



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

Nov - 4 - 1968

Dear prof. Kern

I received your letter and 16 photos in the time. I am sorry I am writing the letter with pencil, just I started writing with pen but pen is Brok -

I mark the location by the number you asking. behind the map, I am sending to you

you asking about Dr Khacher nationality he is armenian. Khacher means (crosses) his last name is Keshishian he was druggist, but people call him doctor. because he was selling mostly patent medicine drug. his son druggist Vartan Keshishian had a large drug store near the Oulougami, biggest market in the marash.

Rushdie school is ^{turkish school} quiet far from Dr. Kacher's House. Rushdie school more nearer the government Building. 1909 - 1910 one year I went that school to



about Tash Khan incident entirely wrong
I was there during the nineteen days
battles, turk never fight to capture
that position, after french withdrawal
fr. Tash Khan, we armenians about
3-4000 people follow the French army
we evacuated all that section. half
those people from ^{way of the} Hagajular store
they went Catholic Church. half
of us went out fr city and join
french army about 5 mile outside
city just about normand army arriving

Muallem Evliya eff. never been
in that section. Wars 5th day we
were in my House, turk about 10
time try to surrender but they failed
and 6th day they enter my House
we had 3 Houses. they enter third House
and middle House we have stored about
40-5 gal. thin can parasin oil
we cut one of the can and started
fire, cross St. Evliya eff. House Back the



4
fire. and they started put the fire off
meanwhile we move the people sleeping
Horses. then we saw Evlia eff. and
there family trying to put off
therefore one of the young man from
our group. took the gun and shoot
Evlia effendi. but we were not sure
that he died. for your letter I am
sure now so we killed him 6th
days war. that's why they called
him Martyr.

(1) You asking about Shekik Islam
name. I know him very well during my school
time from 1910 - 1914, I always at least
every two weeks visit his house, and
he helped me a lot. he was the uncle, that
Evlia eff. that they called him Martyr
this young Evlia, after 1914 I went to
Victory School he gave report to police
so I am revolutionist. they searched my house
and they found the letter I wrote 1912. then
they arrest me and they sent me to
court Marshall, his uncle Shekik Islam
gave my train fare about Ten gold money



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So I can travel with train & steady walk
fr Istanbul To warach. his full name
is Evlia zade Haji Evlia effendi (Shuk
el Islam)

(2) you asking me one of the photos
2 priest name. that photo was taking
Leman's House, one of them is very
rev. Avedis Agharian. 2nd one, rev.
father Khoren Gabadian. I am
marking behind photos.

3 question, I couldn't read clear

I am sending my photos in case
you can put in your book,

Your very truly
Avedis B. Seferian

130 Charles River Rd
Watertown Mass.



①

Avedis Seterian

130 Charles River Road, Watertown, Mass.

Born in Marash

In 1912 was a student of Vet. Med.

where? in Turkish Army? Enlisted? a conscript?

Had participated in Balkan Wars? in 1909?

Had rank of officer? Sergeant? } On desk?

At time of Balkan wars - 1912 - the
 Reformed Hentchakists had a convention in
 Istanbul. - - & agreed to put aside differences
 [bet. Reformed & regular Hentchakists] + conc. in
 a bet. Hunt & Tasluates?

& Avedis writes his brother Hapog about this
 - advising him that local (Marash party members)
 should do the same. Letter to be destroyed but
 was crumpled & discarded - & appar. fell into
 the hands of Turks.

One day army was having exercises (near
 Beirhut) & Avedis was in command of his
 [squad or platoon?] - Enver (Boy) observing -
 [Basha]

Enver capt. Avedis on performance - ~~was~~
 & asks his name. Avedis Effendi Seterian.

So you are an Armenian? If you were a
 Turk you would be even better!

Next day [a small trap like?]



(2) Ardis called to H.Q. [?? prison?] but placed
in custody - no explanation. Enver had ordered
that his records be examined? or possibly there
was a master list of revolutionary party members
& his name was on it!

He was in prison (still no charge made)
when - Apr. 1915 large no. of Ardis. notes
arrive to be quartered in same prison!
[It must have been - date?] det.?

Ardis is sent to Marash for court
martial - condemned to be hung. Friends
of family (nephew? of - Rherlaka?)
[Who was the Sultan's friend?]?

advised to make friends w. Police Chief? Judge

at seventh dinner! The Rherlaka's present

w. golden narpileh - gift
of Abdul Hamid to Kuruk grand father?

Tush --- much impressed w. gift. asks

"what favor can I do for you?"

Result: Enver reduced from hanging

to 5 yrs. ... but needs approval of Djemal

Desha... Fed Djemal away (commanding army
attacking Egypt?) & substitutes orders hanging!

Finally after considerable hickup - given
6 months! - then sent to serve farmers

as mail carrier at Airon. [military duties?] or courier?
Then deported to Damascus.



(3) Aredis Sefuran (cont.)

