The United States Military in the First Republic of Armenia 1919-1920

The victory of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) fighting in Europe during World War I, under the command of General John J. Pershing, thrust new responsibilities upon the United States. Besides the critically important Peace Conference led by President Woodrow Wilson for a settlement of the conflict on the European continent, the United States government also responded swiftly to post-war conditions where the shortage of food threatened to undermine the political settlement for which the Allied Powers were striving. The response came in the form of the American Relief Administration placed under the leadership of Herbert Hoover who organized the delivery of aid for countries ranging from Belgium to Russia.

Even further away geographically, Armenia, in the grip of a massive humanitarian crisis, received no less attention. The elevated level of concern among the American public about the fate of the Armenian people prompted the United States to send two military expeditions. The first group arrived in Armenia under the command of Colonel William Haskell, a combat veteran of the war, who was recommended for the job by General Pershing. Haskell was dispatched as Allied High Commissioner representing all of the Allied Powers of the conflict, while the entire expedition consisted of United States personnel, both military and civilian. They arrived in Armenia in August 1919 and within the span of a year implemented measures that stabilized the situation in the country. Major Walter Davenport of the U.S. Medical Corps, as head of the medical team, played a central role in addressing and relieving the disastrous conditions under which the majority of the civilian population of Armenia was living.

A second mission to Armenia was headed by Major General James G. Harbord, who had served as Pershing’s Chief of Staff. He was dispatched in September 1919 by President Wilson to make a critical assessment of the situation on the ground across the region in order to recommend future U.S. policy toward Armenia and neighboring countries.

This exhibit relies entirely upon the photography and testimony of the United States military personnel who witnessed the conditions in Armenia precipitated by the calamities of the Great War and whose intervention salvaged the destiny of a people. Their accounts confirm the importance of the broad scope of American humanitarianism in a world torn by conflict and hatred.
Colonel Walter Paul Davenport, M.D. (1887-1956). As a young Major in the United States Army Medical Corps, Dr. Davenport traveled to Armenia soon after the end of the Great War as part of the American Relief Administration’s effort to stem hunger, malnutrition, and widespread disease. The American Relief Administration was headed by future President Herbert Hoover.

**The American Relief Administration and Walter Davenport of the U.S. Army Medical Corps**

In 1919, [Herbert] Hoover asked the Army to conduct what would later come to be called a nation building mission. Near East Relief, a private philanthropic organization, discovered its resources insufficient to strengthen Armenia in its struggle for independence amid a flood of returning refugees, shortages of food, and the threat of a Russian invasion. Officials of the organization asked Hoover for government assistance, and in August 1919 he and President Woodrow Wilson dispatched a military mission under Col. William N. Haskell, a Regular Army officer. Haskell’s contingent included a medical department headed by Medical Corps officer Maj. Walter P. Davenport. Davenport and his American and Armenian staff provided hospital service for about 4,000 people each month and significantly improved Armenia’s health care facilities. The American doctors also conducted a successful program of inoculation against typhoid and vaccination for smallpox, which reduced death rates from both diseases. Finally, they tried to improve sanitary practices in local communities but devoted less attention to that work and met with less success. Early in the summer of 1920, a Bolshevik invasion seemed imminent, and Haskell’s mission withdrew. Shortly after it did, the Russians overran Armenia.

To Walter P. Davenport With the Kind Regards of Herbert Hoover

[As autographed by Hoover] (ANI Davenport Collection).

The personnel carrying on the work consisted of twenty officers, both temporary and regular, of the United States Army, and a force of about seventy-five civilians, consisting of both male and female relief workers, nurses, orphanage workers and chauffeurs. (Davenport)

It is believed that as a result of the food relief measure inaugurated and maintained by the Near East Relief, Caucasus Branch, from September 10, 1919 to August 1, 1920, 500,000 Armenian men, women, and children are now alive who would have perished from starvation but for the food relief furnished through our organization. Practically the whole Armenian Nation was dependent on our organization for hospitalization and medical relief. It is impossible to state how many lives were saved as a result of the medical relief measures instituted. (Davenport)

To Walter P. Davenport With the Kind Regards of Herbert Hoover

[As autographed by Hoover] (ANI Davenport Collection).
Colonel William Haskell (second row right) and U.S. Army officers in France among the staff of General Robert L. Ballard who played a key role in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive by the American Expeditionary Forces, photographed October 20, 1918.

The two dozen U.S. military personnel assigned to Armenia were too few to make a significant difference in the overall situation across the Caucasus in the aftermath of the Great War. More so than Colonel Haskell, who positioned himself in Tbilisi (Tiflis), Georgia, the transportation and communications hub of the region, and shuttled back and forth between Tbilisi and Paris, Colonel James Rhea, as Acting Allied High Commissioner, made a greater impression. Ultimately external forces in the form of the Red Army of Communist Russia and the Kemalist troops of Nationalist Turkey unravelled the situation in Armenia. While on the ground, however, Colonel Rhea succeeded in exercising sufficient authority to negotiate a temporary truce between Azeris and Armenians. The professional soldiers who made up the American expedition may have lacked previous exposure to the challenges of the region and any experience in political management and international diplomacy, but as representatives of the Allied Powers they exercised considerable influence among those prepared to recognize their authority. The breakdown in law and order as the Red Army pressed ahead in the Transcaucuses precipitated the departure of the U.S. officers. The American public and media, on the other hand, celebrated its warriors who had swept their country to victory on the Western Front and were now expected to bring peace along other troubled frontiers.

Army and Navy Journal
May 20, 1920

U.S. Officers in Near East Relief Work

A cablegram has been received at the office of the Near East Relief in New York with the following tribute to the work of the U.S. Army officers who have been engaged in the Republic of Armenia: “The Near East owes a deep debt of gratitude to the United States Army for the splendid services of the officers detailed to this work.” The cable also states that Col. William N. Haskell, U.S.A., the Allied High Commissioner to Armenia, believes that the War Department will detail about ten officers and five non-commissioned officers to assist in relief work in the Caucasus for the next year or two, as the nucleus of an organization for the relief work. Compensation, Colonel Haskell says, could be arranged for these officers and non-commissioned officers on an annual basis not to exceed $40,000 and maintenance, with transportation in excess of the amount furnished by the United States Government. Colonel Haskell recommends this to the Near East Relief, says that he would be willing to assist in the selection of suitable officers for this purpose, and adds that the only alternative to this plan would be the immediate establishment of civilian organizations, which would be much more expensive and probably less efficient than the military organization which has functioned in Transcaucasia since last June.

President Wilson’s Christmas Day [1918] in France. While “Old Glory” passes the reviewing stand President Wilson bares his head and General Pershing stands at salute: a snapshot from the review of troops held in the President’s honor on a plain near Langres, Christmas afternoon. (as captioned)

Paris, 27 June 1919

Dear Mr. President [Woodrow Wilson]:

In accordance with your discussion with Mr. [Henry] Morgenthau [former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey] and the several discussions with myself in connection with Armenia, we make the following joint recommendations to be brought to the attention of the Chiefs of State [of the Allied Powers] before your departure.

