

*Translated from Turkish*

## Turkey and Petroleum

Petroleum activity under Ottoman Empire consisted of giving concessions to certain favorites whose chief interest was to turn over the privilege thus obtained to a foreign group for monetary consideration. Had this meant development of the country's resources as was under late General Gomez in Venezuela one might be tempted to condone the practice. The realization of the importance of oil investigation in Turkey and its consideration as a national problem and doing serious work in that connection begins with the Republic, it is of interest to record the efforts made so far in search for oil in Turkey.

1897 Halil Rifat pasha receives concession for an area covering 1360 hectares in the vicinity of Murefte.

1899 Adyassevitch makes a geological examination of the region around Murefte for European Petroleum Company. This report is published in 1900.

1901 The same region is investigated by Thomas English who publishes his findings in the Quarterly Journal of Geological Society.

1901 - 1902 Pour shallow wells are drilled in Murefte, Sharkoy, Isterne Creek and Hora creek varying in depth from 36 to 102 meters. Three of the wells encounter oil shows. One, that of Hora

creek, finds production of 2 tons per day at 89 meters. The flow ceases after a week. A fifth well drilled to 413 meters is dry.

1913 - 1914 Halil Rifat pasha again sells his concession in Murefte to an Austrian named Stanislas Miha-liski.

1914 L.I. Thomas, an American, receives permit to explore for oil near Murefte.

1915 - 1916 Walther Schweer examines the region of Musul, Zaho, Quay-yareh for the Bagdat railway group and records his observation in Hamburg Kolonial Institute Publications.

1916 - 1917 During the Russian occupation geologist Meferd, Stoyanoff and Nalifkin examine for the account of the Southern Caucasus Railways the regions of Divani - Huseyn, Nefik, Kurzot, Hasan Kale, Pulk and Katranli. Their findings are published in (Bulletin de Comite Geologique) printed in Moscow.

1919 During the Greek occupation Standard Oil interests examine Murefte and Vicinity.

1922 Kowalevski reports on Pulk, Hasan Kaile, Nefik, and Kurzot.

1922 Professor Grandjean examines the seepages of Chemagil, Pulk,

	Hasan Kale, Kurzot, Siirt and Cizre for the Omnium Company.	1930	Cevat Eyüp Tashman and Hoffman accompanied by Kemal Lokman examine the regions of Mapavri, Chemagil, Hasan Kale, Katranli, Neftik, Pulk, Kurzot, and Boyabat. The observations are recorded in an article by Cevat Eyüp Tashman in the Bulletin of American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1931.
1922	M. Leon reports on Pulk for the account of Evkaf.		
1923	Republic declared in Turkey.		
1925	M. Lucius examines Murefte, Chirali, Elmali, Pulk, Hasan Kale, Katranli, Neftik, and Boyabat regions for the account of the Ministry of Economy.		
1926	Part of the cession to Miah-liski which became nullified is given to Turkish Bank of Commerce and Industry (Khedive Abbas Himli Pasha). A geologist named Jir studies the region of Murefte.	1932	Petinikoff examines the Pulk seepage for Nizamettin Shevki.
		1933	Petroleum Exploration in Turkey is vested in "Petrol Arama idaresi,, crasted by article 2189 under the Ministry of Economy. Unless otherwise mentioned work from now on is done for and by the Government,
1926	Covering another part of the above concession Hasan Mustafa is given search permit.		
1027	Professor Bertrand accompanied by Hamit Nafiz and Malik investigate the region of Kurzot seep near lake Van.	1933	Cevat Eyüp Tashman, Sidney Paige, L. Vonderschmidt and ihsan Ruhi Berent study the region of Mardin and Siirt,
1928	Shirley Mason studies the area of Murefte, Boyabat and Cizre. His findings are published in the Bulletin of American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1930.	1933	Cevat E. Tashman, Harold F. Moses, William Woodson and ihsan Berent study Mardin area, map the Basbirin structure and recommend drilling a well.
1923	Bekir Vehbi Ergene examines Chemagil and Kemal Lokman examines Kurzot.	1933	Sidney Paige and ihsan Brent examine the Pulk seep.
1929	M. Lucius and Hadi Galip Yener study the region of Cizre for the account of the Government.	1934	Sidney Paige and Harold F. Moses study the Murefte region. Basbirin well is spudded in October.
		1935	H. M. Kirk Studies Adana and Gazi Antep areas.
1929 - 1930	Engineer Dale makes a map of Murefte region for the account of Thomas O'Brien.	1935	Kirk and Nadir Oner examine izmit and Boyabat regions
1930	Cevat Eyüp Tashman, Lucius and Kemal Lokman examine the regions of Murefte, Chirali, Muskar Yayla and Cizre for the Ministry of Economy.	1935	Law is enacted creating Maden Tetkik Arama Institute combining petroleum exploration work with Mineral and Coal investigation groups under a general director.

- 1935 Near Hoshkoy (Hora) of Murefte area wells are drilled ranging from 50 to 135 meters. Twooz these show oil.
- 1935 H. M. Kirk, Dr. Kurt Schmid study and map the Gercüş structure in Mardin.
- 1935 inegöl Asphalt deposits are studied and mapped by. H. M. Kirk and Memduh Olcher.
- 1936 H. M. Kirk, Dr. John Maxon, Edward Foley study the region of Adana.
- 1936 Dr. Tohn Maxon and Nedim Bilgen study and map the Asphalt deposits of Finike.
- 1936 H. M. Kirk and Louise Jordan make detailed section of Gercüş valley.
- 1936 Dr. John Maxon accompanied by Ahmet Arif make an exploratory voyage from Cizre to Boytusebap, Hakari, Çal Oramar Gevar, Başkale and Van.
- 1936 Drilling is resumed around Murefte and in May the first well strikes wet gas of about 2-3 million cu. ft.
- 1936 In June the Basbirin well is abandoned at 1327 meters.
- 1936 Dececati Lelev, Vassor, and Petit, all engineers of Compagnie Generale de Geophysique, make seismograph survey of Adana region.
- 1936 Edward Foley maps Kerbent and Hermis Structures.
- 1936 H. M. Kirk studies the oil possibilities in Thrace.
- 1936 Pulk, and Boyabat regions studied by a private group headed by Mr. Baker, chief geologist of Irak Petroleum Company.
- 1936 Compagnie Generale de Geophysique makes an electrical resistivity survey of Hayrabolu area.

From the above summary it becomes clear that serious petroleüm activity in Turkey begins after the declaration of the Republic and the creation of a petroleüm investigation agency and M.T.A. Institute. The footage drilled 25 years ago was insignificant. After that, for thirty years, while the world was feverishly searching for oil, the Ottoman Empire remained dormant in spite of the fact that some of the richest fields were hidden in its confines. Within last three four years not only considerable geological work in connection with petroleüm investigation has been done but there has been actual drilling. Without counting more than 120 vvells ranging 15-30 meters in depth drilled in connection with the seismograph work, four wells totalling 1145 feet (300 meters) in Hoskoy, one well 4352 ft. deep (1327 meters) in Basbirin, six vvells totalling 3737 ft. (1140 meters) in Murefte have been drilled. One of these wells struck wet gas of 2-3 million cu. ft. at shallow depth. At present another deep test is being made at Mardin area and the seventh well is being drilled at Murefte. Among many important works and accomplishments the government has been able to spend one million pounds (\$800000) for petroleüm exploration. This work under the encouragement of the leaders of the government is being pushed with uncommon determination.

*C. E. Tashman*