First shot fired by French cannon
Photo? hits his house [his private house? Were they
merchants?]
From community divided into 7

districts. - Aredis in command of one.
[which? When ^{was} this plan made?]
Return of organization.

Center of cannons at Latin Church.

Aredis house had 150 Ammunicions - 15 plans
held off Turks 3 days. Then Turks call
from minaret to surrender - otherwise
all will be killed. Has 40 lines of kerosene
to house. [merchants?]

Made Molotov cock tail, to fire
Turkish houses.

at night the 150 retreat to other
places - - - Wounded!

Connection w. Jash Khan?

On arrival of French relief Column
He reaches them outside city -
as they are dismounting artillery, &
preparing to attack -
goes out w. French.



30 Mar

23

16 Mar

17

18

19 Thurs

Frid

Sept. 1912, 1968
General (Watertown interview)

Deportations began in June 1915

[Area population of Marash] 38,000
[city]

Turk.

42,000

Those not deported 5-10,000.

No massacre of Marash in 1909!

but 30,000 in Adana & vicinity

Orphans in Marash in 1920: -

500 (?) during 1915-1919 -

prior to return of refugees.

When refugees returned - many children taken
into orphanage - $\frac{2}{3}$ not Marashlies.As late as 1917 Telcelat asked ~~Amor~~ that
Armenians - aged 19-45 in Damascus
be collected and -- ?.Consult Dr. Harutun der Shagaria of Aleppo
concerning events in Marash. He was there.
[together with ?] Dr. Seren. as leaders of ?!Prof. Lucian of V. Pa was Armen Lucian
Marash to Istanbul: About 2000
survived (over)Set date for
V. Pa

'General (cont.)

The Kherlekians had taken refuge in
 the 'First Church'. On leaving of the
 Fr. withdrew - They [several hundred?] ^{how big a group?}
 attempted to follow the French [next AN?] but
 crossing the city street & other side
 was shot near the first Mosque.
 Some tried to return to the Church -
 others continued.

Hagop Kherlekian was killed & his
 body carried on a pike.

Dr. Ghazarian was one of those
 who escaped, & reached the French at 9/1 Oghlan
 Chos Serap Tutunjian
 Pinar Doukian



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Badu Ahr. Harut.

1st Poor Church, burned:

BKL Watched from window. Flames.

First fired nearby house w. light window.
flames caught the church. Arm fled to the
Pagonian church

2nd Church down in city - west of us - below
terraces

3rd church near Anser compound.

Seminary Bldg
[Sketch of a building with an arrow pointing to it]
[Sketch of a building with an arrow pointing to it] Goodsell House

[Sketch of a building with an arrow pointing to it] Woodley House

One night Jas came over to college
slight in room facing the road.
The lights were down. As he looked at
a point of light on wall, just above
his head! "A Bullet hole!"

in Goodsell House
Jas put in a pump w. bath, that stood,
in Russian house. Looks like never seen
such an arrangement. Overflow on 3rd
floor. Turks astonished! How could
water run up hill?

Married - Aug 22
Mr. Mos Defaa refused to Marry in 1924.
He in '22 bought 250 bags of
annals. on his way out.
In Aleppo he of riding on ore - sand



Married in '22; spent a few years;
 returned to M until in '24;
 Others in M were Blakely, Cold.
 Why here in M from '24 to '35
 Lyman's arranged. with
 Called for first house: Bad news for you!
 Leave city within [5 days? - 1 wk?]
 L. allowed to remain a few weeks to dispose
 of property. Hagop Agha
 (Gabel's Brother-in-law (Tailor)
 of Johanna - son of Jachad.
 instead Vake & Berta children
 were in
 → 1662 Colby Ave
 Vake lives close to Johanna
 & Gabel. L. A
 90025

B. H. L. Trip Mar. to Aleppo - Beirut
 Beirut to Venice; K. L. Moss.
 overland to Lisbon: - then to N.Y.

Lucy Michaelian (Imbrosi Lecker)
 acc. BH in car from Mar.

In 1924 when by train ret. to M. there were a few
 Arz. families there: Gabel (Balegizijian) father
 Hagop Agha remained. in care of Moss. Agha.
 (Later sold to Turks.)



How many Marashies - departed?

A - 38,000 orig. in city of
Tunis 42,000

Maybe 5000 remained

5000 - 10000

Aredis Sifera says - about 5-10,000
(he was related to Khelak
Trakomany) allowed to stay.
Artisans

Aredis was probna - Arna - & had
frequent contact w. Khelakian in
Marash.

Deputatus con. began to return under
Bentley.

Minotaurs try slayed w. his Arm. enf.

I heard ~~that~~ say ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{Mr. Bray.} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} Govt.
House

Jan. took them out to lower pete -
- must. said if a not going to
hang - but to ^{the} stomach

Mr. Michaelson in Boel -
 Then Mr. & Leelia said she saw the man
 who killed Mr. St. Paul "W. thought we
 were doing a good deed -
 friend of Mehtanhi.