1) We suggest that a single temporary resident Commissioner should be appointed to Armenia, who will have the full authority of the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy in all their relations to the de facto Armenian Government, as the joint representative of these Governments in Armenia. His duties shall be so far as he may consider necessary to supervise and advise upon various governmental matters in the whole of Russian and Turkish Armenia, and to control relief and repatriation questions pending the determination of the political destiny of this area.

2) In case the various Governments should agree to this plan, immediate notification should be made to the de facto Governments of Turkey and of Armenia of his appointment and authority. Furthermore, he will be appointed to represent the American Relief Administration and the . . . Committee for Relief in the Near East, and take entire charge of all their activities in Russian and Turkish Armenia.

The ideal man for this position would be General Harbord, as I assume under all the circumstances it would probably be desirable to appoint an American. Should General Harbord be unable to undertake the matter, I am wondering whether you would leave it to us to select the man in conjunction with General Pershing.

I assume that the personnel of this Mission would be necessarily comprised of army and navy officers who would retain their rank and emoluments and I understand from the . . . Near East [Relief Committee] that they would be prepared to supply such funds as were required for incidental expenses until such other arrangements could be made.

Herbert Hoover

General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing (1860-1948) of the United States Army. General Pershing was selected by President Woodrow Wilson to serve as Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front during World War I when the United States entered into hostilities against Germany in 1917. For leading American forces to victory in Europe, Pershing was elevated to the exceptional rank of General of the Armies, a distinction extended posthumously only to President George Washington.

General John J. Pershing and Major General James G. Harbord in front of the White House Executive Office Building, now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, at the time housing the Department of War.

(Left Photo) Major General James G. Harbord (left) commanding general of the Service of Supply (SOS) of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). Before becoming head of the expeditionary forces supply system, he had been Chief of Staff of the AEF and had led the Marine brigade of the 2nd Division in the fighting around the battles of Belleau Wood and Château-Thierry. Brigadier General Charles G. Dawes (right) was chief purchasing agent of the AEF.

(Right photo) Charles Gates Dawes (1865-1951) served as Vice President of the United States during the Calvin Coolidge Administration (1925-1929) and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 for his efforts to prevent future conflict in Europe. Like his predecessors, President Coolidge (right) also supported the Near East Relief organization and endorsed its fundraising efforts, while Dawes served on the National Board of Trustees of Near East Relief.

The exhibit THE UNITED STATES MILITARY IN THE FIRST REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA 1919-1920 is a project of the Armenian National Institute, Armenian Genocide Museum of America, and Armenian Assembly of America, Washington, DC.

Research and presentation: Rouben Paul Adalian; project design: Joseph Piatt. Dedication: To the American and Armenian men and women in uniform protecting life and liberty.

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Armenians in the headlines.

William Howard Taft (1857-1930) served as President of the United States (1909-1913) and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1921-1930).

The delegation of authority to the Allied High Commissioner over the private New York City-based philanthropic Near East Relief organization went a long way in facilitating the delivery of aid to Armenia. The services of the United States Navy, the grain supplies of the American Relief Administration, and the command experience of the U.S. Army officers available to the contingent of civilian volunteers who arrived in Armenia elevated the effectiveness of humanitarian intervention organized in concert. With the U.S. government lending its support to relief efforts, the Congressionally-mandated private agency was able to mount nationwide public fundraising campaigns that raised millions of dollars to address hunger, epidemics, and destitution across the entire Near East. By tapping public knowledge of the meaning of the November 11, 1918 Armistice that had ended warfare around the world, Near East Relief succeeded in reaching very wide audiences and educating the public about the consequences of the war for combatants and civilians. The endorsement and support of nationally prominent figures, including former President William Howard Taft and President Woodrow Wilson, religious leaders, and influential educators, kept the fate of the Armenians in the headlines.

The exhibit "The United States Military in the First Republic of Armenia 1919-1920" is a project of the Armenian National Institute, Armenia Genocide Museum of America, and Armenian Assembly of America, Washington, DC.

Colonel Haskell Reports to Near East Relief on Desperate Needs of Helpless

"Peace may come elsewhere in the world, but hunger knows no armistice in the Near East," says Colonel William N. Haskell, Allied High Commissioner in the Trans-Caucasus, in an appeal to Near East Relief, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City, for food and supplies for the relief of the starving millions. Colonel Haskell is in charge of all operations and disbursements of Near East Relief in the Caucasus.

"There is no fuel or shelter for the greater part of them during the terrible winter in the mountains," he says, "and the existing food supply is entirely inadequate for the great number of refugees without resources of any kind." By a recent agreement between the premiers of the republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to cease hostilities and settle all differences by arbitration one obstacle to relief work in the Caucasus has been removed and makes accessible by arbitration one obstacle to relief work in the Caucasus.

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United States Congress
Incorporates Near East Relief

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS August 6, 1919.

District of Columbia, Near East Relief incorporated.


SEC. 2. That the object for which said corporation is incorporated shall be to provide relief and to assist in the reparation, rehabilitation, and establishment of suffering and dependent people of Near East and adjacent areas; to provide for the care of orphans and widows and to promote the social, economic, and industrial welfare of those who have been rendered destitute, or dependent directly or indirectly, by the vicissitudes of war, the cruelties of men, or other causes beyond their control.

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A notable educator of the pre-war era, Samuel Talmud Dutton had served as Superintendent of Schools in New Haven, Connecticut and Brookline, Massachusetts and was a professor of education at Teachers College, Columbia University. The Teachers College had been founded by Grace Hoadley Dodge, sister of Cleveland Hoadley Dodge. He was also a prominent figure in several pacifist movements and was instrumental in persuading Andrew Carnegie in forming the Carnegie Institute for International Peace. Active from the very beginning in organizing relief efforts on behalf of Armenians during World War I, Dutton appealed to former President Theodore Roosevelt to throw his support for fundraising purposes. Roosevelt, who had long advocated for an activist foreign policy, had recently lost the presidential election to Woodrow Wilson whose initial neutrality in the global conflict Roosevelt severely criticized. Taking advantage of the occasion, Roosevelt spelled out his position arguing vigorously for intervention. The U.S. military officers who finally did reach Armenia only after the conclusion of the war found themselves in disagreement with Roosevelt’s views if meaningful action was to be taken on behalf of Armenia. Theodore Roosevelt’s eloquent letter to Samuel Dutton also makes a persuasive case about the escalation of atrocities during the Great War in seeing the violation of Belgian neutrality in 1914, the sinking of the RMS Lusitania in 1915, and the destruction of cities as the pathway to the “crowning outrage” committed against Armenians.
Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Samuel Train Dutton
November 24, 1915

To those who have suffered atrocities so hideous that it is difficult to name them, atrocities such as those inflicted upon conquered nations by the followers of Attila and of Genghis Khan. It is dreadful to think that those things can be done and that this nation nevertheless remains “neutral not only in deed but in thought,” between right and the most hideous wrong, neutral between despairing and hunted people, people whose little children are murdered and their women raped, and the victorious and evil wrongdoers.

