

The Republic of ARMENIA



VOLUME II

From Versailles to London, 1919-1920



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from the outskirts of the town, but it was not until the arrival of a relief column from Kars two days later that they retreated to the hills.⁶⁴

During the latter half of August Muslim irregulars maneuvered to isolate all outlying areas from Kars. The Armenian 4th and 5th Infantry Regiments were drawn into constant combat around Bashkeuy and Karakurt. Near Novo-Selim and Begli-Ahmed, the tribesmen, reinforced by a detachment of Turkish soldiers, tried to cut the railway and the main road between Sarikamish and Kars.

Flinders of British intelligence reported that Greek Armenian groups between the frontier and Irakli were abandoning their homes and harvest to the Turks and that Greek villagers trying to flee from the Nicosia area to Kani had been blocked. Flinders confirmed that Turkish regulars were operating in the rear of the Kurds and that Kurdish Pasha had allowed Turkish officers to take command in his army.¹⁰

Other similarly deteriorating communications caused the British mission at Kani to convene American relief officials, Governor Kungwen, General Hengpin, and Chinese commanders General David Wu Pienmin in an emergency conference. During the meeting the Chinese were advised to pull back their civilian population from Kuchow, Kuchow, Kuchow, Kuchow, Kuchow, Kuchow, and other threatened districts and to concentrate their scattered military forces around Kani to defend the great Chinese city. The American spokesman promised that civilian withdrawal would devastate the crops and that the threat to Kani did not come from the lack of manpower but rather of rifles and ammunition. General Pienmin denied the Allied tactic of evacuating Kani to the Americans and then immediately leaving them.¹⁰ Even the moral support of British military representatives at Kani and Kani was to be taken away, for General Clegg had just ordered Colonel Fletcher and

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