Ref night - after Joe had left - firing continued
They with one US arracked fire;
 (150 yds. ~~total~~ for Mission)
 (3) d. "Get some men & have them & point
 in prop. for the fire!" They were afraid! so
 Rosie stayed up till morning.

Agreement bet. Geo. Queneth & M. Presat, Lyon (W. 1847?), ..



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German miss, Paula Schaffer, Beitzellin ^{Thoma}
from ^{with} Gedula Hotald Beitel (German)
Ebenezer (mission)
across Ad Jan College - English women
Germans sent out ⁱⁿ [Salmon]
doctors etc.

1915 deport has then half left!
70,000 in whole provinces & villages
Armenians -

Did Armen welcome the British w. Band etc. No!
This took place w. French.

A Bedouin went to Adana to talk w. them &
he came back & advised the Armen to go out
moment then - Protestants refused.

Superiors closed schools met them &
displayed Arm. flag.

Brit. Gen. lived in the Syrian General House
Troops outside walls of Miss compound
from no trouble.

Used roads w. Turkish horsemen

No divide - French v. Turks.
French did tear down Turkish flag!



3/ Lynman report

Mr. Mrs. Lynman left Marash (w. 8977)
Lucy Mikhaelian went with her.
[Also Peter Ternazian, [Chris Graeber?]]
At Oz coming to edge of Marash, a Turkish
police? gendarme? who was sleeping on a
bench at roadside - waiting for us -
demanded to know if we were carrying any
letters. 8977 handed over those in his
pocket - but not a sack-full under the
seat!



Hardy
Mrs. Russel Lyman in Marash 1st term 1913-20

Were there massacres in Marash in 1909?
Who ordered them?

Gordalls left in 1913 - 4 in / Blakely, Fridon, Hardy
Lyman came in Sept 13, Hardy in Nov 13/
Conrad Woodley came after Gordalls left (sent wife to Elazir
mass expul)

1915: Seitran first to be deported?
Marash - -

How many deported

.. .. remained?

Where did they live in exile?

Were the orphans whom we found in Marash in 1915 -
children released for exile - & had they been there 15-19?

What were the war-time orphanages - & who directed them?

J. ... / Arnold / Fern / Britchell / Britchell

Who were the German sisters - did they go with the
expatriates?

Who were the Turkish officials in charge in 1915?
.. .. 1919-20?

Behaving / Aram Korpis?

Did the Armenians welcome the British w. & b. ex. ? Not many
there then?

Deportees began returning - ... ?

before many already there when French arrived?

Who was French commander: Andre?

Flag incident.

Where did Cuverelle reside?

Impressions of Cuverelle - Thibault?

Some meet up. chris Jagers
in Marash. Germans allowed
to pass the Louisa - 1905 Marash



A

Kerach Agha Kherlekian in Kleton
Archie Sefrian's family.Notes on
Sefrian's letters

K. Kherlekian m.

Son Mithran

Kerach Agha

Son Archie

Archie's aunt (father's sister) married K. Kherlekian

It was Mithran who helped get Archie out of prison
(i.e. cousin by marriage)Completed (one of 200) in exam for admission to post
school. 40 accepted - among them Archie

1910. Attended Theo School 3 yrs

Kerach Agha (promoted for Sultan's army)

K. Kherlekian m. ?

sister - m. ? Sefrian

Son
Mithrandaughter
Margaret

married

Son
Archie

or was Margaret daughter of Mithran

1914 after general mobilization entered military school
& after 6 mo. graduated as mülazim (Lieut
Sani (2nd)Met Enver Pasha - on the very day of the Van
revel!



2/

Conference between Dr. Mustafa & Gen. Queralt
 Lyman present, (also Mustafa flag bearer?)
 After conference. Mrs. Lyman
 chatted w. Mustafa, in presence of young
 men - flag bearers, while Lyman most. polit
 whether way was clear [of Thode] for M. to
 go out. Lyman escorts him to lower
 gate. M. says he is not return. to
 Hagop - but to Kosek.

Lucy M. Michaelian, formerly in Boston, claims
 that she talked with man who talked M.
 He is quoted as saying "We thought we
 was doing a good deal - - -"

Lucy was friend of Matronchi (Mrs. Natan
 Kramrian, 36 Whittemore Rd, Newton, Mass.
 He has two brothers George & John Brook
 (Bulgarian)

After Arm. evac of Marash in 1922
 Matronchi, Mrs. Blahly, Mrs. Cady remained.
 Hagop & his children.

Bethel (Mrs. Johannes Bilizetjian (Tadla)
 son) farahed.

lives in L.A. 1662 Colby Ave, L.A.
 90025
 Children Vah & Bertha



Notes on Marash from Mrs. Lyman

in Marash (1913-20

1924-35

James Lyman fall of 1913-1921 }
1924-35 }

The airplanes in Marash continued undisturbed throughout World War I. The airplanes, presumably of 1909 origin (Cilicia massacre) were Miss Schmale's - across st. from College & below from Beitel Adels Herold?

