



Author's reaction to Dr. Dieter Varjabedian's "Review" of *The Lirans* --.

It is hardly a review of the book, but rather an emotional reaction to it. Having ~~passed through~~ ^{as a boy of about 10 yrs.} experienced the events narrated in the text, and having read in "Marash & Hama Geyton" the reports of others (presumably in the Armenian compilation "Marash & Hama Geyton"), he ~~recounts~~ recounts these events from memory rather than as reported in the ~~text~~ documented text of "The Lirans of Marash", and failing to note ~~the new light~~ any significant or comment on ~~new light~~ a number of significant contributions to history found in the text. Examples of the reviewer's omissions ~~are listed below~~ (a) and errors ~~are~~ include the following:

1) The French force which first occupied Marash, (replacing the British) was about ~~a~~ a fifth that reported by the reviewer.

1 batt. Arme 400-600 (See p. 62 in "The Lirans...")

1 Co. Tnd 100-150

1 sq. Alf. 50

500

250

500

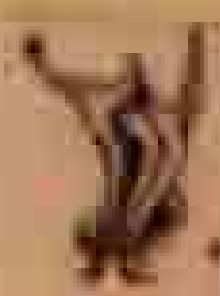
2) No mention is made of the effective ^{leadership given to the Turkish insurgent} ~~steps taken~~ by the ^{by Captain} ~~French~~ Commander - Kuluj Ali - to block French attempts to ~~secure munitions~~. It was he who prevented new supplies of munitions

from reaching the Marash perimeter

3) The reviewer fails to mention the ^{new and significant} ~~new~~ source material used by the author and not available to ^{those who} ~~the~~ contributors to "Marash" - (e.g., Thibault, Normand, Korgunoff, and Saral)

4) The incident of ^{efforts made by the Turkish physician} ~~the~~ ^{Dr. Mustafa} who attempted to arrange for an armistice is ^{ignored} ~~overlooked~~. In view of the fact that

interference by an over zealous Armenia delayed ~~the~~ negotiations at a critical point in ^{upon} ~~at a point in time~~ when the French commanders were ready to reverse their decision for evacuation, and ~~changed~~ altered the course of history for Cilicia.



The Lament of Marash

1) A review by Dr. Dicran Varjabedian in the ^{Beirut} ~~Armenian~~ newspaper Zartonk, translated from the Armenian to English by Laura Khachadourian.

"A feeling passes through my nerves, sweet and melancholy at the same time. Marash, my birthplace! I go back fifty years. Beautiful Marash with its orchards, vineyards, gardens, prairies, hills and springs - all on the screen of my mind ~~when~~ - and then in January 1920 came fire, massacre and destruction.

In this ~~book~~ well-designed book in English, about 300 pages, there is the sketch of a ^{stone} lion ~~statue~~ which stood at the entrance of the fortress of Marash, carved by Hittite sculptors approximately 3000 years ago. The title of the book comes from that statue - the symbol of courage and strength. And according to the author each reader - whether Armenian, Turk, or Frenchman - will find his lion there.

The author, Stanley Kerr, a professor of biochemistry for forty years, was my professor at the American University of Beirut, but I knew him first in Marash, as one who had come from Marash. After the departure of the French, when death threatened us Armenians like a flood, a group of American missionaries - among them the author - had the strength to stand against this flood, thus saving the lives of thousands.

On ~~turning~~ ^{turning} the pages and noting the chapter headings, I find to my astonishment that this book is the story of my own childhood and the story of all those who survived the blackest period of our history - the Polgothe of 1915-1922. I close the volume for a while and experience again the terror of those years. A chill passes through my nerves to the ends of my fingers. The torture of those years rushes in waves through my veins.



2/

1 Co. of 12th	-	100
1 bat. of 1st		400
1 Squad. of Cavalry		50

Then, calming down, I began to open the book and taste the contents like a ~~starving person~~ one who is starving.

In the foreword, Dr. Bayard Dodge — longtime president of the American University at Beirut — reviews the formation of the Near East Relief, whose founders were his father and Dr. James Barton. Due to the persistent efforts of this organization the lives of thousands of Armenian orphans were saved.

~~During the dark years between 1915 and 1922 they had~~

They lived through the dark ~~period~~ years 1915-1922, a period the like of which was never seen before.