These men, whether politicians, publicists, college presidents, capitalists, labor leaders, or self-styled philanthropists, have done everything they could to relax the fibre of the American character and weaken the strength of the American will. They teach our people to seek that debasing security which is to be found in love of ease, in fear of risk, in the timidity to avoid any duty that is hard or unprofitable as a security which purchases peace in the present not only at the cost of humiliation in the present but at the cost of disaster in the future. We have refused to do our duty by Belgium because we have desired peace at any price, because we have preached and practiced that evil pacificism which is the complement to and the encouragement of militarism. Such pacificism puts peace above righteousness, safety in wrong committed on Belgium by her invasion and subjugation; and the criminal responsibility of Germany must be shared by the neutral powers, headed by the United States, for their failure to protest when this initial wrong was committed. In the case of the United States, additional responsibility rests upon it because its lack of influence for justice and peace during the last sixteen months has been largely due to the course of timidity and unworthy abandonment of duty which it has followed for nearly five years as regards Mexico. Scores of our soldiers have been killed or wounded, hundreds of our civilians, both men and women, have been murdered or outraged in person or property, by the Mexicans; and we have not only taken no action but have permitted arms to be exported to the bandits who were cutting one another’s throats in Mexico and who used these arms to kill Americans; and although we have refused to help our own citizens against any of these chiefs of these bandits, we have now and then improperly helped one chief against another.

The failure to do our duty in Mexico created the contempt which made Germany rightly think it safe to go into the wholesale murder that accompanied the sinking of the Lusitania; and the failure to do our duty in the case of the Lusitania made Germany, acting through Austria, rightfully think it safe to go into the wholesale murder that marked the sinking of the Ancon.

The invasion of Belgium was followed by a policy of terrorism toward the Belgian population, the shooting of men, women and children, the destruction of Dinant and Louvain and many other places; the bombardment of unfortified places, not only by ships and by land forces but by aircraft, resulting in the killing of many hundreds of civilians, men, women and children, in England, France, Belgium and Italy; in the destruction of mighty temples and great monuments of art, in Rheims, in Venice, in Verona. The devastation of Poland and of Serbia has been awful beyond description and has been associated with infamies surpassing those of the dreadful religious and racial wars of seventeenth-century Europe.

The crowning outrage has been committed by the Turks on the Armenians. They have suffered atrocities so hideous that it is difficult to name them, atrocities such as those inflicted upon conquered nations by the followers of Attila and of Genghis Khan. It is dreadful to think that those things can be done and that this nation nevertheless remains “neutral not only in deed but in thought,” between right and the most hideous wrong; neutral between despairing and hunted people, people whose little children are murdered and their women raped, and the victorious and evil wrongdoers.

These men, whether politicians, publicists, college presidents, capitalists, labor leaders, or self-styled philanthropists, have done everything they could to relax the fibre of the American character and weaken the strength of the American will. They teach our people to seek that debasing security which is to be found in love of ease, in fear of risk, in the timidity to avoid any duty that is hard or unprofitable as a security which purchases peace in the present not only at the cost of humiliation in the present but at the cost of disaster in the future. We have refused to do our duty by Belgium because we have desired peace at any price, because we have preached and practiced that evil pacificism which is the complement to and the encouragement of militarism. Such pacificism puts peace above righteousness, safety in

I trust that all Americans worthy of the name feel their deepest indignation and keenest sympathy aroused by the dreadful Armenian atrocities. I trust that they feel in the same way about the ruin of Belgium’s neutrality, and realize that a peace obtained without restoring Belgium to its own people and righting the wrongs of the Armenians would be worse than any war. I trust that they realize that unless America prepares to defend itself she can perform no duty to others; and under such circumstances she earns only derision if she prattles about forming a league for world peace, or about arbitration treaties and disarmament proposals, and commission-investigation treaties such as the unpeasably foolish ones negotiated a year or two ago at Washington and promptly disregard by the very administration that negotiated them.

Let us realize that the words of the weakling and the coward, of the pacifist and the poltroon, are worthless to stop wrongdoing. Wrongdoing will only be stopped by men who are brave as well as just, who put honor above safety, who are true to a lofty ideal of duty, who prepare in advance to make their strength effective, and who shrink from no hazard, not even the final hazard of war, if necessary in order to serve the great cause of righteousness. When our people take this stand, we will also be able effectively to take a stand in international matters which shall prevent such cataclysms of wrong as have been witnessed in Belgium and on an even greater scale in Armenia.

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Flag Day, June 14, 1914, William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State; Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy; Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States; Breckinridge Long, appointed Third Assistant Secretary of State in 1917; William Phillips, Assistant Secretary of State; and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, standing in front of the State, War & Navy Building (present day Eisenhower Executive Office Building) in Washington, DC. Both Josephus Daniels and Franklin Delano Roosevelt joined the Board of Trustees of Near East Relief.

Haig Shekerjian (1886-1966) was the first Armenian American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Commissioned a Second Lieutenant of infantry in 1911, he served under General Pershing in the Mexican Expedition (1916-1917) against Pancho Villa. Stationed in Europe during the Great War, he was assigned in 1919 to General Harbord’s Military Mission to Armenia. Shekerjian retired from the Army in 1946 with the rank of Brigadier General.

Shepard Sanford Kopp, Russian language translator for the American Military Mission to Armenia. Born in Russia in 1897, he immigrated to the United States in 1912 and served with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. While traveling to Armenia in 1919 members of the American Military Mission were taken hostage by Muslim brigands. Kopp negotiated their release.

The USS Martha Washington troop transport ship during and after World War I. The American Military Mission to Armenia, both the Haskell group and Harbord group, traveled to and from the region on board the USS Martha Washington. Upon its return journey from Batumi, Georgia, the USS Martha Washington provided passage to hundreds of Armenian refugees.

General Harbord submitted his report to President Woodrow Wilson and the Senate of the United States. The report summarized the critical observations of the team of professional soldiers who assessed conditions in Armenia from economic, political, and military viewpoints. Statements reflecting upon the humanitarian dimension and American relief operations are quoted from the report.

**Report of the American Military Mission to Armenia**

On Board USS Martha Washington, October 16, 1919.

