



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

Use in Messovis

not in Lines of Messovis

Part III. Supplement
at beginning of Part IV

Problems of Food and Sanitation

After ten days of fighting we took stock of our situation. There was nothing to assure us that it might not continue for many weeks. Reaching this, Dr. Nelson assigned to me the responsibility for maintaining our supplies. "You are appointed our 'Herbert Hoover'!" he said. Since Paul was actually the quartermaster, we shared the task. All Blankets had ~~not~~ been distributed the first night, and there was no more clothing. The supply of soap permitted the distribution of one cake each week for the entire ^{within our walls} population - then ~~at~~ about 1000. Limitations on Cleanliness, however, was limited more by facilities for bathing ^{and laundry} rather than by ^{lack of soap} ~~water~~ as they were, with no clothing other than what they wore and a change of clothing was not ^{in use} out of the quarter, for ^{no one} had more than what he wore. Conditions such as those during the period of crisis in 1915 had ~~caused epidemics of typhus~~ ^{permitted typhus} to multiply, ~~and~~ with epidemics of typhus as a result.

shortage of blankets

Our limited supply of tinned milk was retained for children and nursing mothers. One hot meal was prepared each day for all, out of doors in huge kettles.

~~... no one else. 1000 crowded in a store, prepared out of doors in huge kettles!~~ This consisted of a stew made by cooking cracked wheat coarsely ^{parboiled} ~~ground~~ wheat, together with mutton or horse meat, without salt, which was not available. The refugee women ground the wheat in stone mills exactly like those about a foot in diameter exactly 1:1. These ~~for~~ ^{for} used in ^{for} ~~3000~~ 3000 years. Two women seated on the ground turned one stone on top of another. In addition to the stew, each refugee received one loaf of bread daily. - the flat pie-shaped native ^{variety} ~~bread~~ - ~~called~~ ^{called} at Sborazh or phlange.

boulogne -

Meat supply

In addition to the stew, we received one loaf of bread daily. The flat pie-shaped native variety ~~called~~ ^{called} at Sborazh or phlange.

Our stock of winter wheat for the explanage was being diminished rapidly at an alarming rate by the entire thousand mouths to be fed, but two 'wind-falls' helped to correct the shortage. An Armenian living near the hospital offered for sale eight ~~tonnes~~ ^{tonnes} (two and a half tons) (five thousand pounds) of rice, stored in his house. Obviously, he was likely to lose it in any case, unless ~~the~~ the military situation took a turn for the better. The price he asked was reasonable, and rice would be a welcome change from ^{boulogne} ~~cracked~~ wheat, so we bought it on condition with the provision that he deliver it to the German hospital. A dozen busy refugees agreed to carry it the rice to the College on ~~their~~ ^{their} backs, portage charges to be paid in rice. Paul and I escorted them to the hospital, and supervised the unloading where the rice had been deteriorated, and supervised the transport during two nights. † [Was this rice purchased from Levon Yernotkian? And did he get paid for it?]

at night

With Yernotkian.

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harass

Suffering

The other source of food came from Turkish houses in the ravine, where gite continued to ^{harass} trouble the French. Even after two heavy attacks by the French with rifle grenades ^{the} Turkish rifle fire from that quarter continued ^{their rifle fire, thus notifying the French that} still. Finally the general decided to destroy the quarter. After ~~that~~ another attack was made with grenades. Then a detachment of fifteen soldiers went over ~~the~~ ^{for a search and destroy operation} wall to clear the quarter, house by house. They were accompanied by Armenians with picks and axes to cut holes in the mud-brick walls, and to collect whatever

food supplies were discovered. They returned with sacks of basmati (parboiled wheat), and all sorts of winter food supplies ^{these} ~~which~~ ^{assigned} were deposited in our compound for use by the refugees. ^{in our compound} The houses were then set afire. A French officer was seen carrying ^{off} an armful of Turkish oriental rugs. By morning all of the houses in that quarter were smoldering ruins.

This event ^{reminded} ~~reminded~~ us that the Turkish civilian population also was suffering the effects of ^{battle} ~~war~~. Their leaders had decided to wage a war of liberation and had asked the people to endure every hardship. Christian churches were being ~~destroyed~~ on the charge that they were being used as forts. Likewise the French shelled the Turkish mosques ^{for} because snipers were firing from their minarets into the ^{churches} orphanages, and the college compound. The balance sheet, however, showed the Christian population suffering by far the greatest losses.