In the "Introduction", Richard Hovannessian presents the history of incidents in Cilicia for the period 1918-1922. There you could see clearly the conflict between the Allies, who — unable to win the Turks to their side — started rivalry among themselves.

The author's story begins ~~with a bang~~ ^{abruptly} with a "bang" — with a description of the first few hours of the tragedy [of Marash]. Then follows a brief review of earlier massacres of Armenians, First Bat of 1895 and finally ~~that those of 1915~~ during the First Massacre [during World War I]. The author then focuses on the story of Cilicia and in particular on ~~the Marash~~ Tragedy of Marash.

In November 1919 French ~~Troops~~ replaced the British force ~~which~~ ^{first} had occupied Marash, were replaced by ~~French~~ French ~~colonial~~ troops — about 3000, of whom 1000 were Armenian "legionnaires" legionnaires *

* Note by author. The reviewer has erred in these numbers. The ~~first~~ original of this French contingent numbered about 450. of whom 400 were Armenian (one battalion) were Armenians.



3/

The enthusiasm of the Armenian survivors of 1915 was unprecedented; as though those dreams of past centuries had become reality.

But events were not moving according to the Armenian dreams.

The French contingent ~~had~~ ^{had} an insufficient supply of artillery ~~and~~ ^{and} were short of artillery, ammunition, and food. In particular they had no wireless equipment for communications, so that communication with their headquarters [in Adana] was difficult. The ^{importation} ~~movement~~ of military ^{material} supplies was also very difficult because of the large bands of chêti (Turkish chêti (guerrilla fighters) in the hills.

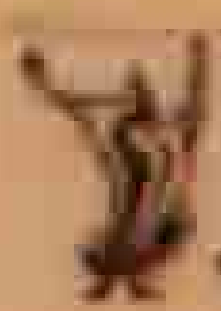
A few days before the ~~event~~ [siege of Marash], about 500 leprosinaires, on the demand of the Turks, are driven away from the city.† The Turks, taking advantage of this, attack the Armenian quarters [of the city], ~~slaying and burning~~ looting, slaying & burning. The terror-stricken Armenians flee to their ~~nearest~~ churches, schools, or orphanages and other institutions ~~guarded by the French and Armenians~~ in which the French troops were quartered. These became jammed with thousands of ~~starving~~ Armenians. Starvation, misery, sickness --- it is ~~as horrible~~ horrible!

The Turks first massacre the Armenians who have taken refuge in their homes, or were caught in the streets or in their shops.‡

Then they concentrate on the institutions ^{defended} ~~guarded~~ by the French soldiers, crowded ~~with~~ where the Armenians had gathered. Fierce fighting there is fierce fighting, but the Turks succeed in burning the churches of St. George, St. Mary,

† Note by author: The reviewer has inserted here a story which has appeared elsewhere - not in the hills of Marash! The ~~departure~~ ^{false} of a ~~detachment~~ ^{detachment} of a ~~company~~ ^{company} of the legion left the city to an escort for a convoy sent to Bal Pournar for ammunition. See "The Bal Pournar Convoy", pp. 92-94.

‡ No shops were open.



4/

Sch. Stephen and other centers. Thousands burn in the flames.
Heart-breaking cries for help remain unanswered.

~~The French defenders~~ not only refuse to
French troops quartered nearby not only refuse to go to
their aid, but ~~at places~~ in some instances refuse to
give them shelter, objecting that they have no room!

Death like a heavy club crushes a good part of
the city's inhabitants

There were
~~Throughout~~ throughout the tragedy, deeds of heroism were
by Armenian legionnaires who chose to die for their people
rather than to abandon them to their fate. With the help of
American missionaries ... (?)

