

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

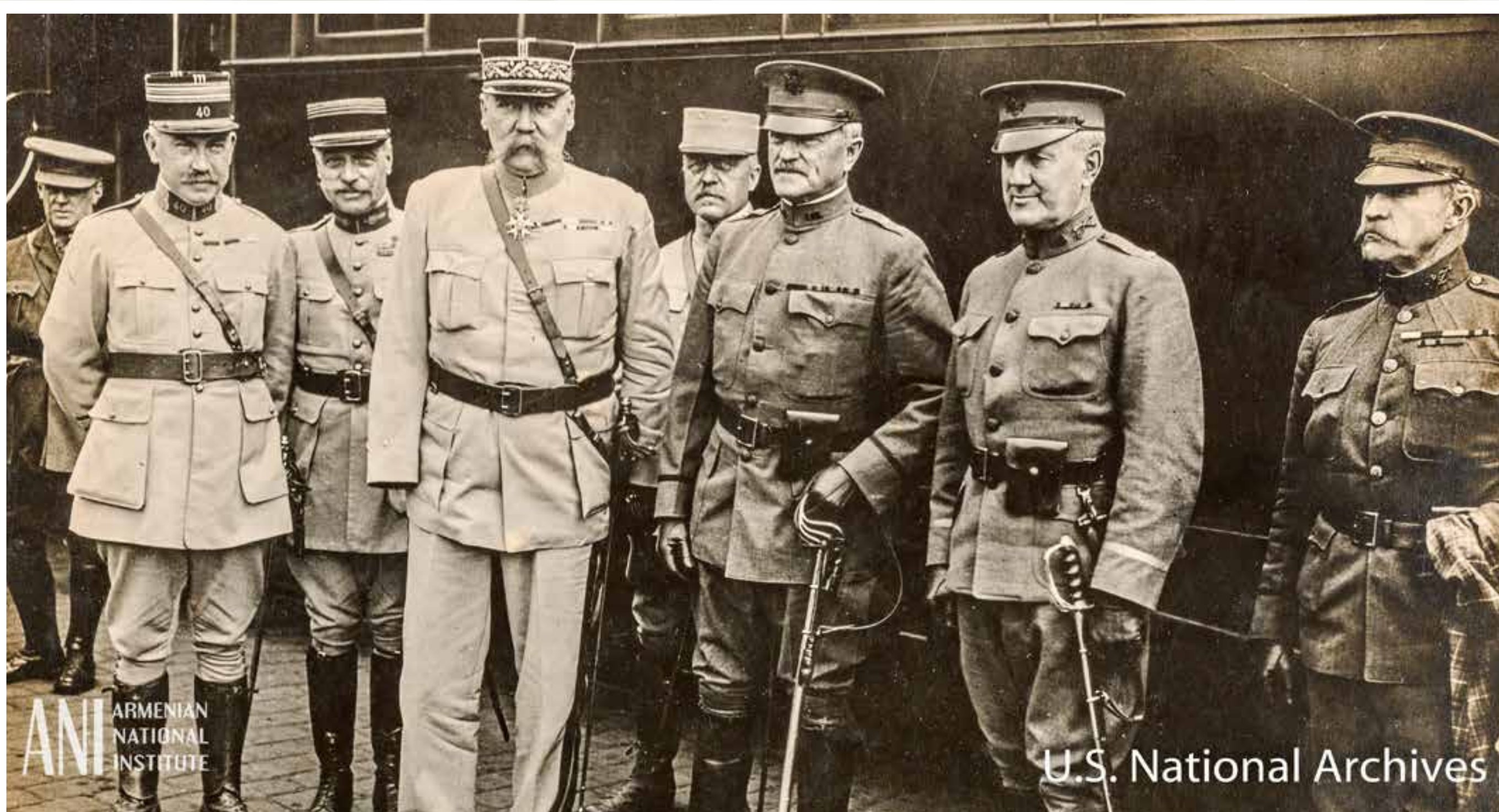


The victory of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) fighting in Europe during World War I, under the command of General John J. Pershing, thrust new responsibilities upon the United States. Besides the critically important Peace Conference led by President Woodrow Wilson for a settlement of the conflict 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.



(Top left photo) Colonel William Nafew Haskell (1878-1952) of the United States Army, 1918. President Woodrow Wilson, with the approval of the Allied leadership, gathered in Paris to negotiate peace terms to formally end World War I, appointed Haskell as Allied High Commissioner to the Republic of Armenia.

(Top right photo) Major General James G. Harbord and Prime Minister of Armenia Alexander Khatisian in Yerevan, Armenia, October 1, 1919.

(Bottom photo) General John Pershing and his Chief of Staff General James Harbord (third and second from right) with French officers upon their arrival in France, June 13, 1917.

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



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 Demands of Humanity: Army Medical Disaster Relief

“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.”

Gaines M. Foster

Professor Foster of Louisiana State University served as a lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps from July 1973 to August 1975 and authored his work for the Medical Department Historical Unit of the United States Army Center of Military History.



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).

Allied High Commissioner to Armenia

“Colonel Haskell, at my suggestion, enlisted a staff of regular American Army officers – a task in which he was aided by General Pershing.” Herbert Hoover (in his capacity as Director of the American Relief Administration)



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.

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.

The U.S. Army officers who have been detailed to service in Transcaucasia are Col. William N. Haskell, G.S., U.S.A., Allied High Commissioner and Director of the Near East Relief for the Caucasus; Col. James C. Rhea, G.S., Acting Allied High Commissioner during the absence of Colonel Haskell in Paris, September to December of last year; Col. Edmund L. Daley, Eng[inee]rs, chief of staff of the Allied High Commissioner; Lieut. Col. James E. Shelley, Cav[alry], stationed for a time on the frontier between the Tartar and Armenian forces at Davaloo [modern-day Ararat] on the Arax river; Lieut. Col. Donald S. Robinson, Cav, stationed in Alexandropol; Lieut. Col. Sumner Waite, G.S., in Tiflis, Republic of Georgia; Lieut. Col. T.C. Lonergan, A.C. of S.G.-3, Tiflis; Lieut. Col. James Ulio, G.S., A.C. of S.G.-4 Tiflis; Lieut. Col. E.E. McCammon, C.A.C. who has been liaison officer with the Volunteer Army at Novorossisk; Lieut. Col. Sidney P. Spalding, Ord[nance], district commander, Akhalkalaki, Republic of Georgia; Lieut. Col. Carlos Telford, G.S. district commander at the capital of Armenia, Erivan; Lieut. Cols. H.A. Dunford, Inf[antry], and Harry W. Stephenson, C.A.C., both at Erivan, Armenia; Lieut. Col. Rawson Warren, Cav., district commander at Kars, Armenia; Majors W.J. Gunner, Inf., and H.F. Rathjen F.A. stationed in Kars; Major Harrison McAlpine, Inf., and Capt. Philip C. Clayton, Cav., at Karakliss, Armenia; Majors E.L. Dyer, C.A.C., and Dale F. McDonald, Inf., and Major G.E.S. Webster, M.R.C., at Erivan, Armenia; Major Dennis McSweeney, Q.M.C., district commander at Batoum, Republic of Georgia; Major M.S. Lough, Inf., and Capt. Leo Warner, Inf., at Alexandropol [modern-day Gyumri] ; Major T.G. Peyton, Cav. at Akhalkalaki; Capt. Earl J. Dodge, Inf., A.C. of S.G.-5 Tiflis; Major C.M.S. Skene, C.A.C., A.C. of S.G.-1, Tiflis; Major Parker C. Kalloch, Jr., G.S. A.C. of S.G.- 2, Tiflis; and Major W.P. Davenport, M.C. in charge of all hospitals and medical work for the Near East Relief in Armenia and the Republic of Georgia.

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 Tiflis (Tbilisi), Georgia, the transportation and communications hub of the region, and shuttled back and forth between Tiflis 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 Kemalists troops of Nationalist Turkey unraveled 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 Transcaucasus 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.

The Commission to Negotiate Peace to the Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk

Paris, July 11, 1919

The following resolution has been passed by the Council of Five with my support and with the prior approval of the President and the other heads of state:

“Colonel W. N. Haskell, U.S.A., is appointed by this council to act as High Commissioner in Armenia on behalf of the United States, British, French and Italian Governments, it being understood that Colonel Haskell will be coincidentally appointed to take full charge of all relief measures in Armenia by the various relief organizations operating there...”

Colonel Haskell will act as an agent of the State Department... He is at present assigned to Hoover’s staff but as all regular army officers, of which he is one, are called in and as the army authorities here state that the matter is now out of their hands, it is necessary that it should be arranged in Washington. He may also need some further officers assigned him in connection with his mission.

[Robert] Lansing



Colonel James C. Rhea, U.S. Army, who commanded the Third Brigade on its night march to Beaumont in the last phase of the September 1918 Meuse-Argonne operations of the American Expeditionary Forces that brought World War I to a conclusion in November, being decorated by a French officer with the “Croix de Guerre avec Palme,” (Cross of War with Palm) at Tours, France, on February 20, 1919.

“[When Colonel James] Rhea of Texas came to Transcaucasia, the whole country was in a turmoil of unrest, on the very verge of a war the scope of which no one could foresee. When he left, the country was at peace, and the foundations of permanent peace had been laid. His work was done without soldiers or battleships or machine guns. It was done with no more than the patience, the tact and, above all, the complete disinterestedness of a man who sought no profit for himself or for his country. It may be, as Rhea said, that any American could do it. If so, perhaps the permanent solution of the whole Near Eastern muddle is in the principle that Colonel James C. Rhea of Texas put into practice: Not force – fairness.”

