

Turkish Authorities.

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„ALIK“ Book Edition No.4

(1915-1922)

They drove the whole people -
perfect mothers and dumb -
no other object than to

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF

APRIL MASSACRES

1915-1975

TURKISH GENOCIDE OF

ONE AND A HALF MILLION ARMENIANS

DURING FIRST WORLD WAR

FOREIGN WITNESSES

Compiled by: A. AMOURIAN

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FOREWORD

The documents in this booklet are of foreign witnesses, even of a Turk, Naim Bey, who has been a Turkish official in Messopotamia, eye-witnessing the deportations and massacres of the Armenians and whose conscience has made him to provide documents to an Armenian emigrant by the name of Aram Andonian, who has published these facts bringing up the Turkish Interior Minister, killer Taleat Pasha's hand-written orders to massacre all Armenians without any exception - children, women, elderly and youngsters.

This Turkish government massacre of one and half million Armenians is the first genocide, which was imitated by Hitler who in his speech exclaimed "who remembers the Armenian massacre in the First World War".

These facts reported in the period 1916-1917 by European and American press during the First World War are bestowed herewith to the conscience of all readers. But Naim Bey's given facts are received in Constantinopole in 1919.

1975 is the 60th Anniversary (1915-1975) of these massacres and the Armenian people in 40 countries of the

world remember and revive the memory of the 1,500,000 martyres of the Turkish genocide.

Today the Armenian people protest and acclaim their great losses and they should not stop to do so until the conscience of the whole world awakes and the Armenian people acquire their human and national justified rights.

Herewith enclosed are original reprints of foreign press, statesmen, eye-witnesses and announcements.

R E P O R T S

- 1) "WOMEN AND CHILDREN BURNED ALIVE IN ARMENIA"
Says Bryce
International News Service
- 2) "GUILT IS THE KAISER'S" - Salem Musleh
New York, Oct. 15, 1915
- 3) "THE ARMENIAN MASSACRES"
An American Eyewitness Story
To the Editor of the Tribune
Clarence D. Ussher, M.D.
East Hartford, Conn. Nov. 9, 1915
- 4) "FRANCE AND ARMENIA"
New York Tribune, Wedn. December 27, 1916,
Page 8.
- 5) "LAST ARMENIANS DYING IN DESERT, TORTURED
EXILES"
New York Tribune, Monday, January 1, 1917
Page 4.
- 6) "LIBERAL LEADER'S SCHEME OF CONQUEST"
The Manchester Guardian, Saturday, February 10,
1917. Page 4.

- 7) "THE CLEAN-FIGHTING TURK"
The Times, Friday, Feb. 23, 1917, Page 5
- 8) "THE CLEAN-FIGHTING TURK"
The Times, Saturday, Feb. 24, 1917, Page 7
- 9) "ARMENIAN SUFFERINGS"
Mr. Balfour's Message
The Daily Telegraph - Monday, Feb.26, 1917,
Page 7.
- 10) "ARMENIAN POETS"
New York Tribune
Saturday, January 27, 1917 - Page 6
- 11) "BRYCE'S OPINION OF THE TURK"
The Brooklyn Daily Eagle
New York, Sunday, Jan. 28, 1917 - Page 4
- 12) "EVERY ARMENIAN IN TOWN KILLED"
Despatch to the Daily Mail from Odessa
- 13) "EXTERMINATING THE ARMENIANS"
To the Editor of the Tribune
Vincent Yardum
New York, October 20, 1915

- 14) "GENOCIDE ARMENIANS IN TURKEY"
Russian author, Alexander Karpovitch
"Novoye Rousskoye Slovo"
Daily New York - September 1974
- 15) "THE MEMOIRES OF NAIM BEY"
Turkish official Documents relating to
the Deportations and Massacres of
Armenians
Compiled by
Aram Andonian
With an introduction by
Viscount Gladstone
With illustrations and Facsimile Documents

Women and Children Burned Alive in Armenia, Says Bryce

Bishop Put to Death in Public Square.
"Butcher Battalions" Wipe Out
Whole Towns, He Charges.

By International News Service.

London, Nov. 28.—Lord Bryce made public to-night fresh details of Armenian atrocities which "surpass in horror, if that were possible, what has been published already.

"The evidence comes from an Armenian gentleman at Tiflis who received it from refugees from the regions where the events described happened.

"The sufferings of peasants and mountaineers in the regions of Van, Mush and Sasun seem to have been more terrible than those of the townsfolk."