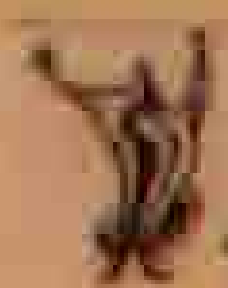
Should be
Jan. 21

There were also heroes among the French troops. The battles
continued for three weeks - January 25 - February 10, 1920

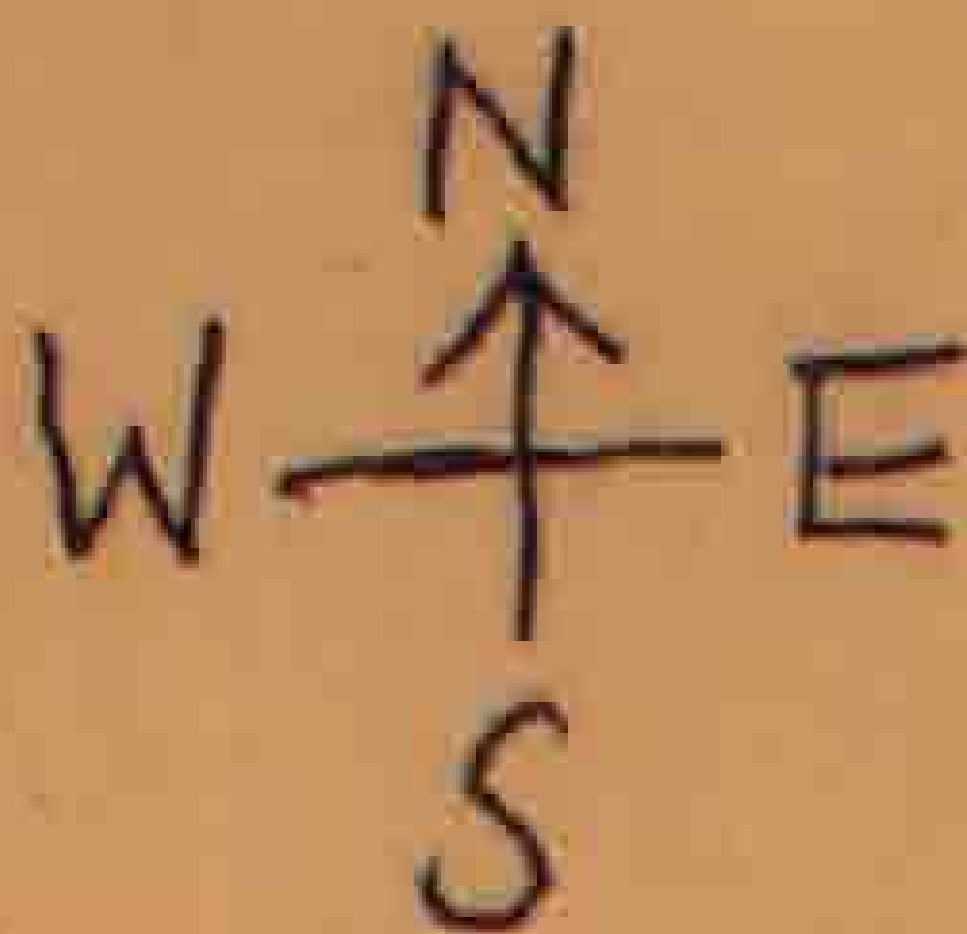
Finally French reinforcements came, but did not
enter the city. They ~~however~~ subjected the Turkish forces to a
fierce bombardment, to open the way for ^{the} French. Demoralized,
the Turks escape to the villages.

At that time Dr. Mustafa, ~~comes~~ carrying a white flag,
comes to the French general to conclude an arrangement for an
armistice; but the French commander has already decided
to desert the city without informing the Armenians. This
news spread like lightning: the defeated & demoralized Turkish
troop by troop again rushed toward the city.