Paxton Hibben, “Keeping the Peace in Transcaucasia,” in *Asia, the American Magazine on the Orient*, August 1920

The American Expeditionary Forces



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)



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.

Dear Mr. President [Woodrow Wilson]:

Paris, 27 June 1919

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.

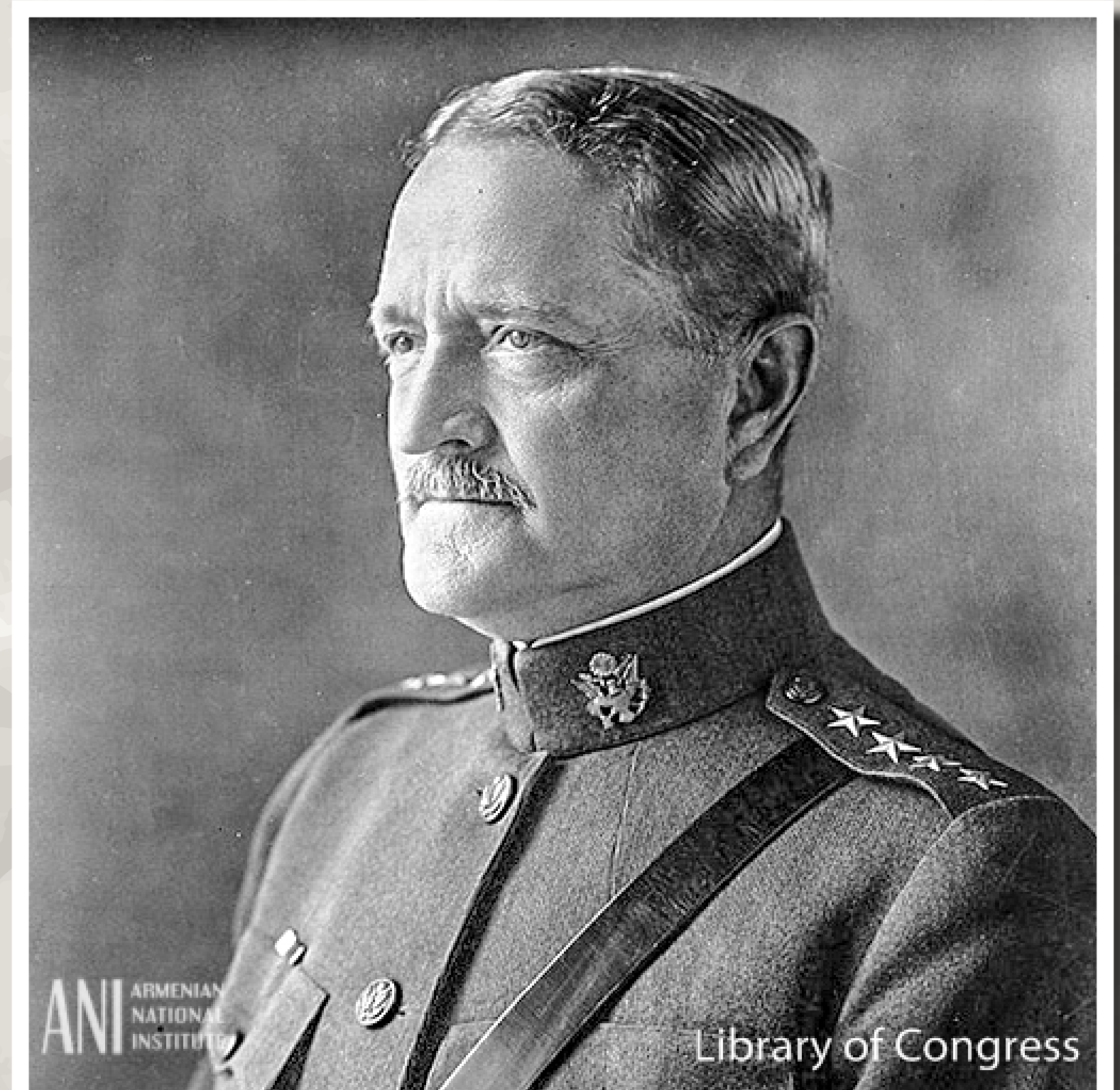
1) We suggest that a single temporary resident Commissioner should be appointed to Armenia, who will have the full authority of the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy in all their relations to the de facto Armenian Government, as the joint representative of these Governments in Armenia. His 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.

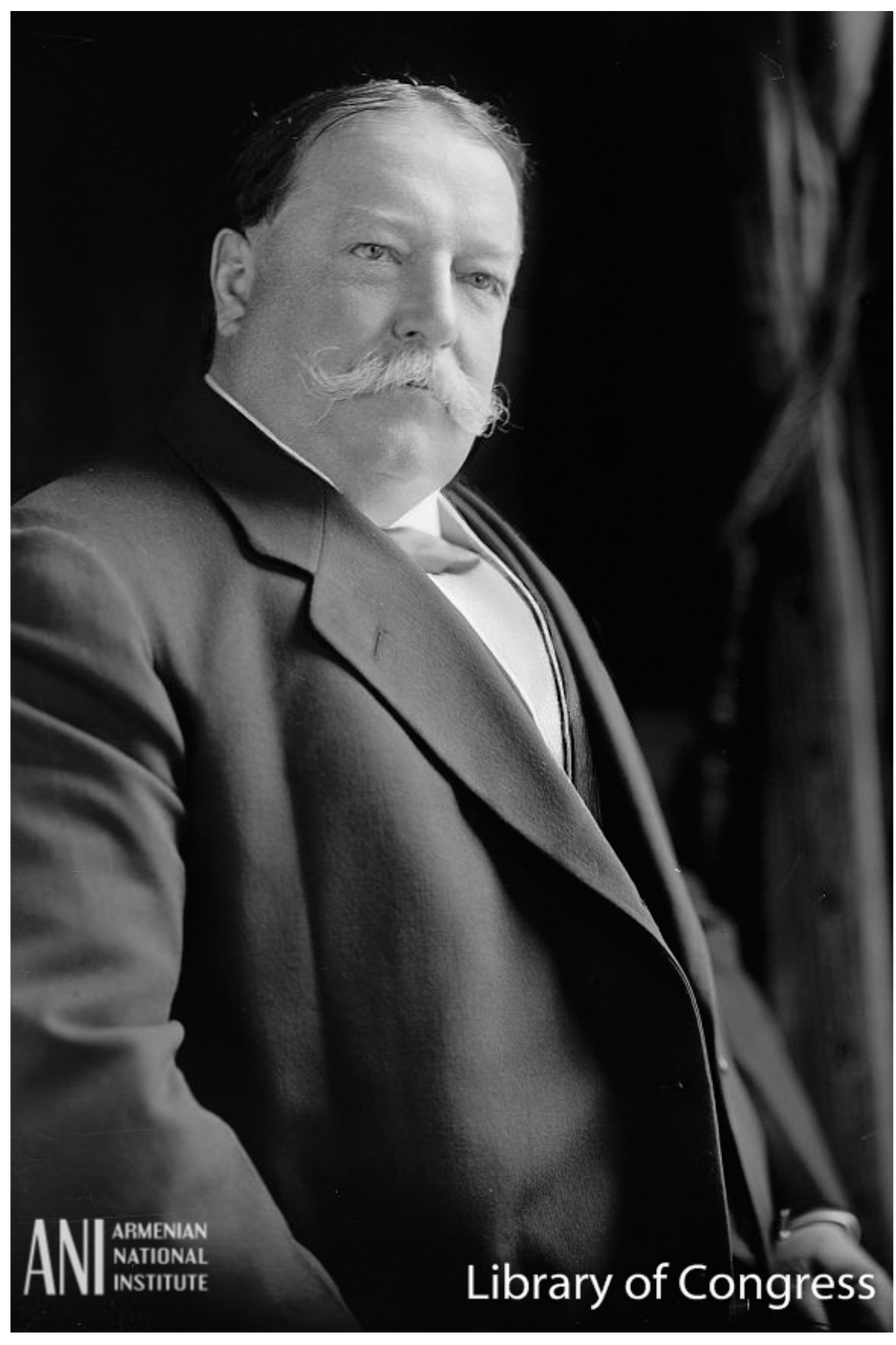


(Left Photo) Major General James G. Harbord (left) commanding general of the Service of Supply (SOS) of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). Before becoming head of the expeditionary forces supply system, he had been Chief of Staff of the AEF and had led the Marine brigade of the 2nd Division in 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.



