



Armenia
on the Road to Independence
1918



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the Western Armenian Bureau in December, 1917, sponsored a conference which, after receiving Entente promises of limited financial support, adopted plans to form a twenty-thousand-man militia.

The First Brigade of his Western Armenian Division was composed of the Erzinjan and Erzerum regiments; the Second, of the Khnus and Karakilisa (Alashkert) regiments; and the Third, of the Van and mounted Zeitun regiments.³³

In response to urgent requests from Russian commanders who warned that the troops in the Erzinjan area were thoroughly undependable, several regiments of the Armenian Corps were immediately hustled off to the front.³⁹ They created a strange spectacle en route, for, to the amazement of the homeward-bound Russian soldiers, they were moving toward, not away from, the forward lines. By the end of January, 1918, Nazarabekian's divisions occupied the major posts from Erevan to Van and Erzinjan. Their disposition was as follows:⁴⁰

First Division—General Areshian

1st Regiment	Erzerum-Erzinjan
2nd Regiment	Khnus
3rd Regiment	Erevan
4th Regiment	Erzinjan and Erevan

Second Division—Colonel Silikian

5th Regiment	Van
6th Regiment	Erevan
7th Regiment	Alexandropol
8th Regiment	Alexandropol

Third Division—General Andranik (Ozanian)

1st Brigade	Erzinjan-Erzerum
2nd Brigade	Khnus
3rd Brigade	Van