The undersigned submits herewith the Report of the American Military Mission to Armenia. The Mission, organized under authority of the President, consisted of:

- Major General James G. Harbord, U.S. Army,
- Brigadier General Frank R. McCoy, U.S. Army,
- Brigadier General George Van Horn Moseley, U.S. Army,
- Colonel Henry Beeuwkes, Medical Corps, U.S. Army,
- Lieutenant Colonel John Price Jackson, U.S. Eng'rs.,
- Lieutenant Colonel Jasper Y. Brinton, Judge Advocate, U.S. Army,
- Lieutenant Colonel Edward Bowditch, Jr., Infantry, U.S. Army,
- Commander W. W. Bertholf, U.S. Navy,
- Major Lawrence Martin, General Staff, U.S. Army,
- Major Harold Clark, Infantry, U.S. Army,
- Captain Stanley K. Hornbeck, Ordnance Dept., U.S. Army, (Chief of Far Eastern Division, American Commission to Negotiate Peace.)
- Mr. William B. Poland, Chief of the American Relief Commission for Belgium and Northern France.
- Prof. W. W. Cumberland, Economic Adviser to the American Commission to Negotiate Peace.
- Mr. Eliot Grinnell Mears, Trade Commissioner, Dept. of Commerce, with other officers, clerks, interpreters, etc.

General Harbord submitted his report to President Woodrow Wilson and the Senate of the United States. The report summarized the critical observations of the team of professional soldiers who assessed conditions in Armenia from economic, political, and military viewpoints. Statements reflecting upon the humanitarian dimension and American relief operations are quoted from the report.
The condition of the refugees seen in the Transcaucasus is pitiable to the last degree. They subsist on the charity of the American Relief organizations with some help, not great however, from their more prosperous kinsmen domiciled in that region. Generally they wear the rags they have worn for four years. Eighty percent of them suffer from malaria, ten percent from venereal troubles, and practically all, from diseases that flourish on the frontiers of starvation. There are also the diseases that accompany filthy, loathsome skin troubles and great numbers of sore eyes, the latter especially among the children. The hospitals are crowded with such cases. (Harbord)
As Director of Medical Relief, Near East Relief, Caucasus Branch, an opportunity was afforded me, through personal observation and through access to sanitary and morbidity reports from all Armenia, to examine the health conditions of the population, with special regard to the welfare of the children and to the problem of nutrition of the general population. Since it is hard to generalize upon the health conditions of a whole population in normal times, it can readily be appreciated how difficult the task is after a period of five years of the havoc wrought by the destruction and devastation of war, with its accompanying famine, starvation and virulent epidemics, together with the constant shifting of the population. (Davenport)

The photographs collected by Dr. Davenport are reproduced with all the captions as provided on the back of each image. Some are stamped by the source. Others carry captions likely created by Near East Relief. Davenport identified many of the photographs in his own handwriting. He also published the map and four of the photographs in his medical report.

The photographs supplied by “INTERNATIONAL,” 226 William St. New York. (stamped)
Dr. Walter Davenport with local Armenian medical staff.
75,000 Children Cared for Daily

At the present time we are furnishing food and medical relief to 75,000 children daily, this work being done through the medium of orphanages, orphanage hospitals, soup kitchens, cocoa kitchens, milk stations, bread distributing points, orphanage infirmaries, and public dispensaries.

The following institutions, devoted to the promotion of child welfare, are being operated and maintained throughout the various districts of the Near East Relief, Caucasus Branch. (Davenport)
All the Children Were Undernourished

In general, there can be no doubt that the vitality and resistance of the majority of the population has been considerably lowered, making them an easy prey to epidemic disease. Specifically the population shows no acute tendencies, except for the prevalence of certain food deficiency diseases among the general population which are being gradually eliminated, and an increase in malaria and tuberculosis. Practically all the Armenians living along the lower portion of the Araxes Valley have malaria. (Davenport)

From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York (stamped)
Armenian – The sidewalk his death bed. (penciled)
No. 6 – Typical refugee types found on the arrival of the Haskell Mission in the Caucasus September 1919. (Davenport)

Starvation as seen among children when received in shelter house before assigned to orphanages. (typed)

[When] the work was first started last fall, practically, all the children cared for were undernourished and from five to fifteen pounds underweight. All presented evidences of either slight or severe secondary anemia. Unquestionably, a great many children developed tuberculosis who, if properly nourished throughout the period under discussion, could have successfully combated the disease. The type of disease most commonly noted was the glandular. While no accurate statistics are available, it is no exaggeration to state that this type (Tuberculous Adenitis) increased fivefold. Bone and joint tuberculosis was quite common also, and was, after Tuberculous Adenitis, the most prevalent type seen. (Davenport)

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Within the last few weeks, military operations in Armenia by Turks and Tartar [Azeri] forces have reached such alarming proportions that unless radical steps are taken immediately by the Allies, not only will relief work become impossible, but there is every reason to believe that the terrible massacres of 1915 will be repeated. Already these enemies of the Armenians have occupied a third of the entire Armenian Republic, and have begun to massacre the inhabitants. Only July 23, the Armenian Republic ordered a general mobilization, taking away the laborers from the much-needed harvest, which was just commencing. But even this measure offers little hope of checking the bloody advance of the Turks and Tartars, as the ammunition in the hands of the Armenians is already exhausted and they are unable to obtain further supplies.

Lieutenant Colonel Sidney P. Spalding, June 13, 1919

Lieutenant Colonel Spalding's Report
AGRICULTURALISTS, MINOR COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, INDUSTRIAL CLASS, AND SO-CALLED NATIVE POOR

When one examines this class, dependent for livelihood upon commerce and industry which has been paralyzed for four years and upon agricultural pursuits which cannot be followed for lack of seed grain and the necessary implements, one finds the general health far below the average. In any event, its present status is only maintained by the extensive organization of food relief and protective measures operated by our organization.

This class as a whole suffered severely from the various epidemic diseases, as cholera, typhus, relapsing fever, and dysentery, which prevailed from 1914 to 1919, and there can be no doubt that this group furnished an increased incidence to both malaria and tuberculosis as a result of the undernourishment and lowered vitality that prevailed during those years.

This class numbers approximately 800,000, or roughly 60 per cent of the total Armenian population.
The dining room in orphanage No. 2, Tiflis District. This is the “skin disease” orphanage. All children of both corps who are found suffering from Favus, Scabies, Tachoma, etc., are segregated in this orphanage until cured. (typed)

Section of dining room in orphanage No. 7 (girls) – Tiflis District. There are about 800 children in this orphanage. (typed)

The Tiflis Cocoa Kitchen. The children arrive with their tickets and receive bread and cocoa. Three hundred children are fed daily in this kitchen. (typed)

The noon meal in orphanage No. 1 (boys) – Tiflis District. The orphanage has a capacity of 600. (typed)

The other section of the dining room at No. 7 orphanage. (typed)

Due to inexperience, to difficulties of communication and other causes there has been inefficiency on the part of American officials and employees. Enthusiastic young Americans out of touch with the sources of their funds, confronted with the horrors of famine in a refugee population, drew drafts on the good faith and generosity of their countrymen, procedure not usual in the business world, but drafts that were honored nevertheless. Any criticism of unbusinesslike methods must be accompanied with the statement of work accomplished, which has been very great and very creditable to America and her splendid citizens who have so generously contributed to this cause. Colonel Haskell has reorganized the work in the Transcaucasus and is getting better results. In some way funds must be found and this work must be continued and the people be sustained until they can harvest a crop. If seed is available for planting, a crop should be due in August 1920. Even this prospective amelioration only applies to those repossessed of their lands. (Harbord)
The American Orphanage Hospital
Yerevan