Hunger Knows No Armistice

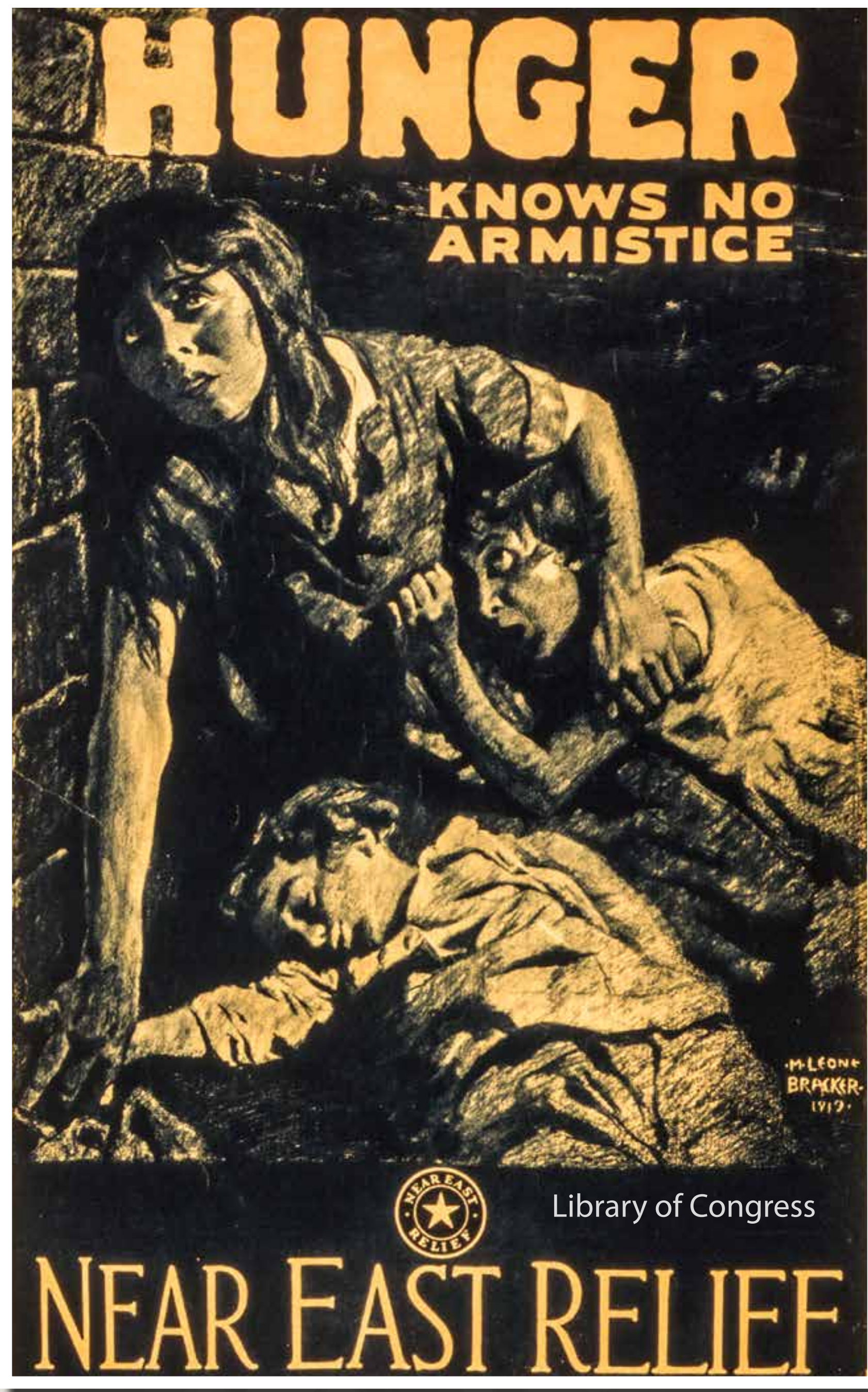


William Howard Taft (1857-1930) served as President of the United States (1909-1913) and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1921-1930).

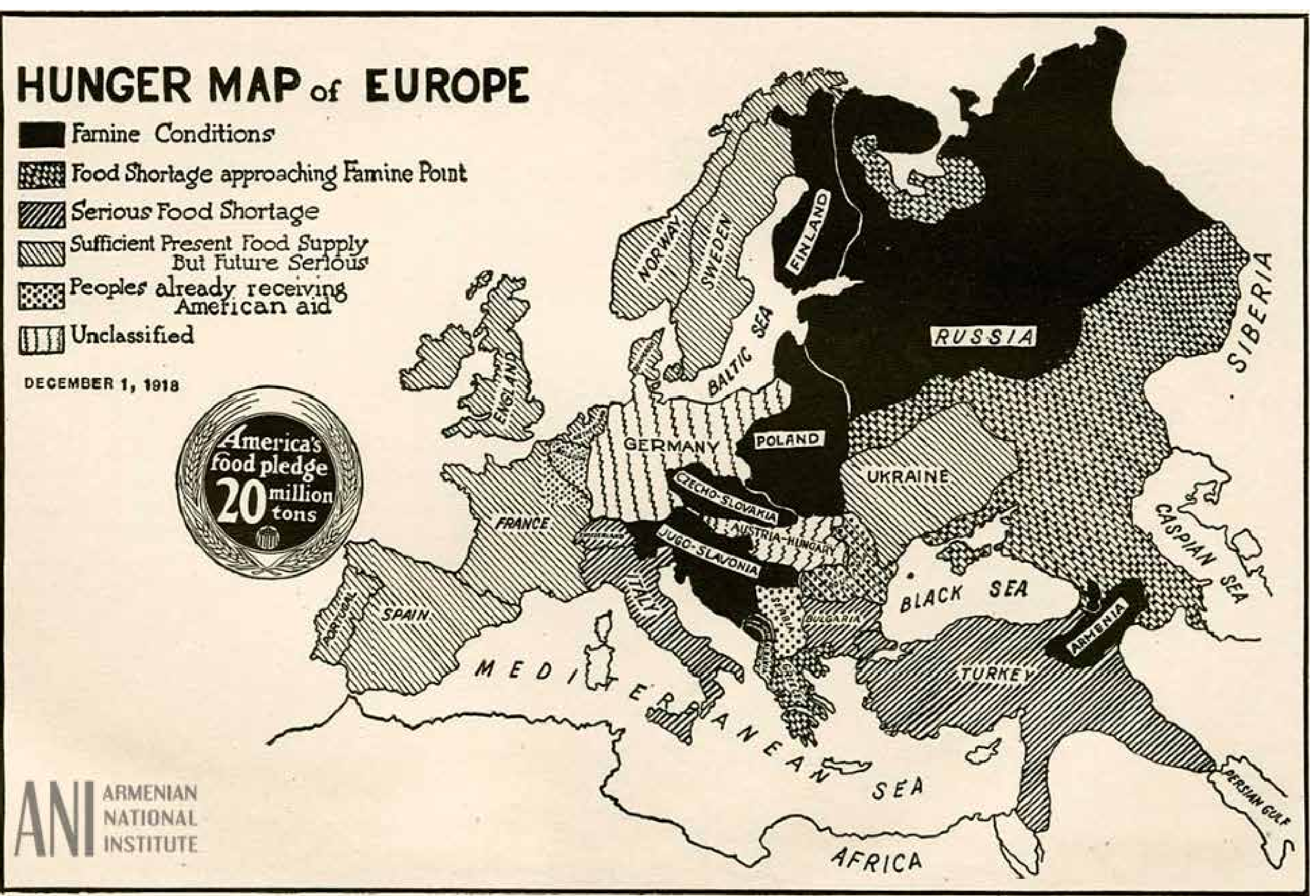


The Herald, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 1, 1920

collected 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 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



United States Food Administration, 1918

HUNGER KNOWS NO ARMISTICE IN CAUCASUS

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 Commission[er] 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, Azerbaidjan 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 a great number of destitute people who otherwise would perish this winter.

“Two hundred thousand destitute Armenians and Tartars can now be reached in the districts of Karabagh, Shusha and Nakhichevan, in the southeast section of the Trans-Caucasus, and we are planning to extend our work there. The economic situation is so desperate and food supplies so scanty that the Georgians have ordered 100,000 persons, mainly Russian refugees without employment, to leave the city of Tiflis. About 45,000 workers in the oil fields of Baku have been ordered by the Azerbaidjanese to leave the city because there is no work for them and food is scarce.

“Around every station along the railway are gathered groups of hundreds of homeless people lying huddled together on the ground, the majority of them too weak even to try to help themselves. From time to time the stronger ones climb on freight cars and move elsewhere, always seeking better conditions, which do not exist. Two hundred and sixty-three thousand homeless refugees from Turkish Armenia thus are constantly milling about throughout Russian Armenia, making the relief work conducted by the Americans a problem requiring infinite patience and organizing ability.

“This is especially true in view of the existence of 248,000 destitute inhabitants of Russian Armenia who possess homes, but no food, as well as 150,000 Greeks, Russians, Persians, Syrians and Yezidis who have been driven out of parts of Transcaucasia.

“One hundred and forty thousand Moslems, whose villages were destroyed in the course of five years of constant warfare, are helplessly encamped in the open around villages of their former enemies, begging infinitesimal quantities of flour, which they mix with dirt to give the illusion of nourishment.

“These hundreds of thousands of suffering adults, mostly homeless and lacking every necessity of life, having nothing more to lose, are concentrated in a country as yet inadequately policed or governed. They constitute a fertile field for the seeds of Bolshevism or any form of anarchy, the spread of which once loosed would be impossible to predict.

“It is generally admitted in the Caucasus that the Americans of the Near East Relief already have saved the lives of at least 30,000 babies and children and of 500,000 adult refugees and destitute. This work still is continuing.”

In an effort to procure funds to carry on the work and save the lives of these hundreds of thousands who otherwise will die of starvation and exposure, Near East Relief, of which Cleveland H. Dodge is treasurer, is making an appeal to the American people.

COLONEL HASKELL

United States Congress Incorporates Near East Relief

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS August 6, 1919.

District of Columbia, Near East Relief incorporated.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following persons, namely, James L. Barton, Cleveland H. Dodge, Henry Morgenthau, Edwin M. Bulkley, Alexander J. Hemphill, Charles R. Crane, William Howard Taft, Charles Evans Hughes, Elihu Root, Abram I. Elkus, Charles W. Eliot, Harry Pratt Judson, Charles E. Beury, Arthur J. Brown, John B. Calvert, William I. Chamberlain, Robert J. Cuddihy, Cleveland E. Dodge, William T. Ellis, James Cardinal Gibbons, David H. Greer, Harold A. Hatch, William I. Haven, Myron T. Herrick, Hamilton Holt, Frank W. Jackson, Arthur Curtiss James, Frederick Lynch, Vance C. McCormick, Charles S. Macfarland, Henry B.F. Macfarland, William B. Millar, John R. Mott, Frank Mason North, George A. Plimpton, Philip Rhinelander, William Jay Schieffelin, George T. Scott, Albert Shaw, William Sloane, Edward Lincoln Smith, Robert Eliot Speer, James M. Speers, Oscar S. Straus, Charles V. Vickrey, Harry A. Wheeler, Stanley White, Ray Lyman Wilbur, Talcott Williams, and Stephen S. Wise, their associates and successors duly chosen, are hereby incorporated and declared to be a body corporate of the District of Columbia by the name of Near East Relief and by that name shall be known and have perpetual succession, with the powers, limitations, and restrictions herein contained.