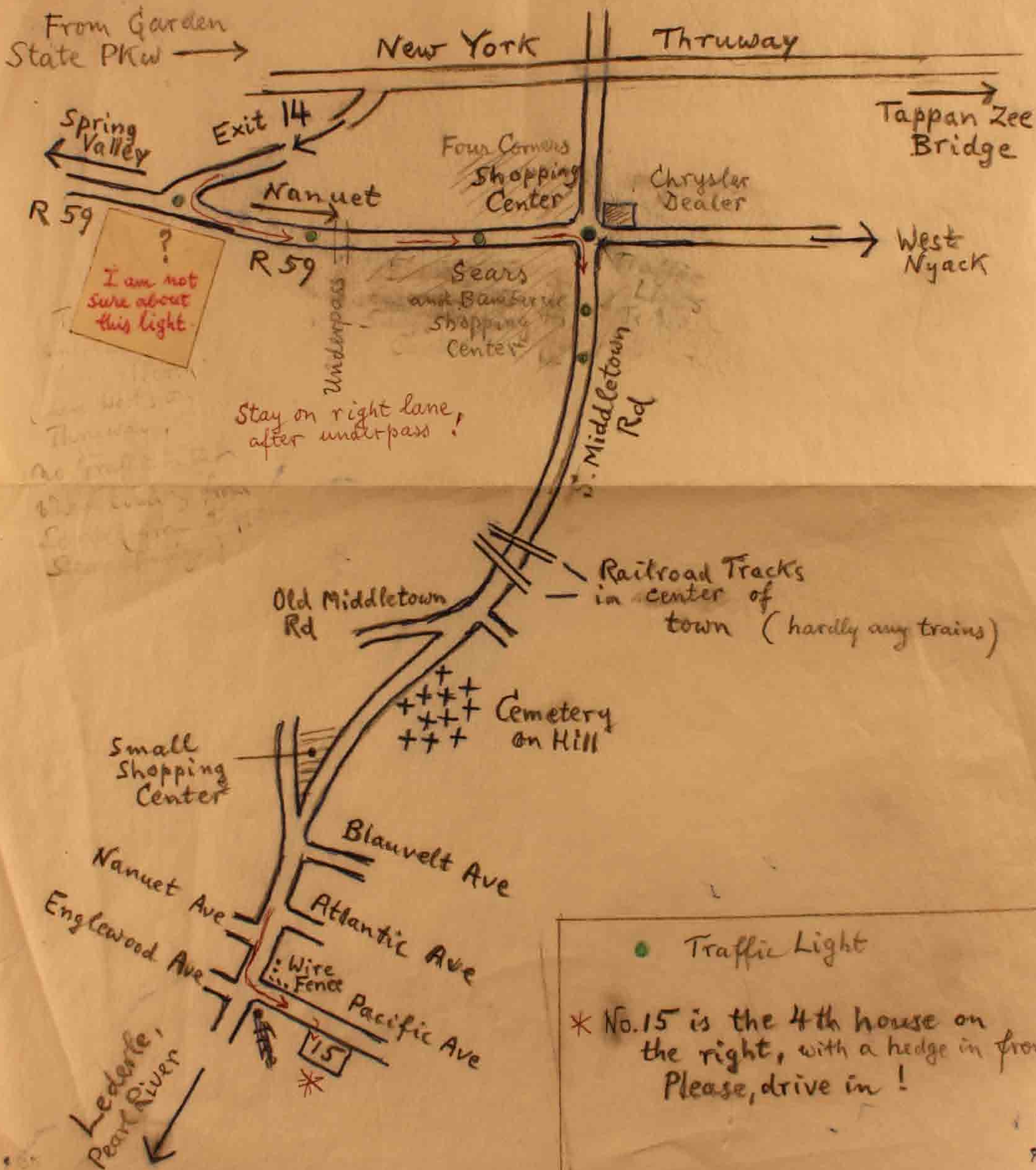
† True only for a short period at the monastery, Franciscan monastery.



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Memorandum

Could all be omitted?

27.2

28.2

Paul Snyder and the Rev. James Lyman had requested permission to leave Marash, ~~for each of them has completed~~ is now to return to the United States. The mulasarrif granted them the necessary hard permits, but asked ~~them~~ if they would be willing to accompany a caravan of friends ~~to~~ ~~transport~~ disabled French prisoners to the French outpost of Islatige.

Since most of these were amputees - Algerians and Senegalese soldiers who had suffered frozen limbs during the last days of the conflict -

boxes were prepared to be hung ~~on~~ on each side of a camel. On the morning the morning of April 5 the caravan assembled in front of the former hospital, and the disabled soldiers were loaded into the boxes. A group of Armenians who had secured permits to ~~leave~~ leave Marash for Adana led the procession, ~~the~~ and were followed by pack animals carrying baggage, the baggage of Snyder and Lyman, the two Americans and that of the Armenians. ~~and~~ The camels followed, each with ~~the~~ camouflaged 'housis' ~~and~~ resembling a ship with two camouflaged rooms occupied by the baggage of Armenians. Lyman brought up the rear on his horse, but Snyder was missing. His horse had been stolen at the last market. The caravan went on without him, while he sought another mount. ~~and~~ But before he could reach them had left the city. It had passed beyond the city on the Islatige road when Turkish gendarmes rode after them to with an order to return to Marash. ~~to~~

No explanation was ever offered for this cruel decision. It undoubtedly ~~caused~~ ~~caused~~ events at Antioch, Urfa and Gaziantep played a part.

