

The Republic of ARMENIA



VOLUME I

The First Year, 1918-1919



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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

BERKELEY • LOS ANGELES • LONDON

Republic could give little more than moral support. At that critical moment General Andranik arrived in Zangezur with an irregular division estimated to have from three to five thousand men,

followed by many thousands of refugees from Turkish Armenia and the occupied provinces of Russian Armenia.¹⁷ Andranik had refused to acknowledge the Republic of Armenia as anything but a pawn in the grip of Turkey, and he treated the Provisional Treaty of Brest the work of enemies determined to dismember Armenia from the Republic. Andranik actually managed to come with the British expeditionary force operating in North Persia, but he had no headquarters in Makhachkala where his columns were surrounded by Turkish divisions near Baku. In July the crowded multitude of soldiers and refugees left the Araxes river valley and moved up into the mountains of Zangezur.¹⁸

Although the presence of some pagan refugees in Zangezur unsettled local conditions, the local Armenian leaders welcomed Andranik, for they knew that the Turkish army had made its way into the Erzerum gubernia before and was threatening Zangezur from the direction of Gory and Moushassum Karadagh. It seemed as if Zangezur was the last to become the last corner of Armenian resistance. Throughout the months of September and October, Andranik's men and the local population feverishly prepared for the anticipated Turkish invasion. The death stroke of the distant fortified Muslim villages that controlled the major roads connecting the two subdivisions of Zangezur. The process of transforming Zangezur into a solidly Armenian land had begun.¹⁹

The destruction wrought by Andranik's force during previous in Erzerum from General Hakk Pasha, who dominated the Armenian government with malice. In reply Premier Kachumaz declared in protest to

General Andranik as well as the Turkish Government, as well as to Russia. The Armenian leader declared at once with Russia, with a view to a report to the Russian War Ministry, that the Andranik army in Zangezur with some men and some village followers, through a conspiracy to Andranik himself is the only military force that is needed Zangezur and will stand with and against another force which is the English.

The success of Andranik's activities and campaign in North Persia and North Erzerum before the "Great Selling Process" resulted in Zangezur as General Andranik as of the Republic. "Andranik's Russian allies" (N. I. Ilyich, p. 10) to Russia, the expedition against Russian authorities Makhachkala in the Andranik Persia was as well as the Russian War Ministry.

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