



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

AMERICAN RED CROSS



COMMISSION TO PALESTINE

AND THE NEAR EAST

Marash, Turkey,  
Feb 9, 1920.

Dear Mother and Dad,

From all that I have written about the events of the last three weeks you will know that unusual things are happening. But thru it all none of us lost courage or hope. When the reinforcements arrived everyone rejoiced, but too soon. Tonight the French evacuate Marash, leaving those who have escaped massacre to their fate. Probably ten thousand have perished here in the last three weeks, among them probably Miss Buckley. Tonight - the most bitter cold of all this winter, all the remaining Armenians are preparing to go out again into exile this time with the French to safety. Many will perish on the way, from Turkish bullets & from cold. Many will not be able to go. Our orphans, old women & men will remain in our compounds. So we American men will stay here. The women will go with the French troops, fighting their way to Ischia. Perhaps by remaining here we can protect the remaining Armenians from massacre. If the Turkes do not respect our flag & property we will die with the others.

There is no doubt about our duty. No one even suggested another course. Perhaps by the time this reaches you a cablegram will have told you that all is well here and that we are safe. But until you know certainly, don't give up hope. We are in great

danger, but not without hope. Our thoughts are with the  
 orphans in our care rather than ourselves at present, but  
 I am more afraid that you at home will be worrying. If  
 I could only think that you wouldn't be troubled about me  
 I would be happy. No matter what happens remember  
 that I am ready to make any sacrifice, even death, and  
 have no fear. We all realize that we are in God's care and are  
 trusting Him absolutely. So we are just as safe here at the  
 mercy of the Turks as on the road to Ispahan.

There is much to be done so I must close. Please  
 Mother & Dad and Marion and Stuart, don't sorrow for  
 me if I don't return - but be glad that I have done what  
 I could for these poor people. I may go to our hospital  
 as its American guardian, and my last word is that  
 Turks will cross the boundary of American property  
 only over my dead body, which I hope America will  
 avenge. Maybe the Turks have no hostile intent  
 for us. But may this horror of these last weeks  
 be a blot on the pages of history, both of France  
 and America for their part in delaying the peace  
 of Turkey. And may America, as a result of this,  
 take a more unselfish attitude about a protectorate  
 for this country.

My only regret if I die is that I won't be able to  
 work for you & Dad to make your days happy, after all  
 the sacrifices you have made for me to make my life  
 count for something. Goodbye, with love & hope,  
 Jim Stanley