- Stenger's Amer. mission -
[Heine? later? under ACRIE]

Bertschellum - Paula Schaeffer.

In 1918 there were 70,000 Armenians in M. & surr. villages.
of whom ?? were deported.

[per 8/11 - 20,000 returned to Marash in 1919. ^{fall} Dec. 1919]
Deportees began returning under Brit. occupation. There was no disturbance under Brit. occupation.
The Brit. General lived in the Lyman. Fordell house.
Troops camped outside the Armen. compounds.
Held horse races w. Turkish troops for fun.

When word came that the French were to replace the Brit. Badolli --- went to Adana & sent back word that the Fr. were to replace the British; & advised Ar. to go out & meet them. Armenians closed schools - Brit. felt it was wise to display this welcome!
?? Turkish flag taken down by French!



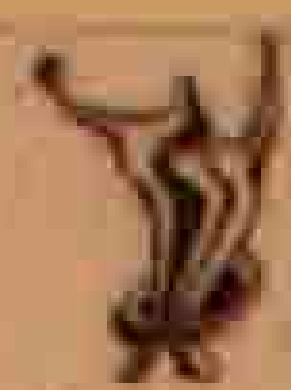
B. cont. ~~Again~~ There was no censorship then!
for when I was called up for military
service in 1914. - all my books, photos,
letters, etc were packed & stored in one suitcase
& sent to my aunt (Mrs. Krikor Khachaturian's)
house for safe keeping.

In those days the police were searching
Ar. houses for incriminating documents - &
my letter was discovered. The police asked
Miguelidze Hagadon - (an Arm. spy!)
to translate it into Turkish. The order
issued, went to the High Academy to put
me under arrest. Enver P. had nothing
to do with it (?).

I was placed in the Bahir-Agha Beolug
prison (was dept's prison). That same day
14 March 1915 revolutionary events were happening.
- ~~in the~~ ~~last~~ ~~town~~ where names led him from to
the Police by a traitorous Arm. (Arshak Ardashian)
I spent one month in this prison without
knowing what charge was made against me.

Then I was transferred to the ~~Old~~
Mudiri Osmangiligi prison
Director General militia
Person of the Director-General of militia?

There I found 200 other Armenians -



② During the 3 yrs. Araks attended school ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ Istanbul - Marmara he had contacts with an Armenian revolutionary society ^{Refers to} - Hunkahke - who were often in conflict with the secret society - ~~Ronggaran~~ ^{the Hunkahke} - & Fashakos. In 1912 - at time of Balkan War - ~~I wrote to my brother -~~ ~~in Marash~~ There was an inter-party conference in ~~Marash~~ - Two delegates came from the U.S.A. - Hraha and H.P. Serapet Pashayan. Three of us students went to the meeting to learn what was going on. The Fashakos, Hunkahke & Ronggaran decided to ~~organize~~ [~~? unite~~] + ~~initiate~~ ^{as a} ~~initiate~~ ~~revolution~~ to overthrow the govt. Continue their press rather than ~~and put aside~~ ^{aside} ~~to~~ their differences - in order to more effectively help when the time came for action - to overthrow the govt. [Young Turks came into power in 1908!] At that time we understood that a Greek army was marching on Istanbul [from N. west?] & that the Bulgarian had threatened Tchaladjia (suburb of Istanbul) - & it looked as if the young Turk armies were losing.

The decisions of the meeting were to be forwarded to the branch societies all over the country - but I wrote my brother - Hraha in Marash (a member of the Refers Hunkahke about the meeting: its decisions & advised him to follow this advice (i.e. union of the various mod. parties). And to turn Hunkahke! (over)



c.)

How did Arakel get to know the Sheikh el Islam?
In 1895 - when the great massacre
ordered by Abdul Hamid took place -
the house of the Turkish Committee - [Sheikh el Islam]

was directly across the street from my home.

They were very friendly to us, & during those
bad days they defended us - from any harm.

I was 3 yrs. old then.

In 1896 the son of the Sheikh was
16 yrs. old wanted to go to Constantinople to study.
- but his father wanted him to remain in
Maras to help with clerical work in connection
with their farming activities. The boy asked
my grand father to intercede w. his father
- & try to persuade him to allow him to go for
higher education. My grand father & the

Sheikh were very close friends. My grand father
offered to pay the ^{travel} expenses to Istanbul.

Result - Sheikh's son graduated from Law
School in 1900. During next 10 yrs he
worked for the S. O. When I went to Istanbul
to study in 1910 - I carried two letters for
the Sheikh's son from his father & my father,

& became a contact member! Subat Nazire.

& I was invited to his house on several
occasions, & I introduced a Soviet Com
Communist to him.



(2)

At this time war was going on in all fronts
Selling, Caucasus. Van will begin some day!

down the Marmara on the Anatolian side. The
Mansin had 80 rooms!

After of no. training the commander
gave me a commission of 2nd Lt [Muhazim-Sani]
For training we were to have war maneuvers -
the students being divided into ~~two~~ two detachments
of 2000 each - one attacking, the other
defending. I ~~commanded~~ was appointed
commander of the _____ force.