Many of these atrocities, Lord Bryce points out, are vouched for by several coincident testimonies. Following are extracts from Lord Bryce's charges:

Tells of "Butcher Battalions."

"In May Djevdet Bey, the Military Governor, expelled from Van, fled southward and entered Sairt with 8,000 soldiers, whom he called his 'Butcher Battalions.' He massacred most of the Christians of Sairt.

"On the best authority it is reported that he ORDERED HIS SOLDIERS TO BURN IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE THE ARMENIAN BISHOP, EGLISHE VARTABED, AND THE CHALDEAN BISHOP, ADDA ISHER.

"On June 25 the Turks surrounded Bitlis, cut communications with the neighboring Armenian villages and took away most of the able-bodied men by domiciliary visits.

"During the following days all the men who had been put under arrest were shot outside the town and buried in deep trenches dug by themselves. The young women and children were distributed among the rabble. The remainder, the 'useless lot,' were driven south and are believed to have been drowned in the Tigris.

Whole Families Die by Poison.

"Any attempt at resistance was quelled by the regular troops. Many Armenians after firing their last cartridges either took poison by whole families or killed themselves in their homes in order not to fall into the hands of the Turks.

"Thus the Turks disposed of about 15,000 Armenians in Bitlis.

"At Mush early in July the Turkish authorities demanded their arms from the Armenians and a large ransom.

"The leading men of the town and the headsmen of the villages were subjected to revolting tortures. Their finger nails and toe nails were forcibly extracted, their teeth knocked out and their noses whittled down, the victims being done to death under lingering agonies.

"The female relatives who came to the rescued were outraged before the eyes of the mutilated men, while the shrieks and death cries of the victims filled the air.

"In Mush the Armenians entrenched themselves in the churches and stone houses and fought for four days in self-defense. But the Turkish artillery, manned by German officers, made short work of all the Armenian positions.

"Every Armenian was killed fighting, and when silence reigned over the ruins a Moslem rabble descended upon the women and children and drove them out of town into large camps.

Women and Children Burned to Death.

"The shortest means employed for disposing of the women and children in these concentration camps was by burning them. Fire was set to large wooden sheds in Ailjan, Megrakom, Khaskogh and other Armenian villages and the helpless women and children were roasted to death.

"Many went mad and threw away their children. Some knelt and prayed amid the flames. Others shrieked for help which came from nowhere.

"The executioners who seem to have been unmoved by the unparalleled savagery grasped the infants by one leg, and hurled them into the fire, calling to the burning mothers: 'Here are your

Guilt Is the Kaiser's.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Every sober, intelligent and true American and every farsighted and truth loving reader will shower congratulations on you for your very real cartoon of October 14, showing the murderous Kaiser, disguised in his ally's khaki, exterminating the heroic Armenian race. Why does President Wilson begin sending messages to Turkey warning her of the consequences of her murderous policy? Why not address the Kaiser himself, because he is the murderer of Armenians (despite the denial of von Bernstorff), and Enver Pacha is only an agent.

SALEM MUSLEH.

New York, Oct. 15, 1915.

THE ARMENIAN MASSACRES

An American Eyewitness's Story of the Ghastly Crimes Committed by the Turkish Authorities.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: This morning's Tribune has a letter from His Excellency Zia Mufi-Zadi Bey in reply to a letter from a Mr. O. T. Malghazouny, published November 4. I do not happen to have seen the letter to which he refers, but inasmuch as I was in Van during the entire siege and in close touch with both Moslems and Christians, I beg you to give this letter publicity equal to that given to Zia Bey's letter in to-day's issue.

I note that he draws attention to the fact that Mr. Malghazouny "does not deny the rebellion of the Armenians at Van." I have been told that Zia Bey published in "The Times" in October a letter in which he made the charge that the Armenians of Van rebelled and that the Ottoman government was suppressing rebellion in the measures it took against the Armenians. He used a photograph published in "The Literary Digest" of October 9 as proof that the Armenians were in rebellion and that the Americans aided them. It is unfortunate that those in prominent official positions, like Zia Bey, should be misinformed and endeavor to protect the good name of their governments by errors in statement.

Permit me to say, first, that "The Literary Digest" by the explanation under the above mentioned photograph misinformed Zia Bey. This stated that the Armenians, taken unawares and many of them massacred, fled to the American Mission compound, fortified it and directed their fight against the Turks from that place until the Turks retired. The first part of this statement is true, the latter part utterly false. The trench photographed was a full mile from the American Mission compound. The compound was never fortified in any way, and all through the siege its neutrality was maintained.