Although Paul and I were at first exhilarated by the drama of battle, we soon realized that our little adventures paled into insignificance in the dreadful light of the burning city and the slaughter of thousands of innocent civilians. We were sobered still more by when we witnessed the tragedy of the Solatlian family, and saw in our hospital little children with dreadful wounds.

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spett.



and Miss Blatky took turns sitting

The American missionaries had been strict in permitting no firing from the College compound. Miss Kate Ainslee sat at the east gateway day after day, disarming anyone who sought shelter there, and already a room full of ancient weapons had accumulated. The Japs, however, could not know this, and were certainly aware of the presence of troops ^{defending} in the eastern compound; and of the 75 mm. cannon in the Seminary front of the Seminary, for this was inflicting severe punishment on them. Hence all three compounds were subjected to increased severity of machine gun and rifle fire. Machine guns on the hill east of us showered bullets on the Wilson and by main houses, and on the adjoining Beitel Girls' Orphanage, ^{and} children were being wounded. One bullet passed through the skull of one child into the thigh of another. It was shocking to see the little girl conscious with brain tissue pressing out of her wounds.

The Wilson's bedroom was by far the most exposed. Before the fighting started Mrs. Wilson had employed a seamstress to replenish her wardrobe, and in her closet was hanging a number of pretty dresses. One morning she was ~~captured~~ to noted with chagrin that a single bullet had plowed through the entire rack of new dresses. The bullet fulfilled its ironic mission - ^{it} was not a time for vanity, nor for planning the future. The Wilsons moved their ~~mattress~~ bedding to the floor below for better protection, and a few days later to the College where the refugee women ~~had~~ each had only one set of ragged clothing. And within a few days Japs' fire ~~was~~ from another quarter was concentrated on the College buildings. Miss Hardy found six bullets embedded in the walls of her room. There was no place to hide!

In the belief that the Wilson house should not be abandoned, lest the enemy

welsh part the exposed areas

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Finally, ~~another~~ tragedy occurred in our own household. In a sharp attack the Turks rained rifle fire on our ~~house~~ compound. The women and children as usual fled to the basement for shelter, but one bullet passed through the frame of the front door, ~~striking~~ ^{struck} the stone wall and ricocheted down the stair-well, to the basement. There it struck ^{slightly} a part of twenty years between the shoulders, paralyzing her ~~from that level down~~. The girl and her mother were well ~~longer~~ ^{longer} to each of us, had ~~long~~ ^{become} members of the family, ~~and~~ ^{had} assisting Mrs. Wilson in the care of the house and its refugee population, and were beloved members of our family.

Dr. Wilson operated on her that night, hoping that removal of the bullet might ease pressure on the spinal cord. I was assisting at the table and saw how moved he was to find the cord crushed. The girl ~~did not~~ ^{survived several days} ~~die~~.

Our gate-keeper Samuel learned that all of his children ~~were~~ ^{had been} killed. Bopdas Jozalian - buyer for Beirut exchange and for our household - now a refugee in the bygone house. ~~was~~ ^{was left} that his wife, three sons and a daughter ~~were~~ ^{were} dead.

Confirm!

A new source of danger developed on February 1, when a ~~shell~~ 75 mm. shell crashed through the roof of the Emergency Hospital, and another General's headquarters, and another ~~fell~~ into the attic of the Emergency Hospital next door. No one was injured! Theodore Bulbulian had been giving ~~dedicated~~ ^{dedicated} service as a volunteer night-nurse in the hospital, sleeping during the day in the attic. The shell landed six feet from his bed, but ~~did not~~ ^{did not} explode properly. Instead, the nose cone, filled with shrapnel, blew off away from him. Therefore ~~he~~ picked up his mattress and resumed his sleep on the floor below among the patients.

Another Turkish cannon placed a number of shells in Beth Shalom exchange, one of them landing in Miss Buckley's bathtub. during an attack from the north

Anyone injured?

The Turkish account states that "two mountain cannons were brought into play under the command of Lt. First Lieutenant Joubert, but lack of ammunition prevented the frontal attack from being carried forward. The French command, realizing the significance of the situation, started an effective shelling of the Turkish forces, using six mountain cannon stationed near the barracks. The Turkish forces, with chains, were obliged to attack from other sides."