With a shoe for a pillow and on a metal bed without a mattress. (no original caption)

Interior ward – orphanage hospital – Erivan. (Davenport)

No. 16 – Showing the always prevalent congestion on one of our scabies hospitals Erivan. (Davenport)

(no original caption)

From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York (stamped)
Erivan No. 1 With Dr. Reynolds (penciled)
No. 11 – Armenian orphan inmates of one of the Erivan orphanages. (Davenport)

No. 8 – Interior of ward – orphanage hospital – Erivan – congestion present – due to fact of inadequate housing facilities. (Davenport)

Some of the three hundred children fed daily in the cocoa kitchen, after they have finished their meal. (typed)
The Near East Relief, Caucasus Branch, possess the only adequate facilities in Armenia, and practically all of the population are dependent upon it for medical relief. Our organization, so far as hospitalization was concerned, was very fortunate in possessing, in most of our district headquarters and larger centers, old Russian military barracks of substantial stone construction. While in most instances the roofs and window sash(es) were missing, as a result of a wanton destruction on the part of the Turks, we were able, in most instances, to thatch the roofs with straw and place oiled paper over the old window frames. While these measures did not make these buildings ideal for hospital purposes, they did make them fairly habitable. Our hospitals functioned under the supervision of both American doctors and nurses, with the hospital staffs made up entirely of native personnel. The professional work done was, on the whole, of a very high order. (Davenport)
In the Alexandropol district where 25,000 men, women and children were housed, fed, clothed and provided bathing and delousing facilities is what is known as the “Polygon”; i.e., old Russian Military Barracks, adjacent to Alexandropol. Hospital facilities were provided in the Compound also. Until the appearance of influenza, this community got through the winter with a monthly mortality rate, during the coldest months of the year, of less than .02 per cent. Including the deaths from influenza, the rate is .04 per cent, which should be considered rather remarkable. Equally good results were obtained in both the Kars and Karaklis districts with the institution of similar measures. (Davenport)

From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York (stamped)
The largest refugee camp in the world, where the Near East Relief supports 23,000 destitute refugees. This shows some of the buildings at the Polygon, a former Russian army barracks just outside Alexandropol, Armenia, now taken over by the Near East Relief. In the background is Mt. Alagaz [Mt. Aragats], the “Blue-eyed sweetheart of Ararat.” (typed)
Cameras are Funny but Hunger is No Joke.
These little Armenian children have been walking the streets of Ekaterinodar, South Russia for hours asking people as hungry as themselves for a bit of bread. They are refugees and hope in time to get out of the land of the Bolsheviks, back to Armenia. The first funny thing they have seen for a long time is a camera of the American Red Cross officer who wanted them to look pleasant please while he took their pictures. The smile remained when he told them he was in town to see that its suffering population got a little better acquainted with food and clothing, February 1920, American Red Cross collection. (as captioned)

Armenian refugees on Black Sea beach with household possessions, Novorossiisk, Russia. American Red Cross official photographs. (as captioned)
A delegation of 500 Armenian veterans of the World War, in service uniforms today paraded through Washington headed by the United States Marine Band. At the State Department they were received by Secretary Bainbridge Colby to whom they presented a petition asking recognition of [the] new Republic of Armenia. The photograph showing the Washington monument in the background was made at the State Department April 14, 1920. (The U.S. Department of State was located in the Old Executive Office Building, now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.) (as captioned)

Dr. Varaztad Kazanjian, a dentist by profession, volunteered in 1915 as a member of the Harvard Medical School unit that went to France to assist the medical staff of the British Expeditionary Forces as the growing number of casualties of the prolonged war strained the capacity of the available medical staff. Helping soldiers recover from their disfiguring wounds, he distinguished himself by developing techniques that secured his fame as a pioneering figure in the field of reconstructive plastic surgery. He was decorated by King George V of England in appreciation of his invaluable services. As the most celebrated Armenian American in uniform, Dr. Kazanjian was given the honor of leading a delegation of Armenian American servicemen who traveled to Washington to plead the case for their countrymen in Armenia.

Major Varaztad Kazanjian of the Army presenting Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby [a] petition asking [for] the recognition of the new Republic of Armenia. Photograph made in the Diplomatic Room of the State Department April 14, 1920. (as captioned)


PLEAD FOR ARMENIA.

500 War Veterans March to State Department with Petition.

WASHINGTON, April 14—Five hundred Armenian veterans of the European war who fought with the United States forces marched to the State Department today and presented to Secretary of State Colby, who acted for President Wilson, a memorial asking that the United States grant recognition to the Republic of Armenia, as has been done by Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan.

Major V. H. Kazanjian of Harvard University was spokesman for the delegation, which was gathered from the Middle West and various cities of the East. Similar memorials were later presented to Senator Lodge, as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, and Congressman Logaugha, acting for Chairman Porter of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The memorial read in part:

"When we were called to arms, and while we were on the field of battle, we were happy in the conviction that we were fighting, not only in defense of the beloved country of our adoption, but also for the triumph of principles for which we stood as applied to the protection and liberation of oppressed nationalities, among which we naturally placed first our motherland, Armenia. And if we had been told that a year and a half after the date of the armistice our kinmen would still be at the mercy of the Turks, who will still be subject to violence and massacre, would still be prevented from returning to their homes by an unsanctioned force and forced to the humiliations of submitting open charity, we should not have believed it.

We, therefore, respectfully urge our Government to take the necessary immediate measures to effect the immediate recognition of the Republic of Armenia with appropriate full diplomatic recognition, and to endow them with adequate means of defense and security, and to provide them with facilities for the repatriation of the Armenian people, so that they may pursue their normal life, and to endow the Armenian people with the rights to which they are entitled, as a necessary preliminary to the recognition by the republic of Armenia, already in existence."
On August 1, 1920, owing to the fact that our food-relief program and the concentration of our orphanage, child-feeding, and medical-relief activities had been completed, the Haskell Mission left the Caucasus. As a result of the political situation existing at that time and the fact that our food-relief program among adults had been completed as a measure of economy to facilitate, supply, and to further reduce our personnel, it was deemed advisable to concentrate all our relief activities in the three large centers of Alexandropol, Kars and Erivan, which provided good housing and railroad facilities. At that time Armenia was harvesting a very fair crop, the best in five years. The Armenian Ministry of Supply stated that this crop would carry them through eight months of the year. The responsible Armenian officials are now negotiating for American credit to purchase needed foodstuffs to carry them through the rest of the year. (Davenport)

Colonel Walter Paul Davenport (left) at Fort Riley, Kansas, 1937.