SEC. 2. That the object for which said corporation is incorporated shall be to provide relief and to assist in the repatriation, rehabilitation, and reestablishment of suffering and dependent people of the 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.



Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Samuel Train Dutton, and Cleveland Hoadley Dodge, a close friend of President Woodrow Wilson, and a founder and treasurer of Near East Relief.

“It is humanitarian work of a high order, and, as I take it, most urgent and pressing. No one need ever apologize for pushing with all one’s might to get the ear and the considerate attention of people. Those of you who have been at the scene of cruelties practiced upon the Armenians are in a position to speak with authority and, by reason of your intimate knowledge, are justified in bringing all your powers of persuasion, influence, and eloquence to bear in awakening the sympathy and generosity of the people.”

Samuel Dutton

1074

The Christian Register

(18) [NOVEMBER 6 1919

America Must Do Something

The only hope for the Armenian people, lest they perish, is ourselves

More than two hundred religious leaders from all parts of the country with state secretaries and officers of the Near East Relief met from October 13 to 17 in a series of conferences at Wallace Lodge, Yonkers, N.Y. The meeting was the first held by Near East Relief (formerly the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief) since the organization was granted a charter by Congress.

The first general meeting was held on Tuesday evening, and in spite of the rainy weather the large hall in the clubhouse was crowded to capacity. J. W. Mace, assistant field secretary, presided, and introduced as the first speaker of the evening Dr. Martin Littlefield, who told of his visit to the Russian Caucasus as a member of the Sunday-school Commission. Dr. Littlefield said there are seven things being done to alleviate suffering by the Americans: distributing flour, giving shelter to the homeless, healing the sick, building homes for the orphans, giving industrial training, rescuing wronged girls, and helping Armenians to return to their homes.

Dr. L. Lincoln Wirt of Near East Relief described his experiences in the devastated country and showed moving pictures made on the trip.

Lewis Heck of the Near Eastern Division Department, Washington, D.C., discussed the economical conditions and pointed out some of the industrial and commercial possibilities of Western Asia.

On Wednesday there was an all-day session, with Dr. James L. Barton, chairman of Near East Relief, as a principal speaker. Dr. Barton only recently returned, with other commissioners, from a tour of the stricken lands. The devotional service was led by Dr. W. E. Doughty, secretary of the Interchurch World Movement.

Other speakers were Solomon Lowenstein, major in the Palestine Red Cross Commission, who spoke on "The Zionist Movement"; Stanley White, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, who told of Syrian conditions; C. V. Vickrey, general secretary of Near East Relief; Isaac Yonan, moderator of Urumia Presbytery; and Charles F. Thwing, president of Western Reserve University, Ohio.

Dr. Barton, who presided, concluded the morning session by outlining the task which faces the committee. He said:—

"After going through that country and seeing the suffering, I want to say here that there is no one in this house that has ever heard a report of atrocities and horrors emanating from the Turkish Empire that have been the least bit exaggerated. I have at times, it seems, been almost at the gates of hell in order to get a grasp of the situation there. I have come back with the conviction that unless America, great, benevolent America, is ready to respond to the cry of Armenia and to the people that are suffering throughout the length and breadth of the Turkish Empire, there will be no other relief for them. Their only hope is America, and will America act to save the

people now at this time? . . . America ought to be allowed under her constitution to do the greatest and most benevolent international act ever done by any nation in the history of the world—put Armenia on her feet, and send her forward, an independent self-supporting nation that stands for a free, self-governing, self-directing people."

Stephen S. Wise, rabbi of the Free Synagogue of New York, spoke at a luncheon meeting Wednesday. In part he said: "Of course there are difficulties, there are great difficulties; but it seems to me that we can keep two things in mind: first, the Armenians must be kept alive; next, we have done so much—let us do just a little more. We are God's agents; we are instruments of God. God used us to achieve his purposes, and we must help our brothers, your brother-Christians, my brother-humans, our brother-Armenians. The Armenian people are not going to perish."

At the afternoon session there were fifteen-minute talks by Charles H. Boynton, professor at the General Theological Seminary, New York; Rev. G. Bayard Young, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn; J. E. Miller, secretary of the Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill.; and Rev. William I. Lawrance, general secretary of the Religious Education Unitarian Society, Boston, Mass.

The banquet at the Hotel Commodore was attended by over five hundred persons, including many leaders in humanitarian and religious work as well as men prominent in politics and in professional life. The speakers were: Hon. Abram I. Elkus, Ex-Ambassador to Turkey; Hon. William N. Runyon, Governor of New Jersey; Walter George Smith, ex-president American Bar Association, and Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy. Dr. Barton in the absence of Cleveland H. Dodge, who was unable to be present, presided.

Dr. Barton read telegrams from Ex-President William H. Taft, Herbert Hoover, Howard Heinz, Dr. Livingston Farrand, head of the Red Cross, Vance McCormick, President Hibben of Princeton, President Judson of the University of Chicago, Cardinal Gibbons, and from the Governors of Maryland, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Georgia, all endorsing the work for Near East Relief and urging its continuance.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels told of the work of the navy in relief for the people of Western Asia, relating how the Tennessee in 1914 took food and clothes to the Mediterranean, and served as a ferryboat between Java and Alexandria, carrying refugees from suffering and death to a city of refuge.

Mr. Daniels reviewed the humanitarian work of the navy in the war, and in closing he said:—

"We have a great mission, we have a great opportunity, we have a great responsibility. Whatever its faults, America has never failed in its responsibility, but has been ready, no matter what the cost, to live up to its ideals. We, these gentlemen here, in private philanthropy will come to the need, and all Americans will hear their call for private benefaction; but your united voice expressed through your government in the covenant which shall open a new day will cause us in this twentieth century to adventure for peace as bravely as we have adventured for war."

The following resolution was adopted:—

Whereas from authenticated sources comes the statement that there are at least one hundred thousand Christian and Jewish girls and women held captive in the harems of the Turks, Kurds, and Arabs within the domains of the former Ottoman Empire, forced to live in suffering and degradation often far worse than death; and

Whereas the Near East Relief, chartered by Act of Congress, has inaugurated rescue work for the care of the escaped victims of this tragedy and will urgently invite the women of America to rise to free and protect the women of Armenia, the hope of their nation;

Therefore be it Resolved by the representatives and guests of the Near East Relief, in convention assembled in New York this fifteenth day of October, 1919, that our Government, as the servant of humanity, be requested to take such measures as will give immediate protection to American relief workers and American property, and to the stricken peoples whatever temporary protection is necessary until such time as they can themselves protect their womanhood and homes, and establish themselves among the free peoples of the earth.

The conference closed Thursday with a meeting at Wallace Lodge. The final session was devoted to the discussion of plans for the campaign. Lady Anne Azgabetian, a native Armenian, spoke on "A Russian Red Cross Nurse in the Near East."

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A notable educator of the pre-war era, **Samuel Train Dutton** had served as Superintendent of Schools in New Haven, Connecticut and Brookline, Massachusetts and was a professor of school administration 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 policy of 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 agreement 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.



"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."

Colonel James C. Rhea
Winston-Salem Journal,
December 29, 1920

The Crowning Outrage

Letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Samuel Train Dutton

November 24, 1915

Even to nerves dulled and jaded by the heaped-up horrors of the past year and a half, the news of the terrible fate that has befallen the Armenians must give a fresh shock of sympathy and indignation. Let me emphatically point out that the sympathy is useless unless it is accompanied with indignation, and that the indignation is useless if it exhausts itself in words instead of taking shape in deeds.

If this people through its government had not shirked its duty in Mexico for the last five years, and if this people through its government had not shirked its duty in connection with the world war for the last sixteen months, we would now be able to take effective action on behalf of Armenia. Mass meetings on behalf of the Armenians amount to nothing what[so]ever if they are mere methods of giving a sentimental but ineffective and safe outlet to the feelings of those engaged in them. Indeed they amount to less than nothing. The habit of giving expression to feelings without following the expression by action is in the end thoroughly detrimental both to the willpower and to the morality of the persons concerned.

Until we put honor and duty first, and are willing to risk something in order to achieve righteousness both for ourselves and for others, we shall accomplish nothing; and we shall earn and deserve the contempt of the strong nations of mankind.

One reason why I do not wish to take part in a mass meeting only for the denunciation of the atrocities committed on the Armenians is because there are ignoble souls who have preached professional pacificism as a creed or who have refused to attend similar meetings on behalf of the Belgians, who yet do not fear to take such action on behalf of the Armenians – for the simple reason that there is in America no Turkish vote, and because Turkey is not our neighbor as Mexico is, and not a formidable aggressive power like Germany, and so it is safe both politically and materially to denounce her. The American professional pacificists, the American men and women of the peace-at-any-price type who join in meetings to “denounce war” or with empty words “protest” on behalf of the Armenians or other tortured and ruined peoples carry precisely the weight that an equal number of Chinese pacificists would carry if at a similar meeting they went through similar antics in Peking. They do harm instead of good; and they deeply discredit the nation to which they belong.