[This was the equiv. of the rank "Bin deshi"
"Major" or "Lt Col."]

During ~~the~~ ^{the maneuver} carried out my functions on horse-back.

A few hours later a group of mounted
officers rode down from the summer villa of
Prince Youssef Beydoun on the hill top -
where they had been observing the maneuvers.

Our ~~maneuver~~ was over and was
completed by 4 PM, and being tired I went to
my room to rest, but after resting an hour
a student came ^{with the message that} ~~telling me~~ the School
Director wanted to see me. On reporting to
him I was told that Enver Pasha wanted
to see me. I went with the Director to the
field. ~~where Enver Pasha was~~ ^{where Enver Pasha was} ~~was a group~~
of officers. There were Enver Pasha and
the former General von der Goltz, together w.
half a dozen Turkish generals & their aides.



1 A

My ~~own~~ My aunt - (my father's sister) married Krikor Kherlakian. The Kherlakians family of Marash were already influential and well-to-do. Krikor's father Kerovik Agha ~~had~~ ~~was one of the~~ had developed a good business as supplier of food and goods to the Sultan. Sultan Abdul Hamid, indeed in 1296 the Sultan called Kerovik Agha and his wife Khetron to the palace in Constantinople and honored him for his services by gifts of gold medals, swank, and a golden nargela - ~~at the water~~ ~~the~~ instrument used in the Ottoman Empire for smoking tobacco - the smoke being drawn ~~thru~~ ~~water~~ ~~water~~ through water.

My relative as a boy, my relationship with the Kherlakians gave me certain prestige, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ ~~and~~ even among the Turkish Moslems, ~~and~~ ~~for~~ example I ~~was~~ ~~the~~ son of the Moslem Sheikh ~~was~~ was my friend & I was a frequent guest in the Sheikh's house.

These connections helped me to gain admission to the Government School of Veterinary Medicine in Constantinople.



(1)

Avedis Sefarian / 130 Charles River Road
Woburn, Mass. 02172

? Born 1892 in Marash

(A) → [see over for family background]
at age 18 ^{in 1910 after consulting exam} admitted to the Turkish ^{civil} School
of Veterinary Medicine, on shore of Marmara,
European side of Istanbul, near Sultan Ahmed Mosque.
Free tuition, food & clothing provided.

I was a student when the Balkan War
broke out [1912]. About a month later all the
schools & colleges were taken over by the Military
Junta & converted to Hospitals [for the Turkish
wounded], and the Veterinary students were
divided among these emergency hospitals to
serve as assistants of the military doctors.

In 1914 I ^{returned to} Marash for 3 mos.
on vacation, but had been there only 9 mos.
when the Govt. declared general mobilization.
The following month all college students
were called for military service as six month
period of Military Training. I went to
Istanbul & entered the military academy
about a month later.

World War was declared for Turkey by Russia
(Nov. 13 1914) and shortly after that all schools & colleges
were again commandeered for use as hospitals.
My military academy was moved to
Hassan Pasha's summer place



3/

I was introduced to Enver Pasha, whom I saluted. He asked: "Are you the commander of this manoeuvre?" Yes, Pasha Hasretleri!

"We were watching you during the manoeuvre. You did very well, & I congratulate you. What is your name?"

"Arakel Etkedi Seferian" I replied.

"You are an Armenian?" he asked.

"Yes, Pasha Hasretleri."

There was a big fight here at Yum.

He shook hands with me & saluted again & returned to my room. An hour later I was called again for my room. - This time to be locked in another [the guard room], with no explanation. The next day I was transferred to the military prison in Istanbul, which was under control of the Ministry of War (Enver). That same night 14 Armenian notables of Istanbul were taken out of the prison & hanged. One of them - Dr. Beani - I knew.

Another letter that I was transferred to the prison of Police Mudiri Oumourie where ~~there were~~ two to three hundred Armenian notables of Istanbul were already under arrest [This was [det. & arrest.] April... 1915.

They included lawyers, doctors, government & representatives members of Parliament representing the Armenians.



47

Since I wore the uniform of an army officer they were astonished & asked why I had been arrested - A few days later all the Armenian notables were moved ~~about~~ to the prison - & [as we learned later] to the interior of Anatolia near the Salt Lake.]

Three days after this group had been dispatched my turn came. A policeman brought me the message: "You are going to Marash to be tried by court martial. If you have money we will send you by train. If not, you can walk ^{away with} a prisoner for escort." This would be a 20-day journey.

I was given three days to decide.

Since I had no money, and ~~tried to think of a friend~~ ~~from whom I could borrow it.~~ my only hope was to borrow, and finally I decided to appeal to the Sheikh ul-Islam - (head of all the Muslims) - ~~who was from Marash,~~ and whose home in Marash I had visited many times - ^{suppl}

See Appendix C



3/

When my three-days period of grace were ended the police told me: "Come - get ready for your walk to Marash, if you have no money!"