For Country and Mankind

Colonel Walter Paul Davenport, M.D. (1887-1956)

On August 1, 1920, owing to the fact that our food-relief program and the concentration of our orphanage, child-feeding, and medical-relief activities had been completed, the Haskell Mission left the Caucasus. As a result of the political situation existing at that time and the fact that our food-relief program among adults had been completed as a measure of economy to facilitate, supply, and to further reduce our personnel, it was deemed advisable to concentrate all our relief activities in the three large centers of Alexandropol, Kars and Erivan, which provided good housing and railroad facilities. At that time Armenia was harvesting a very fair crop, the best in five years. The Armenian Ministry of Supply stated that this crop would carry them through eight months of the year. The responsible Armenian officials are now negotiating for American credit to purchase needed foodstuffs to carry them through the rest of the year. (Davenport)
As testament to the qualifications of the officers recommended by General Pershing to American Relief Administration Director Herbert Hoover and Colonel William Haskell, a respectable number of the team sent to Armenia eventually rose to the rank of general, some serving right up to the start of World War II. Although their time in Armenia lasted only a year, even after a lifetime of service in the Armed Forces of the United States, the relief work they organized there and elsewhere remained the object of public appreciation.

Col. Daley will speak at Congregational Church

This is ‘Near East Relief week’ in Salamanca and, starting early in the week, a vigorous campaign has been under way to raise sufficient funds here so that Salamanca may go on record as “adopting” at least 100 orphans in the destitute districts of Armenia and Asia Minor.

It is figured that $60.00 will feed one of these orphans for a year, and various local organizations are being asked to adopt one or more orphans each. Special attention has also been given the factories of the city, noon-day meetings, addressed by men thoroughly familiar with the Near East situation, having been held at all the principal manufacturing plants, with excellent results.

The special effort here is to culminate in a big union meeting at the Congregational Church tomorrow, (Sunday) evening, which will be addressed by Colonel Edmund L. Daley, Professor of Military Engineering at West Point, who was associated with Col. Haskell on the Allied Mission to Armenia. On that Mission he inspected the Near East Relief activities in European and Asiatic Turkey, Russian and Turkish Armenia, Georgia, Transcaucasia, etc., and is very familiar with the whole scope and plan of the Near East Relief work.

Colonel Daley is a soldier of distinction, who has seen service on many fields, from the Philippines to the Argonne [battlefield in France], and holds many service decorations. He is stated to be a most forceful and able speaker. Accompanying his address will be shown a three reel film entitled “Alice in Hungerland” showing in story actual conditions in the Near East today.

Salamanca Saturday Inquirer
Saturday, December 3, 1921

Major General Edmund Leo Daley (1883-1968) (above center) of Worcester, Massachusetts, a West Point graduate, was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A decorated soldier of the First World War, he served on several humanitarian missions, including the military mission to Armenia; the relief mission to Russia, and was Deputy Commissioner of the Red Cross in Smyrna during the 1922 burning of the city by Turkish Nationalist forces. He remained in the service until the Second World War. He was Department Commander of the Puerto Rican Department between 1939 and 1941, when the island was considered an outpost for the frontline defense of the American homeland.

Henry Morgenthau, Jr. (above left), the son of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, served as the Secretary of the Treasury during the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Administrations. He is credited with bringing the horrors of the Holocaust to the attention of the president. (Photo taken November 15, 1940, in Puerto Rico)

(Right Photo) Frank Ross McCoy (left) and George C. Marshall (center left) with officers of the Michigan National Guard.

Major General Frank Ross McCoy (1874-1954), the Chief of Staff of the American Military Mission to Armenia, and one-time junior aide to President Theodore Roosevelt, became the fourth officer after General Pershing to rise to the command of the First United States Army. A skilled negotiator, he was given several overseas diplomatic responsibilities and assigned to the commission that investigated the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack. He earned both a World War I Victory Medal and World War II Victory Medal.

In a 1942 letter addressed to McCoy as president of the Foreign Policy Association, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt wrote: “In war as in peace, our foreign policy is the instrument through which we establish our relationships with the world of which we are a part...With victory secured, our foreign policy must be focused upon finding the most effective means of enriching our lives as free men.”

The August 3 letter McCoy received from General George C. Marshall upon his 1938 retirement from active duty bespoke of the respect McCoy enjoyed among fellow officers. Marshall, who was soon to be appointed Chief of Staff of the Army to prepare for the impending war, wrote: “Your severance from the active list touches me more deeply than that of practically any other officer I have known in my Army career, and it makes me very, very sad to feel that I cannot serve under you and with you in the few years I have left...I believe...that you were the model of how I felt command should be exercised in the Army, and that, of course, carries with it a large variety of implications concerning character, personality, consideration for others, mentality, and leadership. Since then I have become even more impressed with the correctness of my judgment, and I always felt a comfortable sense of gratification whenever you sought me out. Despite your desire to pursue coming years of public appreciation.

The exhibit THE UNITED STATES MILITARY IN THE FIRST REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA 1919-1920 is a project of the Armenian National Institute, Armenian Genocide Museum of America, and Armenian Assembly of America, Washington, D.C. Research and presentation funded in part by an AT&T project design grant. Copy right and publication, by the Armenian National Institute, is reserved. No permission is granted, except for non-commercial purposes. © 2019 Armenian National Institute
Brigadier General James Cooper Rhea (1876-1927), an 1899 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, had served in several posts, including Cuba, the American Philippines, and in General Pershing’s Mexican Expedition, before being assigned Chief of Staff of the 77th Infantry Division and of the 2nd Infantry Division of the American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I, where he earned a number of distinctions. As Acting Allied High Commissioner to Armenia in Colonel William Haskell’s absence, he was credited with arranging a truce in 1919 between Armenians and Azeris in the Caucasus. He went on to serve on a number of postwar commissions, and passed away soon after retiring from his final assignment as post commander of Fort Huachuca in Arizona. Commenting on the fate of Armenia upon Sovietization in December 1920, he is reported to have declared that Armenians “are a capable, frugal, intelligent people who will get what they want in the end. What they need now is a little less verbal sympathy and a little more practical aid…clothing and child food furnished by the American people through the Near East Relief; American Relief Administration, Red Cross and other agencies of mercy, administered by the Near East Relief, have unquestionably saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Armenians, especially children, during the past two years.”

Brigadier General Donald Allister Robinson (1881-1958) graduated from West Point in 1907 as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. A year later he transferred to the Cavalry and attended the Mounted Service School at Fort Riley, Kansas. He served as a Lieutenant Colonel with the General Staff of the American Expeditionary Force and participated in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. His Army Distinguished Service Medal citation read in part: “As Chief of the Executive Division, Fourth Section, Headquarters, Services of Supply [S.O.S.], American Expeditionary Forces, from 25 April 1918 to 19 February 1919, Lieutenant Colonel Robinson was charged with the immediate coordination of major supply activities, including the difficult and gravely responsible task of adjusting priority of shipments and determining the order of which movements of supplies from the base ports of the American Expeditionary Forces should proceed.” He was with Colonel Haskell in Armenia, and upon his return to the United States was assigned increasingly responsible positions. By 1941 he was Chief of Staff of the 2nd Army, and in the following two years he was at Fort Riley, Kansas, again as Commanding General of the Cavalry Replacement Training Center before retiring in 1943.