All of the terrible iniquities of the past year and a half, including this crowing iniquity of the wholesale slaughter of the Armenians, can be traced directly to the initial 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 timid 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 rightfully 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 Ancona.

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.

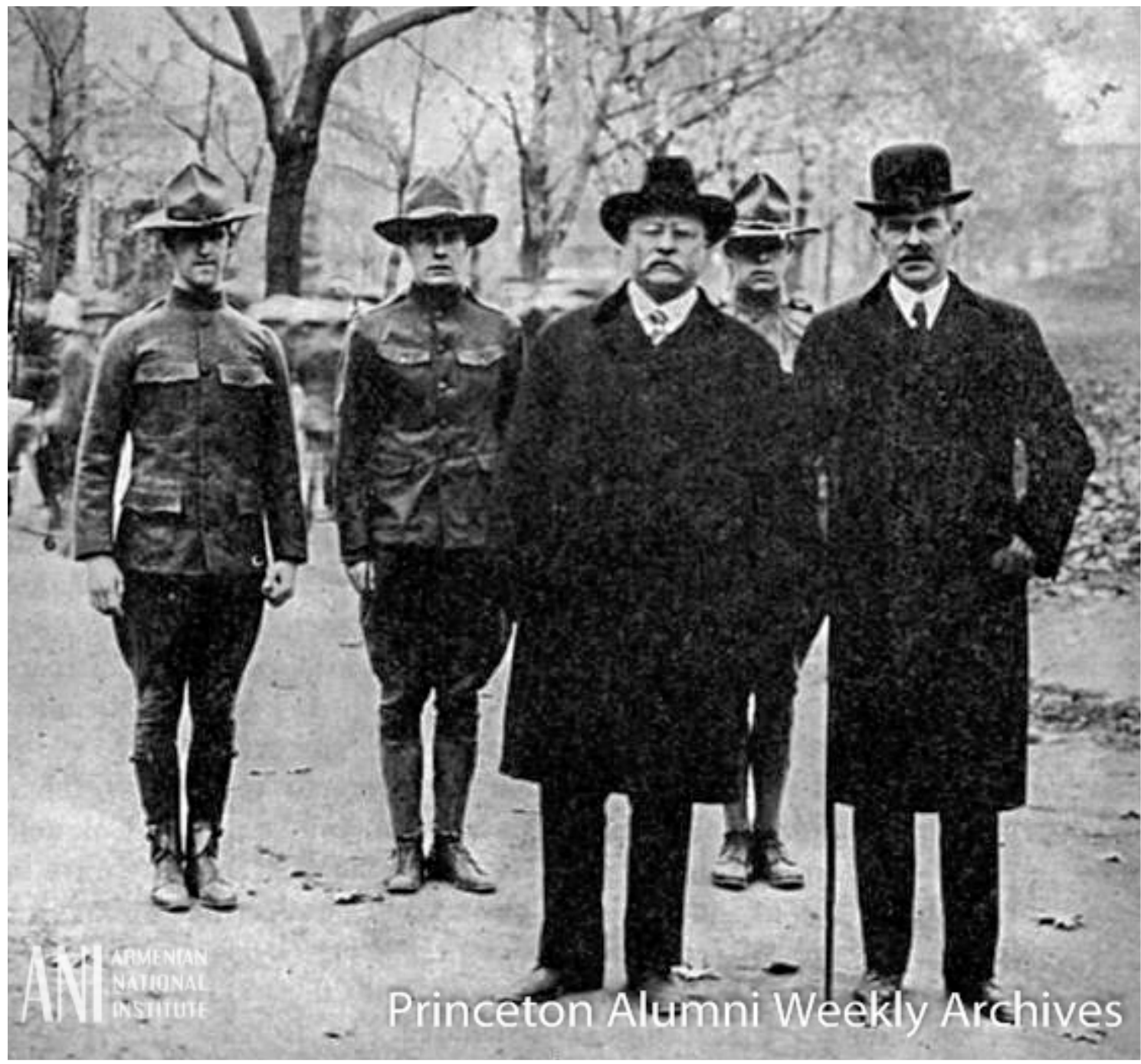
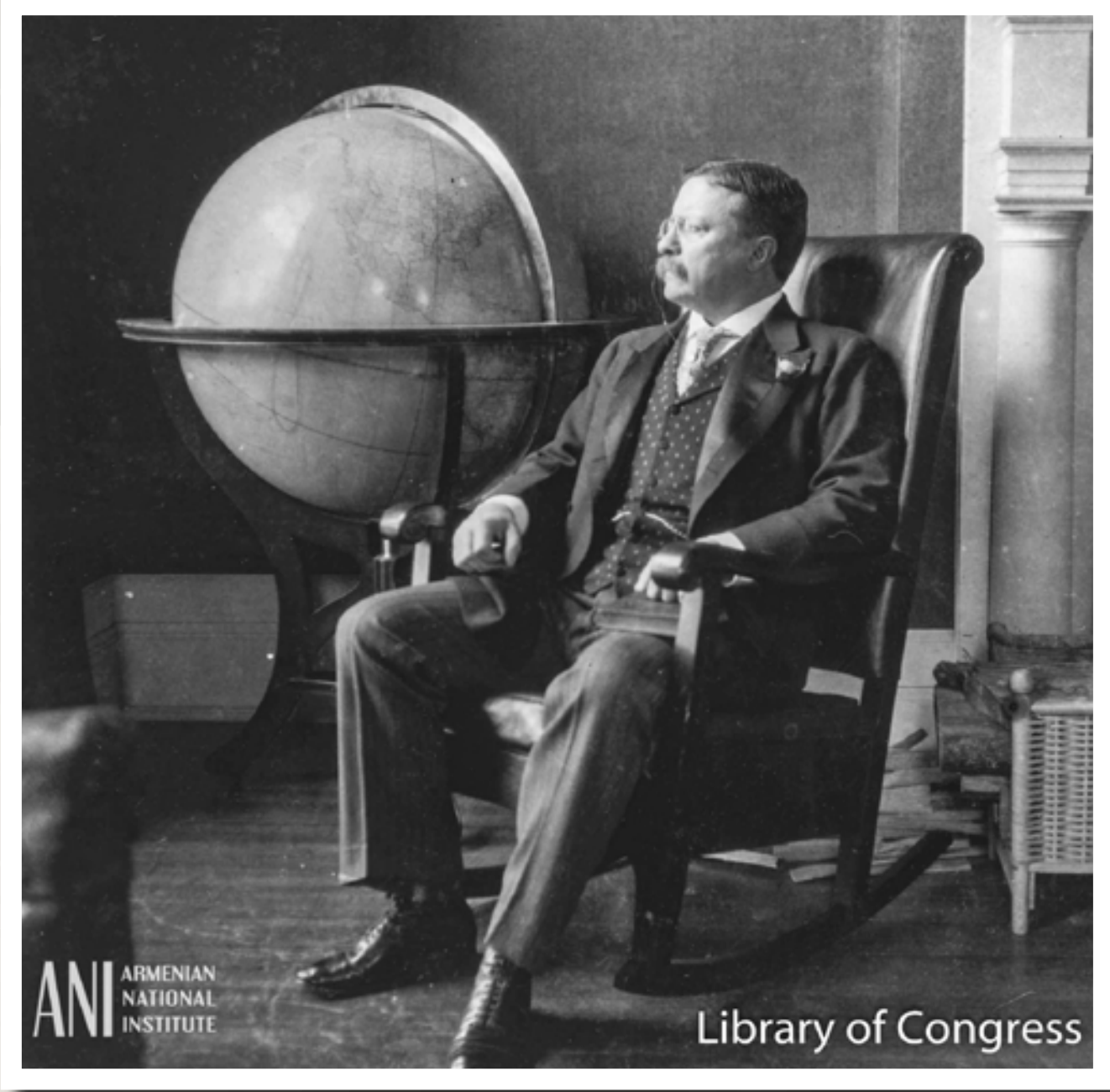
The crowning outrage has been committed by the Turks on the Armenians. They have suffered atrocities so hideous that it is difficult to name them, atrocities such as those inflicted upon conquered nations by the followers of Attila and of Genghis Khan. It is dreadful to think that those things can be 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 timid effort to avoid any duty that is hard or hazardous – 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; we refuse to do our duty by Armenia; because we have deified 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 the present above both duty in the present and safety in the future.

