



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

"THE DAYS THAT I LIVED"

By Armen Garo (Dr. Karekin Pastermadjian)

Beirut, 1951, Aztag Press (232 pages)

Page 91 Then came the black months of October and November 1895, when all the cities and villages of Armenia was soaked with blood. According to newspapers 300,000 Armenians were massacred during those two months. Only Zeitun resisted the Turkish assaults.

... Meanwhile, we the Armenian students of Nantes (France), numbering 26, were holding meeting after meeting to decide what action to take, to revenge the crimes perpetrated on our kinsmen.

(out of 26 only four stick to their decisions in the end. They write letters to the Tashnak and Huntchak party organs in London and Geneve, expressing their readiness to go and fight in Zeitun or to take part in any terroristic acts against the enemy. Finally, after wandering from one city to ~~the other~~ another, making contacts and consulting revolutionary Tashnak groups, they land in Istanbul and decide to occupy the Ottoman Bank by force to threaten to blow it up to pieces including its occupants -about 175 in all - in order to force the Ambassadors of the European powers to execute the threats which they made to Turkey, following the massacres. The timetable for the occupation was set at August 10, 1896, at 12 o'clock noontime.) A.C.

Page 100: It was known to us that the Bank, though Ottoman in name, was actually a European institution. Furthermore, if we could succeed in holding its European employees as prisoners, then the intervention of the Ambassadors would be inevitable.

That night our final decisions were the following:

- 1) The attack on the Bank would take place at exactly 12 o'clock, with 75 men and 200 bombs (or explosives).
- 2) During the same hour, our comrades in Samatia, under the leadership of Knouni, Ardashes, Missakian, would attack the army barracks with bombs to force the army to come out ~~in~~ in the streets.
- 3) American Eduard (meaning an Armenian from the U.S.A.) with his four devoted men would wait at the Bridge of Ghalatia, and, at the arrival of the Satrap in his carriage, would annihilate ~~the~~ him with 8 hand-grenades.
- 4) On four points in Pera Street men would wait behind windows to hail bombs on the army when it moved towards the Bank.
- 5) Two youths from Moush would throw a huge bomb on the "Serai" (city hall) of Ghalatia, after the departure of the soldiers.
- 6) After the occupation of the Bank, our comrade Levon would rush to the European ambassies to distribute the pamphlets containing our demands.

Page 103: Papken, our general commander, turned and said: "Dear comrades, we should have been 75 here but only 31 have kept their promise (later only 26 attacked the Bank, the others defected). Shame to those who are infirm in their promise! We shall assault the Bank and hold it as a hostage until the European powers fulfill our demands. When you are in the building do not fire any shots inside and do not harm anybody. Fire only outside towards the army and the populace."

Page 116: At four o'clock we had three dead, six seriously wounded, two with light wounds.

Page 118: When we reached the 3-rd floor, people were looking at us with terror. I explained to them that they didn't have to fear us, we were revolutionaries and we were holding the Bank to force the European Embassies to intervene and end the Armenian massacres.

Page 120: I tried to ~~make~~ calm everybody: "Don't be scared, we are not criminals and we are not thieves. We are Armenians and we have entered here to defend ~~the~~ ~~cause~~ the cause of our people.

About 150 were herded in that hall. Very politely I tried to explain to them our purpose: Until we receive assurances that there will be no more Armenian massacres and the reforms promised will be instituted, we shall not leave the Bank. If they force us ~~back~~ out, we will fight to the last bullet and then blow this building with explosives.

Page 137: Exactly at one o'clock (after midnight) we heard some ~~whistles~~ whistles. We approached the window. They were five men with a lantern.

Page 138: Mr. Obino (an Italian), who had left the Bank as our negotiator, turned to me and said:

"Mr. Garo (leader Papken was killed during the fight, so Garo was acting as chief), I have the honor to introduce to you Mr. Maximoff, who is authorized by all the Ambassadors to negotiate with you ...

"I am coming from the Palace. His Imperial Excellency has asked me to lead you to a ship ..."

