

**Military Situation with Relation to Armenia.**

Estimate for August, 1920.

Forces Hostile to and Favorable  
to Armenian Success.

In January 1918, the Soviet Government of Russia issued a statement, which was repeated on June 17, 1920, that it was willing to recognize the independence of Armenia including all Armenian lands in Turkey and Russia. Despite this pronouncement Armenia lies in the pathway of the Soviet Government's desire to weaken the hated capitalism of Great Britain, if possible, by attacks aimed at Allied control over Constantinople, and by use of Pan-Islamic agitation against British control of Egypt, Mesopotamia and the Middle East. It is necessary, therefore, to estimate the power of Soviet Russia and weigh it in the balance as the most dangerous among the elements opposed to Armenian independence.

Russia

The approximate total possibility of Bolshevist military strength is 4,000,000 rifles plus seven Labor Armies. Their estimated effectives, in August 1920, were:

upon the Polish front	-	162,500
" " Roumanian "	-	10,000
" " Crimean "	-	35,000
" " Caucasian "	-	60,000
in Turkestan(Gen'l Kuropatkin)	-	56,000
in Transbaikal	-	5 infantry divisions

Fortunately there is no Bolshevist fleet in the Black Sea.

Opposed to these Bolshevist forces are the following active armies:

upon the Polish	front	-	95,000	Poles
" " Roumanian	"	-	-	
" " Crimean	"	-	50,000	troops with Gen'l Wrangler and 15,000 in the Don, Kuban and Terek regions
in lower Russia		-	20,000	Social Revolutionists
" " East Siberia			10,000	troops (Gen'l Semenoff)

#### Transcaucasia

Opposed to the Armenian occupation, through their present dependence upon Soviet Russia, are the troops of:

the Azerbaidjan Socialist Republic - 14,000 regulars,  
30,000 reserves  
the Russian Bolshevist troops in Batum - 15,500

Momentarily favorable to Armenian desires are:

the Georgians - 14,900 equipped troops.

The available Armenian manpower is to be estimated at about 100,000. In Transcaucasia they have at their disposal.

Armenian regulars - 20,000  
" reserves - 40,000

To these are to be added the few Armenians holding out against the Turkish Nationalists in Hadjin and towns

in Cilicia, who have proclaimed what is called the Amanus Republic, and have appealed for the support of General Gouraud's French troops in Syria.

#### Persia and Mesopotamia

The British forces in Persia (chiefly Persian Cossacks and British Indians) number about 11,000, plus five regiments of the South Persian Rifles (presumably about 6,000 men). In Mesopotamia the British forces number 9,650 white troops, 61,000 Indians and 6,000 local native levies. These forces, friendly from the Armenian standpoint, are neutralized by the Bolshevist menace from Resht and Enzeli in Persia on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea, and by serious Arab outbreaks around Bagdad and to the north of it.

#### Turkey

By the treaty of Sèvres the Turkish government is empowered to maintain an army of 50,700 troops. The authority exercised by the Inter-Allied Military Commissions, to be appointed in accordance with Part V of the Turkish Treaty, warrants the assumption that these troops cannot be used in opposition to the establishment of the Armenian state.

The most bitter and effective opposition will come from the Milli Teshkilat (literally "Organization of the Nation"), the Turkish Nationalist party under the leader-

ship of Mustapha Kemal Pasha. The maximum effective forces under his command were estimated in early July to be about 150,000. The morale of this army must have been seriously impaired by the rapid Greek advance in June into the interior of Asia Minor from the Mediterranean litoral. The number of 150,000 may, indeed, be much too high an estimate. The Anatolian peasantry is undoubtedly war weary. Recent reports indicate that the necessary requisitioning upon the countryside by Mustapha Kemal and his associate leaders has farther alienated the native Turkish inhabitants. Recent Armenian statements are to the effect that reports of 80,000 Turkish Nationalist forces at Erzerum are absolutely untrue. Their information, coming via Erivan, is that the districts of Bitlis and Van are entirely undefended, and that the Nationalist leader at Erzerum has only 7,000 regular Turkish troops under his command. Though this may be an underestimate, it is incontestible that the Armenians have an advantage in respect to the problem of occupation because the communications from the west (Angora and Sivas) into Erzerum vilayet are in much worse condition than those from the district of Kars, now occupied by the Armenian troops.

The interallied fleet, chiefly British, controls the Black Sea.