"I wish to see the Sheikh-ul-Islam Bey, to ask for money!" I replied. The police were astonished that I know him, & took me at once to the Mudiri's office, where I was questioned. I insisted that I know him as a father, & that he treated me like a son. The Mudiri ordered an officer to take me by carriage to the Sheikh's rooms. The Sheikh received me courteously, and listened to my story. He then took the telephone & told the police chief that my family had always been loyal to the Government and asked that no harm should come to me on the journey.

He then gave eight gold liras to the officer my escort to pay for my horse fare & told the policeman who had to accompany me and another two liras for hotel & meals.

Within three days I was in Marash, in prison. ^{Then} I found my father in prison face a military court. After three weeks I was taken to the court-house. The ^{Magistrate who presided} judge asked the clerk to read a letter which they charged I had written in 1913 to my brother in Marash. The clerk read a Turkish



⑥

translates of the first Armenian
The reason for my arrest was now clear!
I was charged with treason.

In 1912 ~~while I was in Istanbul~~,
the Reformed Hunchakists ~~party~~ (a ^{an} revolutionary
party) had held a convention in
Istanbul and I had attended the
meetings. ~~At~~ At this meeting the
members were urged to put aside personal
animosities and to unite in the interests
of their main objective -- ~~independence~~
~~for the Armenians~~ a self-governing
Armenia & ~~granting the Young Turks~~
had the Young Turk revolution in 1908!
had ~~now~~ proclaimed that all the
overseas populations were to enjoy
self-determination - within the ~~framework~~
Ottoman Empire.

I ~~was~~ had written to my
brother Hefez ~~in Marash~~, who was
an officer in the Marash section of
the Hunchak party. urging him to
follow this advice. I warned him
also to destroy the letter! How did it
ever ~~the~~ fall into Turkish hands? Had
the mail been ~~correctly~~ intercepted by the
No. Turkish censors? or had ~~some~~ my brother
yes. been careless in allowing it to
go into the hands of ~~some~~ supposed to be a
friend - but actually a spy?

to be conc. in Armenian self-govt.
plans for



(8)

And so Maja Nusem began to enjoy an active social life! After a few months had passed, and the Maja was invited for the seventh time to Mikhra's home

Kevork?

On this occasion (Mikhra) presented to the Maja with the golden nargela, which Sultan Abdul Hamid had bestowed

on Mikhra's grandfather Kevork Agha Kevork.

The Maja admired the beautiful exclamation at the beauty of the nargela and asked Mikhra told him: "This was given to my grandfather by the Sultan Abdul Hamid."

Some days later the Maja met Mikhra and asked if there were not something he could do for him? Mikhra then raised the subject of the imprisoned Avedes - who was waiting for a sentence of death by hanging - to be hung for Treason.

Eleven months passed after 11 months, ~~passed~~ ~~home~~ ~~started~~ ~~to~~ ~~another~~ ~~6~~ ~~months~~, ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~Maja~~ ~~&~~ ~~his~~ ~~secretary~~ ~~destroyed~~ ~~the~~ ~~entire~~ ~~records~~ ~~for~~ ~~18~~ ~~months~~ ~~to~~ ~~release~~ ~~brother~~ ~~after~~ ~~he~~ ~~had~~ ~~served~~ ~~another~~ ~~six~~ ~~months~~. ~~The~~ ~~Maja~~ ~~&~~ ~~his~~ ~~secy.~~ ~~destroyed~~ ~~the~~ ~~records~~, ~~and~~ ~~petitioned~~ ~~the~~ ~~Min. of Justice in Damascus~~ ~~This~~ ~~sentence~~ ~~had~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~confirmed~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~Min. of Justice in Egypt~~ ~~Toussoukian~~ ~~and~~ ~~but~~ ~~when~~



(7)

Major Hussein Bey

The judge - a ~~Major~~ - asked me:

Did you write that letter? -

I don't remember - that was two years ago!

Then they showed me the original letter in Armenian - in my own hand writing. "Yes, it must be mine!" I admitted.

Are you not ashamed to write such a letter? The govt. gave you free education, clothing & food, & still you worked against the govt.!

My Bey ^{too} ~~very~~ ^{young} I replied - "I was ^{too} ~~very~~ ^{young} when I wrote this! If you are a good judge to have good ^{judgment} ~~judgment~~ ^{Please} Judge me by my service to the country instead!" They then took me back to prison.

