

Avedis Sefenan

Abstract from his letters & interview.



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

Avedis Sefenan

I



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

Sept. 25, 1968

Dear Mr. Seferian:

It was a great pleasure for me to meet you and so many other Marashkies at Watertown recently, and my only regret is that there was not enough time to get more details of your experiences, and the complete stories of others. Your own story covers such a big range - from 1912 to 1920 - that I want to make use of it, and need more details. I would be very grateful if you would write to me, giving information about the questions listed below.

- ① You were studying veterinary medicine in 1912. Where was this school? Was it a military school - or part of a civilian school?
- ② Did you participate in the Balkan Wars - 1912-13? In what area?
- ③ At the time of the military manoeuvres when Enver Pasha observed you, what was your rank? Ombashi, Yuzbashi?



II

④ When you were ~~court-martialed~~ "tried" in court - in Marash (in 1915?) did the Turks ever charge you with having written that letter to your brother - about revolution, etc.?

⑤ What was your relationship to the Kherlakian family? and which one of the Kherlakians became a friend of Sultan Abdul Hamid?

⑥ When the Kherlakians attempted to make friends with the Turkish officials - in order to obtain your release from hanging - was it the Judge, or the Police Chief, or which official? The one to whom they gave the golden *narpilek*?

⑦ When you were released from prison - how did you get the job of mail-carrier for the Germans? Was this a civilian or a military position?

⑧ Later, when you were deported to Deir-az Zor or Damascus - was it at a time when all Armenians working on the railroad were deported? Exactly, where did they send you?



III

- (9) When did you return to Marash (from Damascus)? After the British had occupied Marash? How did you travel? By train? or by boat to Mersin?
- (10) Did the Armenians organize for the defense of Marash before the French occupation - or after the French came? Who was the leader - or commander? (Give as much detail as possible about this! The Turks were also organizing and arming.)!
- (11) The Tash Khan was an important defense post for the Armenians. ~~Did the~~ The Turks claim that they captured this from the Armenians! Is this true?
- (12) When Col. Normand's column reached Marash (about Feb. 10th) - he ordered the French troops (who held the ~~the~~ South & the southern part of the city) to join him and evacuate that part of Marash. I think the commander was Lt. Corneloup(?)



IV

although these troops were supposedly
under order of General Querelette.

Was it at that time that you also
went and joined the French column?

Tell me some details about this!

Surely the Armenians must have
realized this that the French were
going to abandon Marash!

(13)

During this period who were
the Kherlakian family? And at
what time did they attempt to follow
the French? At midnight? or
on the next morning? I suppose it
was after daylight, as otherwise they
should have escaped. Do you know
how many Armenians were in that
group??

I am writing this from our
summer place in the Berkshire, and
regret that I do not have my type-
writer here with me! If you cannot
read my bad hand-writing - please



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VI

return this letter to me -

address

Stanley E Kerr

109 Cedar Lane

Princeton, N.J

08540

• I shall type it for you!

In any case reply to the Princeton address!

I would like to have the address of Sarkis Muncherian and Charles Chinian

if you know them.

Many Thanks for your cooperation.
I hope to return to Watertown sometime again and, if I come I shall get in touch with you!

Sincerely yours

Stanley E Kerr



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Mr. Charles Chinican
38 Bates Road
Watertown, Mass.



Questions (cont)

At what point did the desert meet the Euphrate?
at Carabonid?

Ran away for Camp towards Aleppo
- with others?

What happened to Mr. Zoran?
Conditions in Damascus? In the city
or were you being misled?

Did the Turks ever capture the
Teak Khan?

Repeat story of how he was
wounded - Were the 150 persons in his
house killed? or escape to Church?

Camp survivors of the 200-300 Am
who attempted to follow the Turk way

Do. Artin der Shagerin
- Farat(?) Kherlekhan

Which Kherlekhan lost his head?