Resources

<http://s.arkaguverte.com/2016/08/tev.jpg>

<https://www.beyztarih.com/makale/suikast-ittifak-ve-seferberlik-birinci-dunya-savasi-nasil-basladi>

<https://onedio.com/haber/10-maddede-sene-1914-415615>