



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

NEAR EAST RELIEF

(Formerly The American Committee for Relief in the Near East)

SYRIA-ALEPPO DISTRICT

Telegraph and Cable Address: NEAREST

Marash  
ALEPPO

June 25, 1920

Dear Dad:

Just a little more news, so I'll write some more. Mr. Lyman returned Sunday night from a month's trip thru the villages north of Marash. He visited Zeiton, then went on to Geurtsoun with two gendarmes, an Armenian interpreter & a Turk "katiiji" (a man to take care of the animals). About three hours distant from Geurtsoun a Circassian on horseback passed them. The gendarme chief knew him as a noted robber. Shortly after this three Kurds passed them on foot. Hearing a little stream Lyman decided to stop for lunch. Half an hour later they proceeded, the road taking them thru a cut in the hill, both sides overgrown with scrub oak. In this place a voice from the bushes commanded them to halt. Glancing quickly in the direction of the voice they saw three rifle barrels pointing at them. The gendarmes immediately called out "We surrender," but the words were hardly out of their mouths when two shots rang out, the gendarme chief falling from his horse with a bullet thru his brain & the other with a broken leg. The Kurds sprang out & at the direction of the Circassian, still hid in the bushes, blindfolded Lyman & Theodore the interpreter, took their coats, &



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searched their pockets. They got my little vestpocket camera from Lyman, but missed his watch & some money & his pistol. But Lyman thought best to give up his pistol, too. The Circassian gave the Kurds the horses & some gold, & for himself took the two coats & my camera & the rest of the money. In all they got 110 gold liras (about \$550) of relief money which I was sending to our orphanages in Geukosun & Albustan.

Mr. Lyman looked after the wounded gendarme as soon as the bandits left them. They carried him to a nearby Turkish village. The gendarmes in this village made no effort to run down the robbers. As soon as possible Lyman went on to Geukosun & notified Mustapha Kemal Pasha of what had happened. After a few days one of the Kurds was caught, & 36 liras recovered. The government knows where the Circassian lives but apparently no one cares about bothering him.

So this is a nice country for tourists!

Three days ago here in Marash the Turks nearly pulled off another massacre. A Dervish named Ali Cesar in a speech in a mosque told the Turks that the French were approaching & that enemies still were in the city (meaning Armenians). He told them to first kill the enemies within, then to fight the French. They began to happen quickly & Armenians all over the city ran to the college for safety. One Armenian was stabbed in the arm

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and in one place a Turk ran into an Armenian house & told them all to run, as a massacre was going to begin. This Turk even paid another Turk to carry a sick Armenian to the college. The day passed however & no massacre.

We heard today, however, that the Turks had actually intended to kill the Armenians, & Turkish leaders admit that it was stopped only with difficulty. Hearing of the speech that Derwish Ali made, the Mutesareef & Chuhadare Zadeh Mohammed went to the mosque & talked to the Turks against doing this. The gendarmes in the city were ordered to prevent trouble, & so nothing happened. But this shows the feeling of the population here against the Armenians. The government doesn't want anything to happen to give it a bad name again, but the people are stronger than the government now & can do as they please.

Must close now. Will write more later.

Stanley,