They turned against Beth Shalom exchange, sending a number of shells into that compound, one of them landing in Miss Buckley's bathtub.

Injuries??

100 ct
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two separate accounts by Armenians state that the many of the residents of the Armenian quarter were promised protection and were taken to the Ulu-Jami (The Great Mosque), where they were slaughtered. Hesitating ~~Reluctant~~ ^{Hesitating} to kill the children

a Turk ~~is~~ reported to have asked the Dargi Zade Hoja "Hoja, shall we slaughter the children, too? Does the Koran give

permission?" "Yes, the Koran permits," ^{he answered} "We must kill the ^{offspring} of the Scorpions, too. But they might say not show and ^{sting} us!"

It was these whose bodies ~~the~~ ^{were} dragged to the edge of the city to be cremated in the lime hills

~~There is no doubt~~

The only survivors were those who reached the Church of the Holy Virgin, hence the fate of ~~the~~ the others cannot be doubted. One wonders, however, who could have heard the conversation among the ~~fellows~~ and lived to report it!

(over)

* Proc. + B.P. Materne Mure. p. 9.

A. Hartunian, p. 137.

As the Turkish onlookers had weapons. Confidently. [over] we found nothing.

Two years later I received a letter from ~~the~~ ^{my} Arman. ~~Account of that~~ whose ~~and~~ house was in that quarter. He ~~had~~ ^{was} not at home at the time of the attack & had ~~not~~ ^{was} not been home, and later, ^{he} escaped to Aleppo. ~~But~~ He begged me to search for a sack of gold coins which he had buried under the floor in one side of the fireplace. A cousin, whom he named, could identify the house, but I was not to trust the cousin to accomplish this ~~work~~ ^{errand} at this juncture alone!

Together with the cousin and a gendarme I went to the ^{Arman's} quarter where not a single house remained. It was scarcely possible to identify the streets, but eventually ~~our~~ ^{my} guide located the exact spot and began to dig. Meanwhile a crowd of Turkish ~~men~~ ^{youths} gathered, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~curious~~ ^{stupidly} aroused. They began saying wagers that we would find nothing, for they knew the technique of the massacre: ~~On entering a house after they overcome any resistance~~ ~~As soon as any~~ ^{As soon as} resistance was overcome and the house had been entered, the dejectedest victims would try to buy their ~~way~~ ^{way} for mercy, offering any ~~thing~~ ^{treasure} in return for life.

Perhaps the digging had ~~hardly~~ ^{scarcely} begun when a messenger from the chief of police asked me to ~~go~~ ^{return} with him to the ~~Police~~ ^{Police} H. Q.

There the chief asked me to bring any treasure found to his office, to be opened in his presence. In return he would send his men to guard me.



She ~~was~~ ^{had} been under the care of Dr. Elliott, and was expected to enter the hospital for delivery of her third child within a short time. Dr. Elliott had become well known in admiration for the young couple. ^{the} Beginnings Again at A sarat. p. 72] each of them graduates of American mission schools. She and her husband were both graduates of American missionary schools. They were a happy couple, devoted to each other, and their two little children, with pretty manners and sturdy young bodies dressed in the dainty clothes she had made for them, resembled us of American youngsters at home. All summer long Mrs. Solakian was singing at her work of making over the older babies' clothes for the new one. Often on the evenings she and her husband went for a walk, and stopped for a moment to call on us. I can see them yet, crossing across the compound under the trees, her dark hair combed back from her face, bare head and curling about her eyes ears, and her young husband in his ministerial coat and collar, so proud of her and so careful of her. * *

Elliott: Beginnings again at A sarat
 *
 later

(?) — The Fund Destroy an Armenian Community that afternoon the Fund decided to destroy a certain Armenian section which in any case was threatened by the Turks, for the sake of better defense. Ad must Lt. ~~Conroy~~ led the Armenians from that area to the College yard, then set fire to the vacated houses. The new refugees — 150 of them — raised the tent in the College compound to about 1000, and these had to be fed. The Fund took no responsibility for this task. In fact, they had no food for their own horses and mules. These had been brought into the College compound for safety, for those outside were shot by the Turks. Inside the compound they chewed the bark off trees and slowly starved. From miniature Turkish snipers could see these animals, and began to fire into the compound,

Courtesy

Wounding both the animals and the crowded refugees