It happened that the clerk of the court - Zavarica Effendi ^{was} - a close friend of my cousin M. Hra Kherlekian, & he told me that my case was a very serious one, and that he should try to make friends w. the Major Hussein Bey - the chairman of the military court. "I shall offer him money?" asked M. Hra Eff. "Certainly not! You cannot 'buy' the heart of a man. Make friends with him! Invite him to your home. Have a number of parties for him in his home - not one - but many times! Then you will find a way to approach the subject of your cousin's problem." (over)



⑨

The court finally sentenced Sefora to 18 months imprisonment - of which 11 m. had already passed. However this sentence had to be approved ~~confirmed~~ by Grand Officer Mil. Gov. of Syria - General Pashe. The Major Husari was confident that his ~~recommendation~~ the sentence would be confirmed. - ~~But by the~~
~~General Pashe was away off on military duty~~
~~and his case was reviewed by a~~
~~new~~ Gen. Vrood B. was known to be lenient towards the Armenians. As such would have it. General was ~~not~~ off on a military exped - attacking the British forces in Egypt - and his substitute changed the sentence to "death by hanging" - Thus following the orders of Pasha ~~the~~ issued by Saver Pasha that ~~Armenians~~ ^{not only} Armenian officers soldiers but even officers should be ~~executed~~ with no guilt whatever were to be released & their command ~~quietly~~ executed! (This was a close friend of Nihran Khorlegh)

When this order reached the Marash, Major Husari - his clerk Zakaria destroyed the court records, notified the Police to release Ardiz and sent word to Damascus & Istanbul that he had been hanged. Ardiz was told to disappear completely as he was officially dead.



(11)

at this time the railway was being used to
 transport ^{troops} ~~troops~~ - both ~~Turks & German~~ to Syria.
 and to Mesopotamia - for and
 was supplies to the armies in Mesop.
 & in Soviet Syria & Sinai, so we
 could not ride - [Details -

[ask Anders for details]

When we reached the Euphrates we
 heard that we were to be driven ~~to the south~~
 to the ~~to the south~~ towards Deir es Zor - a desert
 region. I knew that I would be killed
 & so crept away from the camp & made my
 way to Aleppo - together with some
 of my friends

a friend from Aleppo ~~and~~ I went to Damascus.
 where I found my family & Ferid Pascha
 had issued orders that any Armenians who came
 into territory under his control were not to be
 harassed - ~~that of the~~ Many of the Armenians
 from Marash had reached Damascus
 a year earlier.

In 1918 the British troops defeated the
 Turks in Palestine, & ~~some~~ Ferid
 & ~~Chamran~~ while an Arab army
 led by Pasha Faisal & Col. Lawrence came up
 the east bank of the Tigris & occupied Damascus

Summer of 1916



10.

the name of his physiology teacher
in the Vich School!

He changed his name to Salih-Zeki.

Armenians went. Marching secretly down ^{down}
 the road to Istabul towards the Bagdad
 RR he searched for his cousin Mikhael
 - who was a contractor serving the German
 company which was constructing the Bagdad
 RR. At that time they were digging a
 tunnel between Bagdadike & Istabul.
 Mikhael Eff. had developed a special
 the friendship of two German engineers
 ? Most. and Jöebel, who were in
 charge of a crew of some 7 to 8,000
 Armenian men. ~~There had been~~ At the
 time of the deportation in 1915 -
 the able-bodied men Armenians had
 been separated from their families to
 be placed in labor camps, & these
 were now helping to build the railway.
 At Ararat Mikhael Eff. arranged with the German
 engineers gave me a job as mail carrier
 but some six months later the order came
 from Teheran Bay & Istabul that the Armenians
 employed on the RR were to be deported to
 Dessau for - since the intention was to
 exterminate them. All of us - 8-10,000
 were ~~not~~ herded down the RR over the mts
 toward the Euphrates River. By the time we
 had reached the river - at least half of the
 men had been killed. - [How?] (over)

by way of Marash, Alep
 Nizib, Birejik.
 See also #2 p. 7



A 2nd little Arcades Sargi:

Abut 4000 killed by shooting or famine,
2000 died of hunger & disease
2-4000 reach Imphal.

Mikram Khan. slayed at Asantab, since
his friend Bataria was at that time clerk of the
Asantab court. He arranged to send Mikram
& a few friends by carriage to Aizawl.
[85M. money probably helped!]



(12)

The British occupied Aleppo, then
 Marash - and we - Armen. Refugees in
 Syria were told to go back to our
 own home town. My family came
 to Aleppo by train, - by car to Aleppo
 to Marash.

Brit Occup. Under ^{the} British occupation Marash
 was quiet and orderly, but when
 [cont. w. p. 8.] -

Denis the French
 was then there
 at the time

I opened a ^{commercial} ~~shop in the~~ business in
 the Tash Khan - I had three rooms for
 storing merchandise, a case had begun
 to import goods from Adana, ~~by road~~
 including Kerosene. ~~and~~ From Marash I shipped
 hides and animal pelts to Adana - mainly
 fox & rabbit etc. At this time Smyth began
 did French & Turks I had about 5000
 worth of such goods in store.

Palmer
 left

About 4 to 5000 Armen. had taken refuge
 in the Tash Khan & other stores near it.
 The night the French left these were able
 to go out with the French [half left refuge
 in Tash Khan, the other half reached the French
 column about 5 mi. from Marash]



15

a French carbine, which we had brought from Adana.