Established in 1853 near the geographic center of the contiguous United States, Fort Riley, Kansas, is the home of the First Infantry Division, famous as the “Fighting First” for constituting the division that won the first victory for the American Expeditionary Forces in France in 1918. To train the American soldiery being sent to the European warfront, Fort Riley was expanded with the construction of Camp Funston to accommodate 30,000 to 50,000 men, and Camp Whitside was dedicated as a Military Officers Training Camp for doctors and medical personnel. Camp Funston was commanded by Major General Leonard Wood, later Governor General of the American Filipinos, who oversaw the training of 150,000 servicemen during the First World War. The photographs of Colonel William P. Davenport, M.D. taken at Fort Riley place him at the Whitside Camp site. (Note: The camp name is misspelled in the featured photograph.)

Colonel Henry W. Beeuwkes was a graduate of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Class of 1906. He enlisted in the Army Medical Corps in 1909 and served in France during World War I as General John Pershing’s aide and personal physician. The two remained friends for the rest of their lives. According to Dr. Michael J. Lepore, who as a younger physician worked under Dr. Beeuwkes, “At a meeting in August 1921 with Dr. Livingston Farrand, chairman of the American Red Cross, who was directing Red Cross aid to the ARA [American Relief Administration headed by Herbet Hoover], Mr. Hoover met Colonel Henry Beeuwkes of the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was so favorably impressed by him that he arranged for his assignment by the Army to direct the medical staff of the ARA.” Beeuwkes had already served on the American Military Mission to Armenia under General Harbord and was familiar with conditions in that part of the world. Like Colonel Haskell and Colonel Davenport, he too went to Russia in 1921 to arrest the spread of famine and epidemics. Dr. Beeuwkes joined the Rockefeller Foundation in 1925 and worked for years to eradicate yellow fever in Africa, until retirement in 1941. The following year he was back in the Army as General Pershing had arranged for his assignment as the commanding officer of the Valley Forge General Hospital for the treatment of the wounded servicemen brought home from the battlefields of World War II.
Lieutenant General James Guthrie Harbord (1866-1947), born on a farm near Bloomington, Indiana, and an 1886 graduate of the Kansas State Agricultural College, enlisted in the Army in 1891. He served in Cuba, the American Philippines, and was stationed along the Mexican border in California when he was assigned to General Pershing's 1916 Mexican Expedition. After serving as General Pershing's Chief of Staff in 1917 when the United States entered WWI, he was in command of the U.S. Marines during the June 1918 Battle of Belleau Wood and of the 2nd Division in the July 1918 Battle of Soissons that turned the tide of the war against Germany. Thereupon Pershing put him in charge of the Services of Supply (S.O.S.). After heading the American Military Mission to Armenia in 1919, Harbord retired from the Army in 1922 and was appointed President of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), a subsidiary of General Electric. Under his management, the oldest nationwide broadcast network also spawned the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) for television. He retired in 1930, but remained Chairman of the RCA Board until his death in 1947.

Brigadier General Haig Shekerjian (1886-1966) was a 1911 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. For his first tour of duty as Second Lieutenant of Infantry he was assigned to the 1916-1917 Mexican Expedition under the command of General John Pershing. He served as an assistant military attaché in Greece and the Allied Armies of the Orient, the unified Allied forces facing the Central Powers, namely Germany and Bulgaria in this instance, along the Macedonian Front during World War I. With the Chemical Warfare Service after 1923, he was a colonel by the start of World War II. Made a general in 1942 he was given command of the Chemical Warfare Replacement Training Center and in 1943 made the commanding general of Camp Sibert in Alabama, one of the training facilities for the servicemen headed to the warfront.

After the war, Haskell was responsible for several relief operations. He was briefly Director of the American Expeditionary Forces and then Chief of Staff of the 77th Division, Assistant Chief of Staff of IV Corps, and then Chief of Operations and Assistant Chief of Staff for the Second Army, all units of the American Expeditionary Forces.

As the preeminent soldier in the U.S. Armed Forces of Armenian background, Shekerjian delivered speeches to the Armenian-American community to rally support for the war. A young lieutenant in 1919, he was assigned to the American Military Mission to Armenia under the command of General James Harbord. He retained memories of the conditions he witnessed and the difference made by American humanitarian efforts in Armenia. He made some telling observations in his speeches in 1944. Of his first impression, “I recall many thousands of very young orphans scattered through the Armenian Republic. Their future seemed hopeless as one saw young babies and small children lying around in filth and mud, with gaunt starved bodies, and their eyes filled with pathetic appeal.” Observing an American orphanage on a second visit, he remarked: “This time I saw smiling faces with well-rounded bodies. Children were running and playing children’s games, hide and seek, and even baseball.” He added: “today I have no doubt but that thousands of those youngsters restored to life by American food and American care fought with the Russian armies in Stalingrad,” referring to the turning point on the eastern front in the war against Nazi Germany.
NEW YORK, July 26, 1920.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

On July 5th, 1919, in order to meet the desperate need of the Armenian population in Transcaucasia and the Armenian Republic, at my suggestion and in accordance with the wishes of the President, Colonel William N. Haskell was appointed High Commissioner to Armenia, representing the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy. His commission was signed by M. Clemenceau as President of the Peace Conference.

The authority centered in the High Commissioner as Joint Representative of the several Allied Powers gave him the powerful support which he required to overcome those racial and political antagonisms, the natural outgrowth of the birth of new States, which were threatening the total annihilation of the Armenian people. The work of this Mission was also to ascertain and provide requirements up to the point when the succeeding crops would render general contributions of food stuffs from overseas unnecessary; to take over and extend the charitable work of the Near East Relief in caring for refugees, orphans and destitutes; to represent the American Relief Administration; to administer the charitable relief from all other countries; to assist in re-establishing stable conditions in the Republic of Armenia.

Colonel Haskell, supported by an efficient and devoted staff, has carried out his difficult duties in an admirable manner. Flour was the most urgent food requirement of this region. The 41,000 tons contributed through the United States Grain Corporation and the 51,000 tons of the American Relief Administration have been delivered. The amount is sufficient to supply essential needs until the next harvest, which it is estimated will then carry the country for six to eight months. Refugees have been fed and clothed and to a considerable extent restored to useful occupations. Agriculture has been re-established. Forty hospitals and seventeen orphanages have been opened or put in order and provisioned for one year ahead. Over fifty thousand children have been fed daily.

Under the direction of the American Relief Administration and including the period of the administration of the Allied High Commissioner, there was contributed from all sources for the aid of the Armenian people in this region one hundred and eight thousand tons of food and supplies. This was in the form of Governmental credits or private donations the approximate values of which were as follows:

From Great Britain

Besides a small amount of private charity of which we have no record, there was furnished on the part of the British Government in the form of freight credits a total of $560,000.