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 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 unspeakably foolish ones negotiated a year or two ago at Washington and promptly disregarded 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.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress and the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University



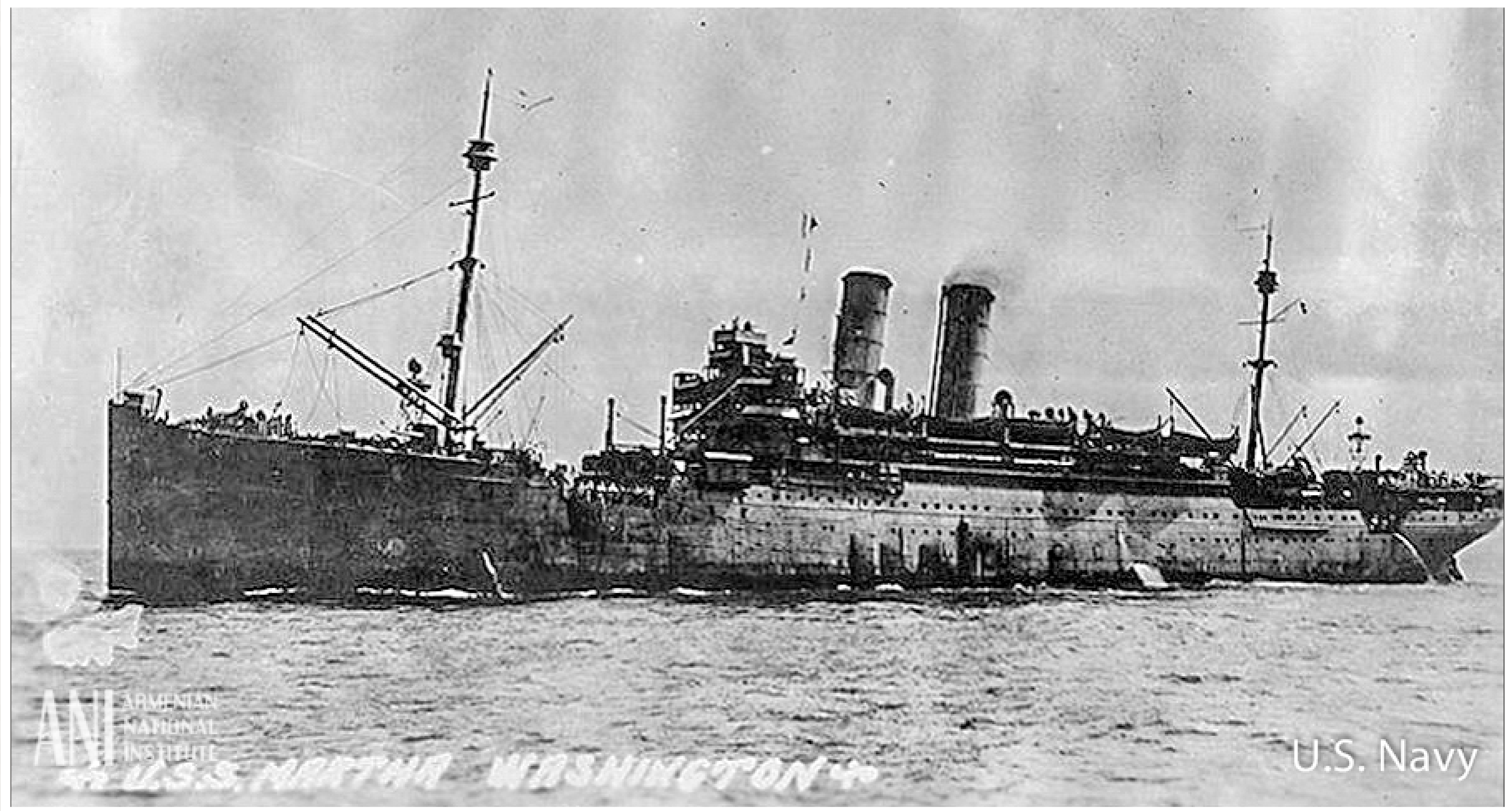
(Top photo) President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908

(Left photo) Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt and President John Grier Hibben of Princeton University, where Roosevelt delivered a lecture on the topic of National Strength and International Duty on November 21, 1917.

(Right photo) **Captain Paxton Pattison Hibben** (1880-1929), who had joined the diplomatic service with the endorsement of President Theodore Roosevelt, turned to journalism upon the outbreak of war in 1914. With the entry of the United States into the war in April 1917 he joined the Army. As a member of the military mission to Armenia he witnessed the accomplishments of his fellow officers and wrote of the struggle of Armenians to forge a nation in their stricken country. His cousin John Grier Hibben was President of Princeton University, and a member of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia along with several prominent Senators including Henry Cabot Lodge and Charles Evans Hughes, who, like former President William Howard Taft, was appointed Chief Justice of the United States.



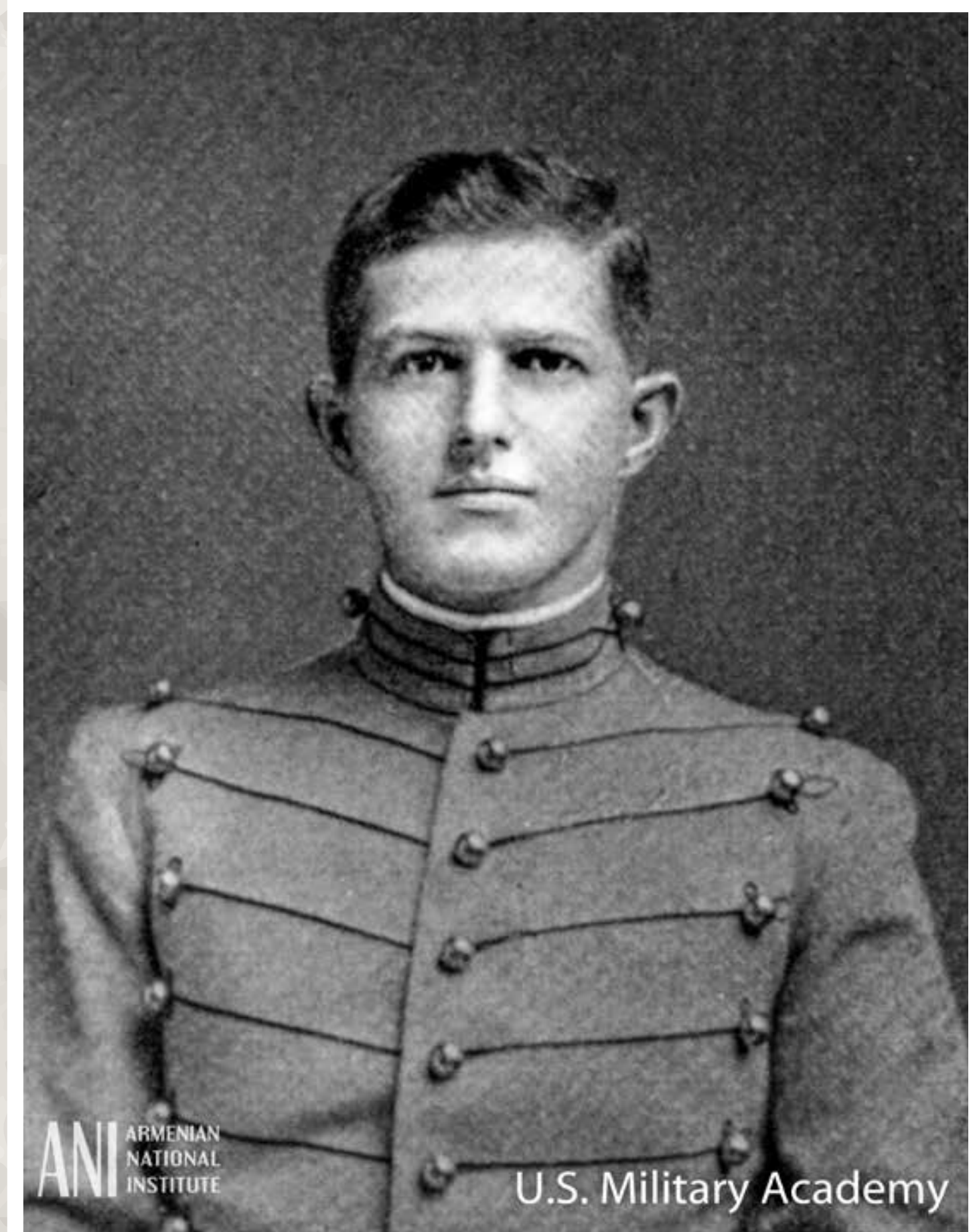
USS Martha Washington



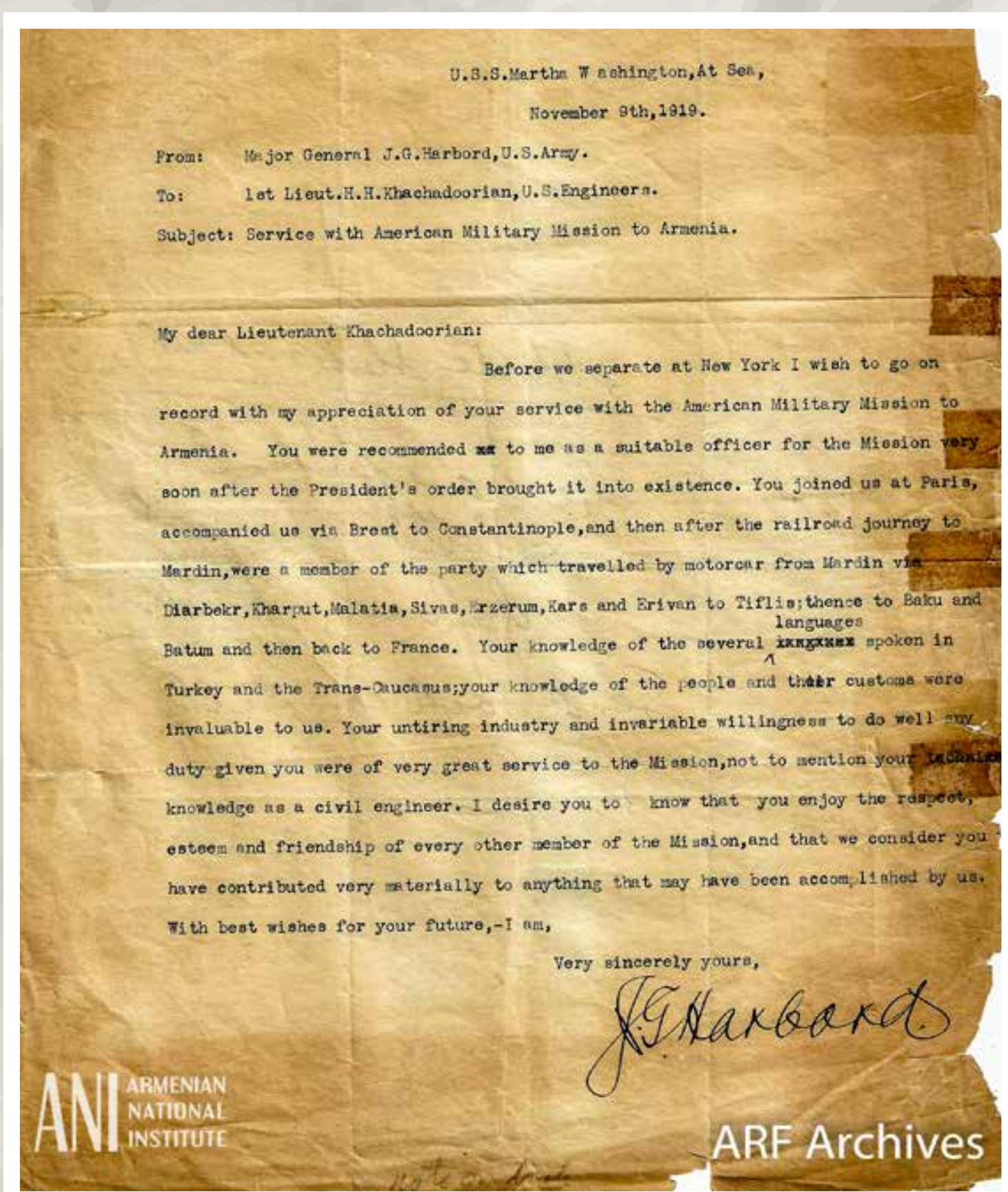
The USS Martha Washington troop transport ship during and after World War I. The American Military Mission to Armenia, both the Haskell group and Harbord group, traveled to and from the region on board the USS Martha Washington. Upon its return journey from Batumi, Georgia, the USS Martha Washington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