"This is a French army weapon! How did you get it?" he exclaimed.

"So what? We ~~are~~ have to defend 150 persons in my house." He was silent.

He had dinner with us, & then returned to his headquarters.

[details of fighting, /Wounded/ D. his people escape?

Comments on 4th & 7 Sections

Arvid's Section had about 150 people in his house. 15 guns held off Turks 3 days. The Turks call for surrender to surrender - otherwise all will be killed. Has about 40 tons of kerosene. Used one of these to make Molotov cocktail. & fire Turkish houses. At night the 150 retreat to other places.

See his letter of Nov. 4/22. Mueller Euliyas house (same as ref. of Steinke?) across street. One of Arvid's Section group shoots Euliyas. - 5th day of battle



149

to my home, - where I would entertain them,
but he replied that they had orders to return
to the Barracks (Kizilla) by noon.

So I decided to entertain them at the
church itself. ~~As~~ Before Mass was over
I had sent the ~~junior~~ church sexton
out to buy some Turkish sweets.

While we were enjoying ourselves a
messenger came ~~from my house~~ advising that
I go ~~there~~ to my home. There I found the
Arch officer who commanded the detachment
quartered at the Latin Church. I asked
him if he could not assign about 20
soldiers to help defend ~~an~~ ^{our} the area
in which my house stood - heavily
populated by Turks. He replied: "No, we
cannot ~~do~~ scatter our forces, but if any
trouble should arise - the Arch force could
occupy the whole city within 3 hrs!"

"I replied: Major: if you cannot give us some
soldiers, we must all leave this section &
go to a safer place. We are surrounded by
Turks!" He replied: "You ^{family} are well known

& if you should leave, the Turks will be
suspicious. Don't make such a move!
Can't you defend yourself for three hours?"

"Sir, we can defend ourselves for 5 days."

"How many guns do you have?" About 15.
May I see them?" I brought him a

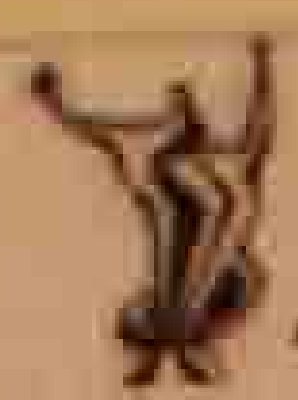


(16) [see second letter, P. 8.]

We were about 300!

On the 6th day of the war [Jan. 27?]. we turned our house in order to escape at night - but we were unable to reach the place we had planned - but instead I met another group of Armenians who ~~was fighting for their lives~~ but after a day of heavy fighting the Turks had surrounded us on all four sides, & set fire to the ~~house~~ buildings. Three of us ran from the building - two were killed, I was wounded in the hip - a fatal wound which I did not feel at the time. Then two others joined me who had run from the ghetto & I then joined me.

The other Armenians of the 300 were captured & held in a large building till the next morning when they were taken down to the Armenian cemetery, directed N. Kerosian & set afire. Two more of this group escaped. I joined us in the St. George Church & Shekerdjan? - near the 2nd Prot. Church, there!



(17)

The Kheratvian family home was in Kouyoujah Street - but after a week of fighting they decided to move to the Boulgourjian house - near the 1st Prot. Church - where they were able to defend themselves during the next two weeks.

In spite of the ^{great} hospitality which the Kheratvian family had shown to the French of Jan, the latter sent no word to them about their plan to withdraw. When - on the morning of Feb. 11 - it became known that the French had withdrawn - all of those

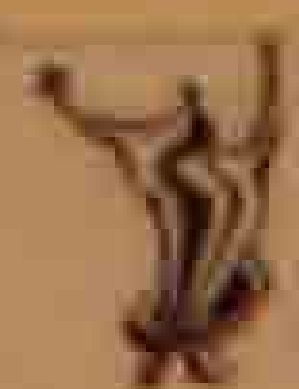
who had taken refuge in the Boulgourjian house - [2000? 3000??] in the 1st Church?

opened the door & started running through the streets. The Turks opened fire from right & left. The first man killed ^{near the great mosque} was Avedis Agha Kheratvian. When the others saw that to escape was hopeless - all but about 200 ran back to their shelter. Only four reached the French.

Do. Artin du Phazarian
Sergius Tutunjian
Dimitri Pamboukian
Farat? Kheratvian

One of those killed was Hago of Kheratvian formerly (1912) elected to parliament. where he served throughout the war? When the Turks ~~came~~

When was the 1st Church burned?



(18)

recognized their victim - They cut off
his head & carried it as a trophy thru
the streets of Marash - to musee!

After the war I went to Paris
to marry Margaret Kherlekian -
daughter of Mikhael... - & Rafael
Kherlekian was my test. man!
Rafael had been governor of Antakya,
then came to Marash - & on
Jan. 1, 1920 had married Helene Kherlekian
with Col. Hrnov? as test man. (letter # 2 - p. 7)

Gen. Quaranta



19 Refence

re joining French col. & Col. Howard.