From the United States

1. American Relief Administration covering allocation from the $100,000,000 relief appropriation, March 1919, to date, credits $8,075,000.
2. Grain Corporation Credits 4,725,000.
3. American Red Cross donations 2,100,000.
4. Commonwealth Fund donations 750,000.
5. Near East Relief donations 4,802,000.
Total from the United States 20,452,000.
Grand total $21,012,000.

Aside from the great work of reconstruction, the repatriation of the many thousands of refugees, and the benevolent activities which must for years be carried on by the Armenian Government, for the present the most appealing work for any outside relief organization must be the care of hospitals, orphanages, schools and a certain number of destitute.

Colonel Haskell has successfully performed the task for which he was appointed. The orphanages, hospitals and other charities in the Armenian Republic and Transcaucasia have been turned over to the management of the Near East Relief. All the American Military Staff are to be withdrawn at once. He proposes, as of August first when the few remaining relief measures of the Government program are completed, to present his resignation to the Council of Ambassadors in Paris.

With Colonel Haskell’s resignation my intervention in the management of this branch of European Relief will also come to an end.

I respectfully suggest, Mr. Secretary, that the State Department notify the Council of Ambassadors in Paris of the resignation of Colonel Haskell to be handed to them

A few remaining relief measures of the Government program are completed, to present his resignation to the Council of Ambassadors in Paris.

Faithfully yours,

HERBERT HOOVER

Famed Armenian-born San Francisco sculptor Haig Patigian (1876-1950) who cast several public monuments in the city, was commissioned to create a statue of General Pershing for Golden Gate Park that was unveiled on Armistice Day, November 11, 1922. He also created a bust of Herbert Hoover donated to Stanford University, Hoover’s alma mater, and earlier had cast a bronze bust for San Francisco City Hall of General Frederick Funston, for whom Camp Funston at Fort Riley, Kansas, is named. An experienced sculptor of architectural elements in a number of downtown San Francisco buildings, Patigian was selected to sculpt the Aeronautics pediment designed by James Earle Fraser for the Department of Commerce building in Washington, DC. Construction of the large anchor building of the Federal Triangle began in 1927 when Herbert Hoover was Secretary of Commerce. The building was rededicated in 1983 in honor of President Hoover. Patigian’s statue of President Abraham Lincoln sits in front of San Francisco City Hall, while his 1931 statue of California pioneer Thomas Starr King stood in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol until replaced in 2009 by a statue of California Governor and President Ronald Reagan.
United States Military Returns to Armenia: New Missions

Over the last two weeks, the hearts of the American people have gone out to the people of Armenia as they grappled with the earthquake disaster and its aftermath. The world wept at the terrible magnitude of the destruction and the tremendous loss of life, whole villages and cities virtually leveled. Great numbers of men, women, and children were trapped beneath fallen buildings in one of the worst earthquake disasters ever to occur. Tens of thousands were killed, countless numbers injured, and many others tragically missing.

But no sooner had we learned of the disaster and of the great need that existed than you and so many other Americans organized to help. Rescue workers and medical teams from across the country flew to the Soviet Union where you searched for the living and gave care to those who were injured.

Those of you who answered the appeal for help, who have assisted in the relief effort, and those who flew to the Soviet Union and sifted through the rubble, searching for life against all odds, carried with you a message from America. It was a message of peace. You conveyed what was truly a universal message, one for us all to remember at this time of year: that every life is infinitely precious, a gift from God. So, whatever language we speak, whatever country we may live in, whatever our race or religious faith, we’re all one people on this Earth. And in times of suffering, in the face of natural disaster, we’re drawn by our common humanity to help one another, to join in a great brotherhood of man.


Since 2003, Kansas Army National Guard has been helping the Armenian army to improve the capabilities of its noncommissioned officers, become stronger in the fields of military medicine and peacekeeping, and develop the capacities for disaster response, humanitarian aid, and use of mobile hospitals. As a result, the state of Kansas and Armenia formed a strong, long-lasting friendship that will continue to grow.”

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills, September 12, 2018

The Fairfax County, Virginia Fire and Rescue Department’s special search and rescue team photographed at Andrews Air Force Base before departing to Armenia, then part of the Soviet Union. In light of the scale of the devastation in Armenia as a result of the December 7, 1988 earthquake, and in another gesture to bring the Cold War to an end, President Ronald Reagan authorized the use of U.S. military transport planes to swiftly deliver aid and rescue specialists to the stricken country. Since Armenia’s independence in 1991, U.S.-Armenia military cooperation programs have grown over the years with Armenian military personnel regularly participating in NATO peacekeeping operations.

Elizabeth Dole, then United States Secretary of Labor during the George H. W. Bush Administration, later President of the American Red Cross and Senator from the state of North Carolina, and Robert Dole, then Senator from the state of Kansas, visiting Armenia in August 1989 to observe U.S.-led recovery efforts after the December 7, 1988 earthquake.

Armenian Army Colonel Vaghinak Sargsyan, brigade commander, and U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Dawne Deskins with U.S. European Command (EUCOM) at the October 31, 2017 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the Peacekeeping Training facility in Yerevan, Armenia, renovated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Over the last two weeks, the hearts of the American people have gone out to the people of Armenia as they grappled with the earthquake disaster and its aftermath. The world wept at the terrible magnitude of the destruction and the tremendous loss of life, whole villages and cities virtually leveled. Great numbers of men, women, and children were trapped beneath fallen buildings in one of the worst earthquake disasters ever to occur. Tens of thousands were killed, countless numbers injured, and many others tragically missing.

But no sooner had we learned of the disaster and of the great need that existed than you and so many other Americans organized to help. Rescue workers and medical teams from across the country flew to the Soviet Union where you searched for the living and gave care to those who were injured....

Those of you who answered the appeal for help, who have assisted in the relief effort, and those who flew to the Soviet Union and sifted through the rubble, searching for life against all odds, carried with you a message from America. It was a message of peace. You conveyed what was truly a universal message, one for us all to remember at this time of year: that every life is infinitely precious, a gift from God. So, whatever language we speak, whatever country we may live in, whatever our race or religious faith, we’re all one people on this Earth. And in times of suffering, in the face of natural disaster, we’re drawn by our common humanity to help one another, to join in a great brotherhood of man.


Since 2003, Kansas Army National Guard has been helping the Armenian army to improve the capabilities of its noncommissioned officers, become stronger in the fields of military medicine and peacekeeping, and develop the capacities for disaster response, humanitarian aid, and use of mobile hospitals. As a result, the state of Kansas and Armenia formed a strong, long-lasting friendship that will continue to grow.”

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills, September 12, 2018

Master Sergeant Donald Splechter (near right), acting Command Sergeant Major; Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Weishaar (mid right) battalion commander; and Major Justin Rutledge (far right), operations officer; all part of the 891st Engineer Battalion, congratulating visiting Armenian soldiers (part of the state partnership program) for successfully observing the various processes and situations that the Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers went through during their summer missions at Fort Riley, Kansas, August 9, 2016.