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.

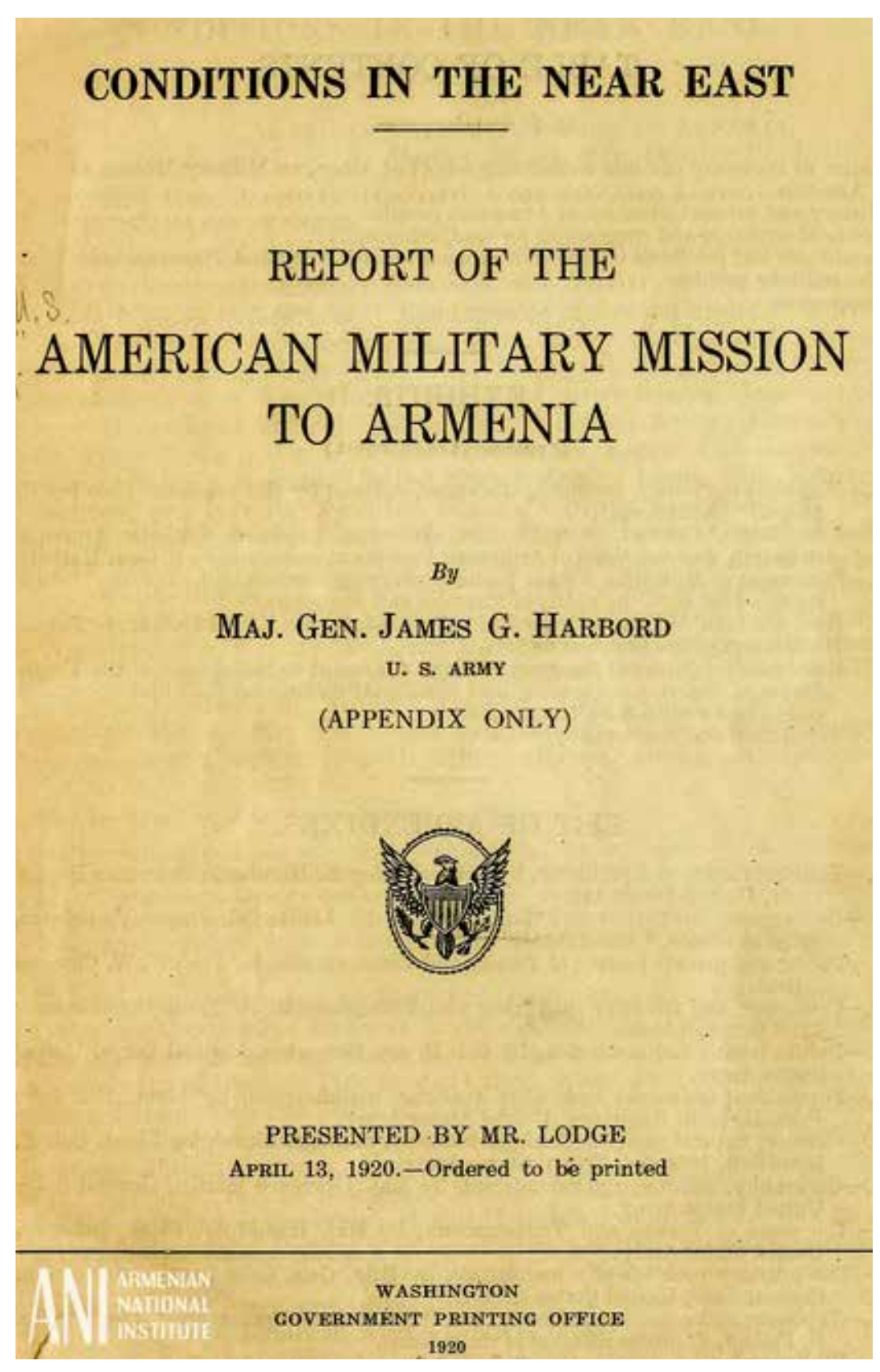


Letter of appreciation addressed to Lieutenant Harootiun Hovhannes Khachadoorian signed by Major General James Harbord on board the USS Martha Washington.



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.

General Harbord's 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.



Colonel Arshavir Shahkhatouni (1885-1957) military commander of Yerevan during the independent Republic of Armenia in Caucasian uniform and U.S. Army Lieutenant Harootium Khachadoorian.

General Harbord submitted his report to President Woodrow Willson 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.



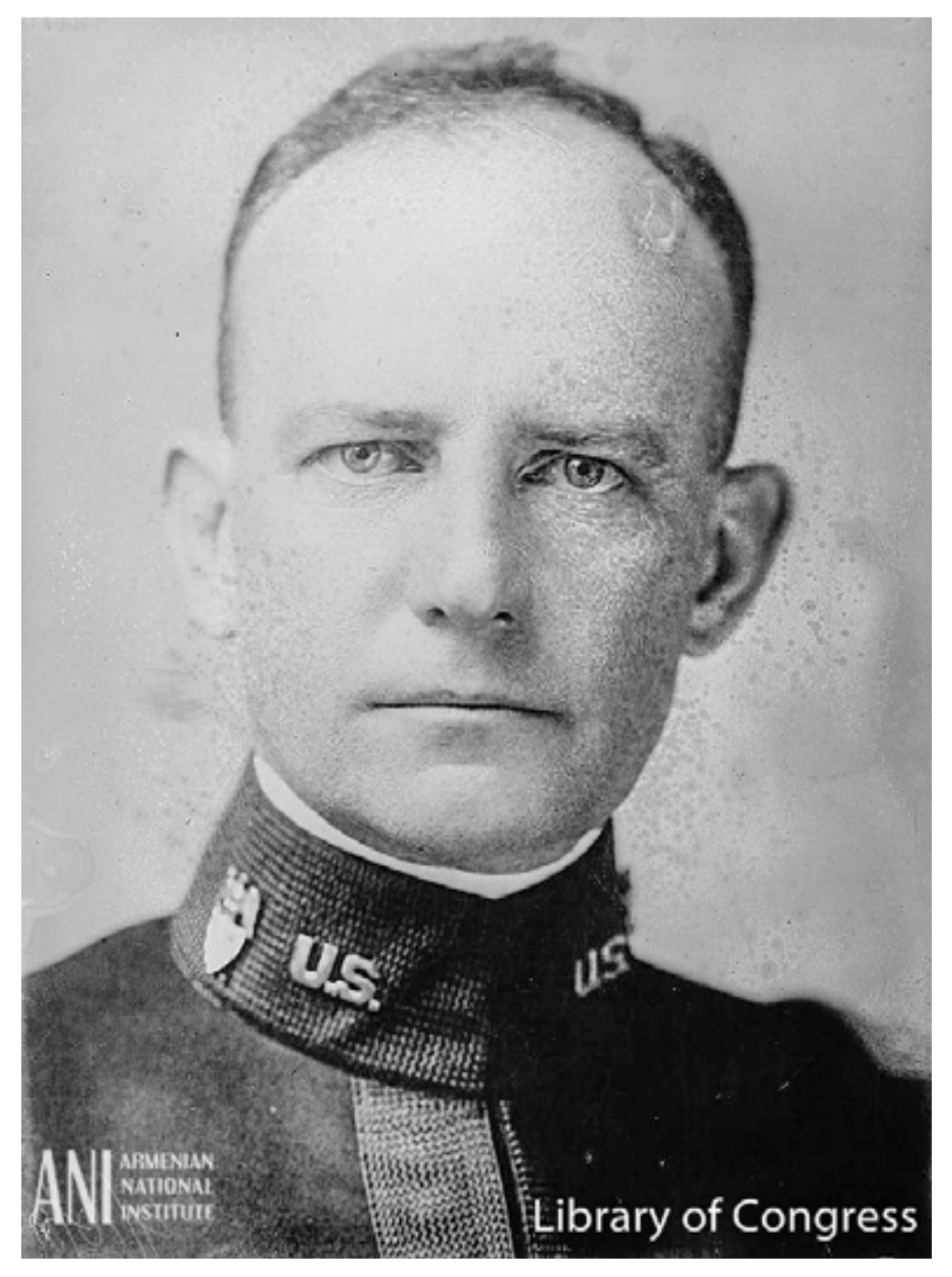
American Military Mission to Armenia



Major General James Harbord



The Cabinet of the Republic of Armenia. Seated left to right: Avetik Sahakian (Minister of Agriculture), Alexander Khatisian (Prime Minister), Major General Kristapor Araratian (Minister of Military Affairs). Standing left to right: Nikol Aghbalian (Minister of Education), Abraham Giulkhandanian (Minister of Interior), and Sargis Araratian (Minister of Finance). Taken on October 1, 1919, Yerevan, Armenia.