"But, Mr. Maximoff, we did not enter this place in order that you take the trouble of caring for our safety ..."

"My dear friends, in spite of my personal sympathy towards your cause, as the representative of Russia, I am compelled to tell you that my government is absolutely against any military intervention in the internal affairs of Turkey. Consequently, your demands can not materialize.

"In that case, all talk is futile. We will be obliged to execute our threat. Let 150 Europeans also be massacred under the ruins of this building. May be only then you will change your mind. The blood of 300,000 of our victims has not dried yet, and still you are against intervening ~~in~~ militarily in the internal affairs of Turkey.

Page 141: Finally, Maximoff proposed the following: if until daylight we left the Bank, he promised on his honor:

- 1) To do everything he could to stop massacres in Istanbul the next day.
- 2) To try to see to it that reforms would be instituted during the next six months.

Page 154: (In the ship making for Marseille) Just at that moment the French interpreter intervened: "Had it not been for your silly act of yesterday, the blood of your kinsmen would not have flown in the streets of Istanbul today."

"You mean to say that ~~yesterday~~ the massacres continued also today?"

"More violently than yesterday and you are responsible for this ~~for~~ ~~your~~ with your imprudent act."

I hurried to Maximoff.

"Mr. Maximoff, is it true that the massacres continued also today?"

"Unfortunately ~~yes~~ yes," said he by lowering his head.

"But what became of your promise..."

"In spite of all my efforts, we could not halt the massacres, but we hope that by tomorrow everything will calm down."

- - - - -



Page 179: After the Bank episode, the French government forbid our entry into France until 1900. During those four years I stayed in Geneva and completed my doctorate in physico-chemical sciences. After graduation I left for America. After spending eight months there, in the summer of 1901, I left for Caucasia. (Having an eye to find a job in Baku's petroleum industry.)

Washington, 1920, April 11

---

THE BATTLE OF ARARA

By Hovhannes Boghossian\* (Paris)

From Zartonk Daily, Sept. 19, 20, 21, 1968

\*Hovhannes Boghossian, an old writer in Paris, has a 58-page article in the "Memorial Book ..." (pages 957-1014) entitled, "The Armenian Question and the Arm. National Delegation". On the anniversary of the battle of Arara (Sept. 19, 1918), he signed an article in Zartonk Daily, from which I want to translate a few lines.  
A.C.

The little Armenian colony of France in 1914 counted 2500 souls. From these 800 fought in the French Army as volunteers in the battles of Somme, Champagne and Verdun.

The principle cause of this instinctive movement was the conviction that the war would be decisive for the Armenian cause and from its outcome would depend the liberation of the Armenian people.

In order to extend the volunteers' movement in the U.S.A., the National Union of Egypt sent a delegation headed by Mihran Damadian.

(During the battle of Arara) Kuchuk Jemal Pasha commanded the 4-th Turkish regiment; Moustapha Kemal Pasha commanded the 7-th regiment, and Jevad Pasha commanded the 8-th regiment.

---

"FROM DEIR ES-ZOR TO YEREVAN" By Khosrov Tutundjian  
"NAYIRI" Year 15, 45-50 combined issues (Oct. 17, 1968)

Page 28: An Armenian soldier saved the life of Enver Pasha at the battle of Sarikamish, in December, 1914.

Page 29: When the criminal leaders of the Ottoman government fled from Istanbul in the autumn of 1918, the government of Lenin gave them free refuge in the palaces of the Kremlin.

Besides giving hospitality to the Armenociders Enver, Djamel and Khalil Pasha, he also offered considerable financial and military help to the Kemalist movement, the first act of which was Kyazim Karabekir's invasion on Armenia, in September 1920. Simultaneously the Allied powers, the great victors who had signed the Treaty of Sevres on the 10-th of August 1920, were refusing all help to their little "ally", the Republic of Armenia.

The British Marshal Allenby, after transferring Cilicia to the French, was leaving all the ammunition of the "Yuldurum" army (the Turkish army) to the Tchétés, to be used against the French and the Armenians.

- - - - -