



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

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Dear Avedis Effendi:

Your last letter helped me complete the history of your adventures and I am very grateful to you for all the time and effort you have given. I must apologize for being so slow in sending the photos which I had promised. Several days ago I took the negatives to the photo shop and they should be ready to mail to you by Monday ~~next~~ the 28th. Since I plan to publish some of these in my book, I trust that you will not give them to anyone who will publish them. Already a number of my pictures have been published without my permission.

A new book has just been published by the son of Badvelli Abraham Harutunian of Marash. In this a number of my photos are published, one of them being on the paper cover. I wonder how he obtained them. I knew the Badvelli well, and perhaps I gave the pictures to him back in 1920. Did you know him? He was pastor of the First Protestant Church.

I am enclosing two copies of a map of Marash (one for you to keep) and one to be returned to me. Can you mark on the map with a letter the following:

- A. for the location of your house
- B. " " " " the Boolgourjian house
- C. " " " " " Tash Khan
- D. The road to Islahiyeh.
- E. Dr. Hatcher's (?) house.

Concerning Dr. Hatcher, I must tell you the following. On Jan 26 1920 an Armenian came to the American compound with the information that 200 Armenians were defending themselves in Dr. Hatcher's house, but were nearly out of ammunition, and needed help. I went to the French headquarters and asked if they could send some soldiers. The Major said to me: "I can spare only four men, but no officers. You will have to lead them. Come as soon as it is dark." The location of the place where the Armenians were defending themselves was in the quarter near the Third Protestant Church, not far from the Kishla.

Just after it became dark I started to collect the four soldiers but stopped at the small emergency hospital in the American compound to speak to the doctor. On the operating table was a young Armenian girl - Miriam Haydostian - who had just been brought in with a bullet through her knee. I asked her "Where did you get shot?" She replied: "In Dr. Hatcher's house" she replied. She then told me how the men had run out of ammunition and had agreed to ~~the~~ surrender, since the Turks promised that they would not harm them. They had no choice of course. When the men came out they were shot. Then the Turks came with axes and knives to kill the women and children. Miriam and some others jumped out of the windows and ran. She was shot through the knee but managed to crawl up the slope of the ravine to the French trenches. Another who nearly escaped was the wife of Badvelli Solakian. She was stabbed seven times, and the baby she was carrying was killed, but she reached the French trenches and was brought to the hospital, but died the next day.

I realize that Hatcher is not an Armenian name, and I wonder if it could have been Khatcha dourian or something like that. According to Mrs. Solakian the Armenians were in a school and on the map is the Rushdi School (No. 17) not far from the Third Church (No. 11) Was the Rushdi School Armenian or Turkish?



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With regard to the "flag incident" the Turkish historian writes "One evening the military governor- Andrea - was attending a banquet at the home of one of the Armenians, as was his custom, and wanted to dance with the host's daughter. The Armenian girl said that she did not care to dance in a city where there were no French or Armenian flags flying. Consequently the Governor ordered that the Turkish flag flying at the Castle should be lowered. The next day November 28th 1919 Friday morning, on awakening the people saw that the French flag had replaced the Turkish flag." Then he proceeds to tell how the Turks tore down the French flag and replaced it with the Turkish flag.

The French deny that this happened, but Badvelli Harutunian in his book confirms the Turkish story. So it is difficult to know the truth

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You mentioned in one of your letters that you had a store in the Tash Khan. From the French accounts I understood that this was in the hands of the French or the Armenian Legionnaires during the battle, but the Turks claim that they captured it. The Turkish historian writes: In Marash the bazaar, in the hands of the French, was being fortified. The Tash Khan there had to be captured by us, since it commanded the Turkish positions. Muallim Evliya Eff. who had been fighting since the beginning of the battle, took with him enough fighters to ~~capture~~ clean out the French, and captured it. After this he turned northward and continued mopping up - one by one of the houses near the barracks where French and Armenians had taken shelter, but an enemy bullet killed Evliya Eff and he became a martyr."

Did the Turks actually capture the Tash Khan?

You must have suffered a good deal from the wound in your hip, walking all the way to Islahie, especially since it was very cold and there was much snow.

I do not know yet how much of these details I shall use in my book, but certainly a good deal. Your personal experiences cover the whole period from the Balkan wars to the final exodus of 1920. It will take me another year to complete the writing, but I shall let you know when it is published. I trust that we shall meet again in Watertown.

Sincerely yours.

Stanley E. Kerr.

P.S. Do you remember the name of the Marash Turk who became Sheikh of Islah in Constantinople - ?

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