No armed man was permitted to enter the premises, even cartridge belts being removed at the gate when men with revolvers desired to come in to see some relative or friend. No shot was ever fired from the American Mission at the Ottoman forces or any others, and the Americans were so determined to preserve the neutrality and extra-territoriality of their premises that they as-

sured the Governor General, Jevdet Bey, a brother-in-law of Damed-Enver Pacha, that they would themselves shoot any one who dared to fire from the American premises be he Christian or Moslem, civil or military.

During the siege there were more than twenty Ottoman soldiers in the American Mission hospital and six thousand Armenian refugees, mostly women and children in the mission compound. After the siege the Armenians brought us about one thousand Mussulman refugees, men, women and children, and a number of wounded and sick Turkish soldiers, and all were tenderly cared for by American and Armenian Christians and the Russian Red Cross workers.

As to the revolution or rebellion of Armenians as a cause of the massacres and other atrocities by the Turkish military, the facts are as follows: From the beginning of the mobilization it was made perfectly evident that it was the determination of the government to ruin the non-Moslems. The men were removed from their homes and shops and then their houses and shops were plundered in the name of the government. Cooking utensils, copper vessels, bedding, clothing, food and other things, even bric-a-brac, were seized, and the meanest Turkish gendarme was given powers supposed to lie only in the hands of a court martial.

Both in the army and out of it many Armenians were shot down, and payment of "badal," or exemption money, was no protection. Americans would have rebelled under one-tenth of the provocation, but Armenians did not. Turkish officers took Armenians out of the ranks, on the march, tied them to telegraph poles and shot them, with no better excuse than the accusation that they wanted to desert. Self-respecting and faithful Armenians in the army were disarmed and made the slaves of Turkish soldiers. Sickness and starvation were rife among them, and their starving families at home were uncared for by the government. Murders of Armenians in the army were frequent. There were desertions, but the Kurds deserted in much larger numbers. I wonder would not Zia Bey have deserted under such circumstances, when it was evident

his government did not trust and did not want him?

In spite of all this and a thousand times more, of which I must not write, the Armenians did not rebel. I could tell of petty massacres and the terrorizing of communities by police and gendarmes. The Armenian leaders pleaded with the downtrodden, exasperated Armenians not to resist or in any way give the government an excuse for severe measures. The extermination of the Armenians had been decreed by the Constantinople authorities, the leaders of the Young Turks, whose motto is "Turkey for the Turks." First the leaders of the people were to be removed, and four of the leading Armenians, invited by the Governor General to hold a peace conference to bring about harmony in Shadakh, were foully murdered the first night en route, by the governor's orders. Soldiers were sent to Shadakh with orders to wipe out the Armenian population, and no secret was made of the orders. The Armenian member of Parliament was seized and deported. The inhabitants of the villages of Haigatsore were massacred by the governor's special regiment, and mutilated women, girls and even infants, who after days in the mountains were brought to our hospital, testified to the ruthlessness of the attack.

Only at the sixth village, when it was evident that a general massacre was on, did the Armenians begin to resist. There less than half a dozen young men held the attacking force off until some of the women and children could escape to the mountains. This was April 17 and 18. Soldiers and

gendarmes had been quartered in nearly all the villages and instructed to complete the massacre on Monday, the 19th. The Kaimekam of Arjesh, trusted by the Armenians, called the men to the government building and, marching them out under guard in companies of fifty, shot down two thousand five hundred, regardless of their having paid their "badal" and contributed in many ways to the government.

These rumors reaching Van, it is not strange that the Armenians were uneasy and ready to defend themselves when attacked on Tuesday, April 20, and they did defend themselves heroically throughout a siege of twenty-eight days. About sixty men in the walled city and twelve hundred in the garden city, variously armed with every kind of firearm, ancient and modern, except machine guns and cannon, held off the Ottoman forces and artillery till the Turks fled. Then they burned the Turkish quarter, lest the Turks should return and renew the attack. They did not know that a Russian army was approaching until two days after the siege was raised. With their lack of proper arms and ammunition, the Armenians would not have dared to rebel and attack the trained Turkish army.

Knowing what I do of Turkish official reports, I am not surprised that Zia Bey is misinformed, and I trust this statement of facts will change his opinion on some points. I can vouch for the above statements from personal knowledge.

CLARENCE D. USSHER, M. D.,
Chief of Staff of the American Red Cross
Hospital at Van, Turkey.
East Hartford, Conn., Nov. 9, 1915.