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1-120

at the same time the
exchange

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120

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49/1

Amur.

Return to Marash

and return him of the

with my sister Maria.

to later changed the
with of NTR

A year later I was on my way back to Marash.
Mr. Lyman had written to me, appealing that I return ~~and return~~
to him so that he might join his Francis and get married. ~~He~~
~~considered apparently that did not consider the~~ Actually two young
Americans had been sent to Marash - Mr. Wm. Sage Worlworth
for work with the Amer. M. ~~Office~~ and ~~Christy~~ as Director
of M.R., - but this I did not know, ~~and~~ ~~Marash~~ was
~~unhappy~~

Not aware of the fact that two young men had been sent to ~~the~~
unhappy with the prospects program of graduate studies to which
in which I felt myself trapped, I offered my services again to
NTR and sailed for Beirut. In New York ~~before~~
My offer to return to Marash was accepted by NTR HQ, & I
sailed for Beirut. In N.Y. Miss Long had just returned from Marash,
informed me that two young women were at
studying the Language School in Constantinople had been assigned
for work with the M.R. in Marash, but were unable
to go there for want of an escort, for the Turks and French had
not yet settled their differences. I called to Dr. Pout of the
Amer. Board. On my ship in the Med. I called Dr. Pout
of the Amer. Board in Constantinople that I would ~~send the two girls to~~
~~Marash~~. If they would join me in Beirut of the two girls
would meet me in Beirut I would escort them to Marash, but
there was no reply.

In Aleppo I learned that ~~as on~~ the French and Turks
were still fighting over Antioch, and that the roads one could
travel to Antioch only with the French military convoys, which left
Aleppo once a month. Beyond Antioch to Hama beyond Antioch
would require a permit for entry. Turkish territory controlled by the
Turks would require a permit from Antioch.

A Mr. Miss Smith Cold formerly a missionary at
Hama, ~~was~~ ^{she} wanted to go to Marash, ~~thought~~ ^{thought} sent a friend

could be useful
Return to
to good returns

21

ca Aug. 19, 1931

26
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7-6

Could all
be omitted

message to Const. This time directed to the young women waiting for
an escort to Marash. On the eve of departure of the
Turk convoy the two girls arrived on a Precipit train
from Beirut, and were assigned seats in the Red Truck
which I was to drive. The convoy assembled at Aintab
at 10⁰⁰ started for Aintab in the very early hours while still dark.
It moved with the speed of the slowest vehicles in that of the infantrymen
who protected it. By noon under the Turkish animals were
lying in the heat, and after a while the column began to move
again after a long rest, we in the Amer. in the two trucks
decided to risk ~~finding~~ a way ahead without ^{any} military
protection. None of the ~~many~~ attacks on the ~~convoy~~
~~by the cck~~, ignoring the fact that ^{many} ~~Red~~ ^{Red} ~~convoy~~ had come
under heavy attack by cck, ~~fortunately we reached~~
~~Aintab without incident, and that this was the area~~
where we still had to pass the T. Mal. stream where Johnson
& Perry had been killed. ~~We reached Aintab without incident~~
and began negotiations with Antara ^{through our office - Constantinople} for permission to pass the
proceed to Marash. The Turkish outposts ~~Aintab was~~
~~under control of the Turk~~ but ~~Control~~ by the Turk extended
only a few miles north of Aintab.

Alternative:

A year later I was on my way back to Marash, stopped
in Aintab. With me were Miss T. L. Coll, an Amer. Board M. E. woman
for Nakhim, also two young Amer. girls who had just completed a year
of study in Turk. at Constantinople - Miss Elza Rehma & Miss Pauline
Ruhls, - and my sister ~~Maria~~ ^{scholarship} assigned to the
Marash Girls' College, and my sister Maria ^{for}
employed by NSR for work in Marash. We came
under protection of a large Turk military convoy as far as Aintab
but and then began negotiations with Antara through the M. E. ^{60/2-27/10}
NSR office in Const. for permission to proceed to Marash.