Captain Frank Ross McCoy (1874-1954) who as a U.S. Army officer served in World War I and was Chief of Staff to the American Military Mission to Armenia. (as captioned)



General James Harbord, General George Moseley, unidentified U.S. Army officer, and Lieutenant Harootiun Khachadoorian being welcomed entering the courtyard at Etchmiadzin in Armenia, September 27, 1919.



Armenian orphans waiting to see General Harbord and his party at Etchmiadzin, Armenia. (as captioned)

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 filth; loathsome skin troubles and great numbers of sore eyes, the latter especially among the children. The hospitals are crowded with such cases. (Harbord)



Holy Etchmiadzin Mother Cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Armenia, September 27, 1919.

The photographs of the American Military Mission to Armenia were taken by Sergeant Robert M. Barnes of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Barnes previously served with the AEF in France.



General James Harbord, Brigadier General George Van Horn Moseley, Lieutenant Harootiun Khachadoorian and staff photographed with Bishop Mesrop Ter-Movsesian and other Armenian clergy at Holy Etchmiadzin, the Mother See and pontifical residence of the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

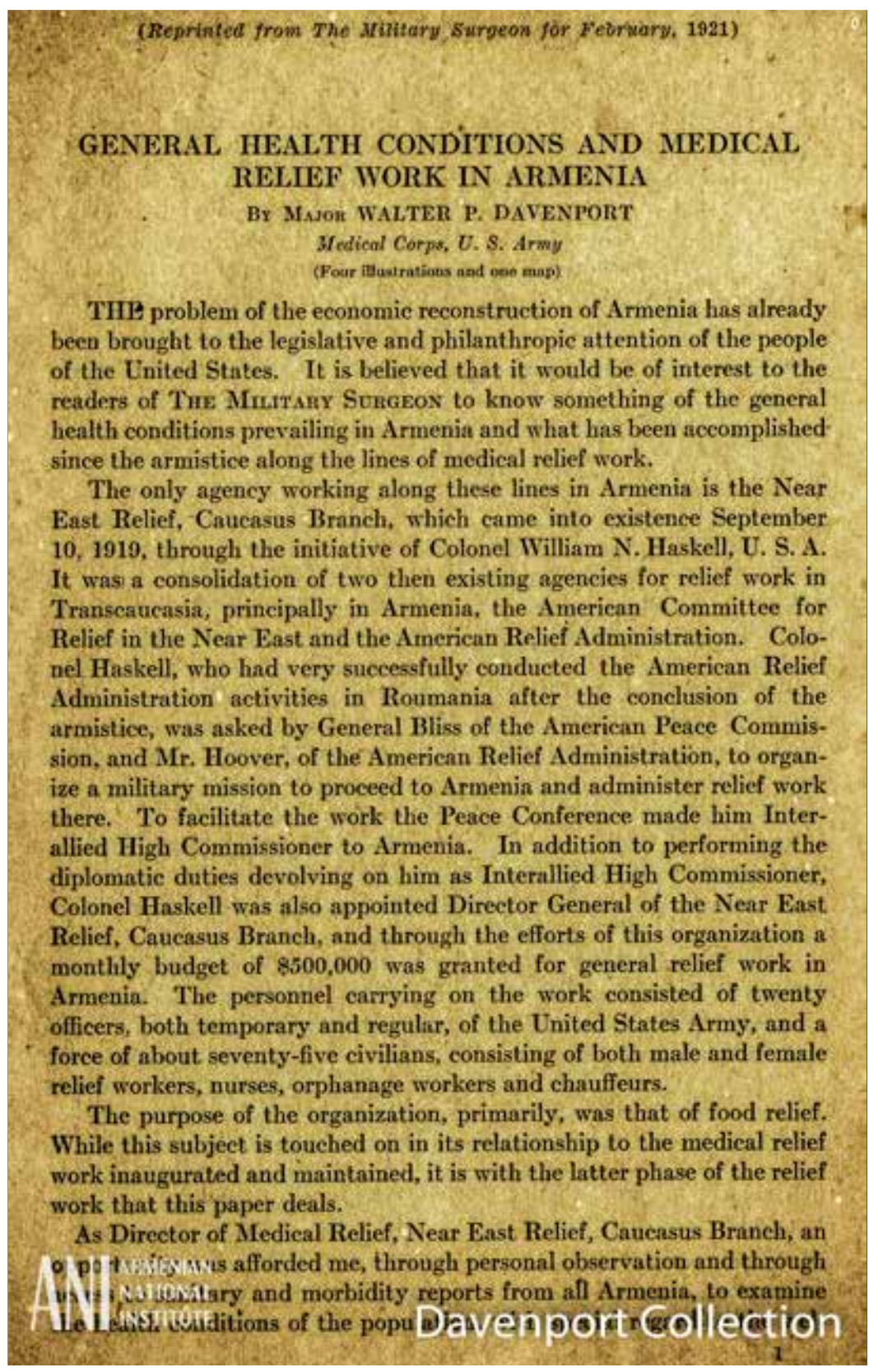
Director of Medical Relief in Armenia



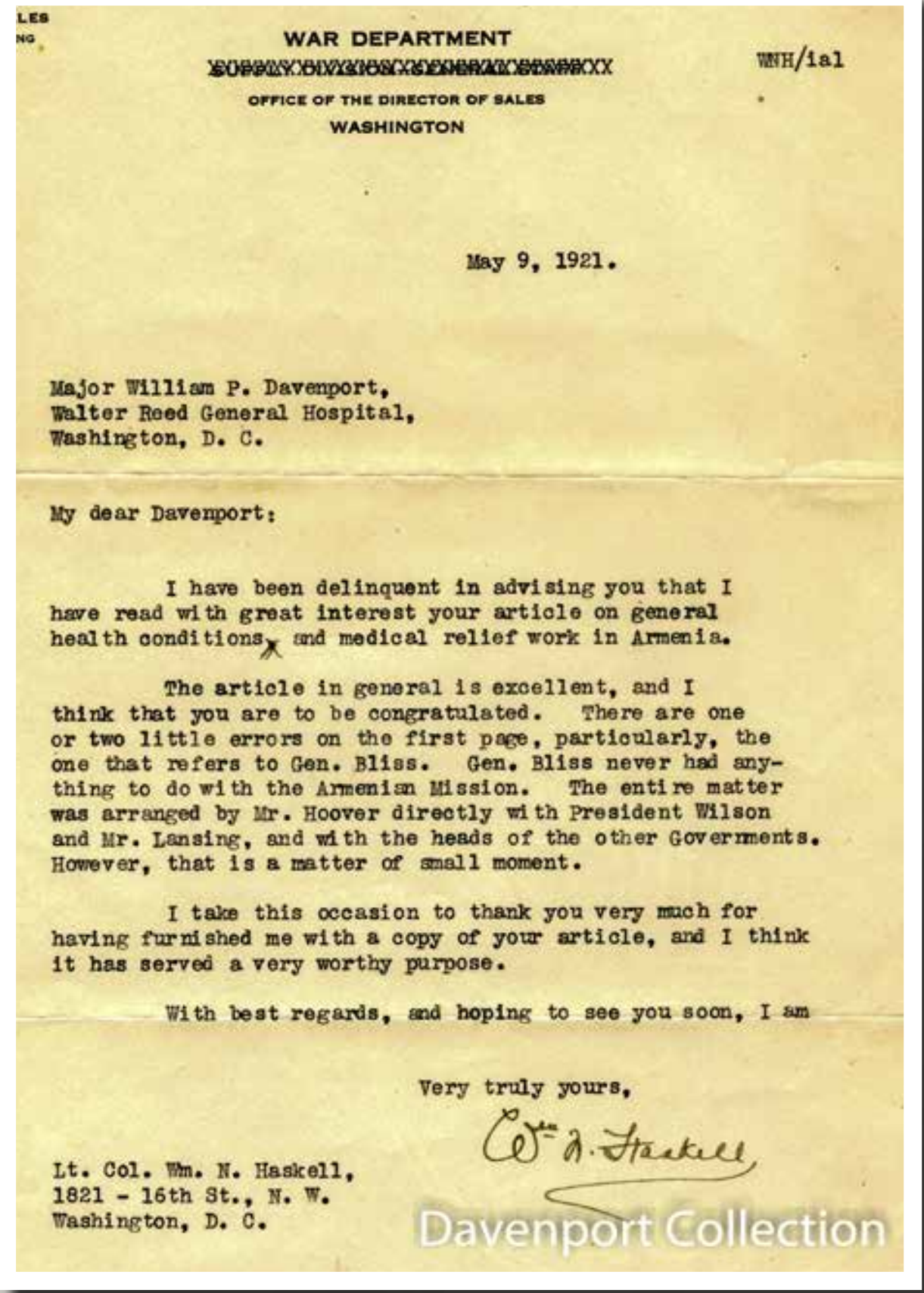
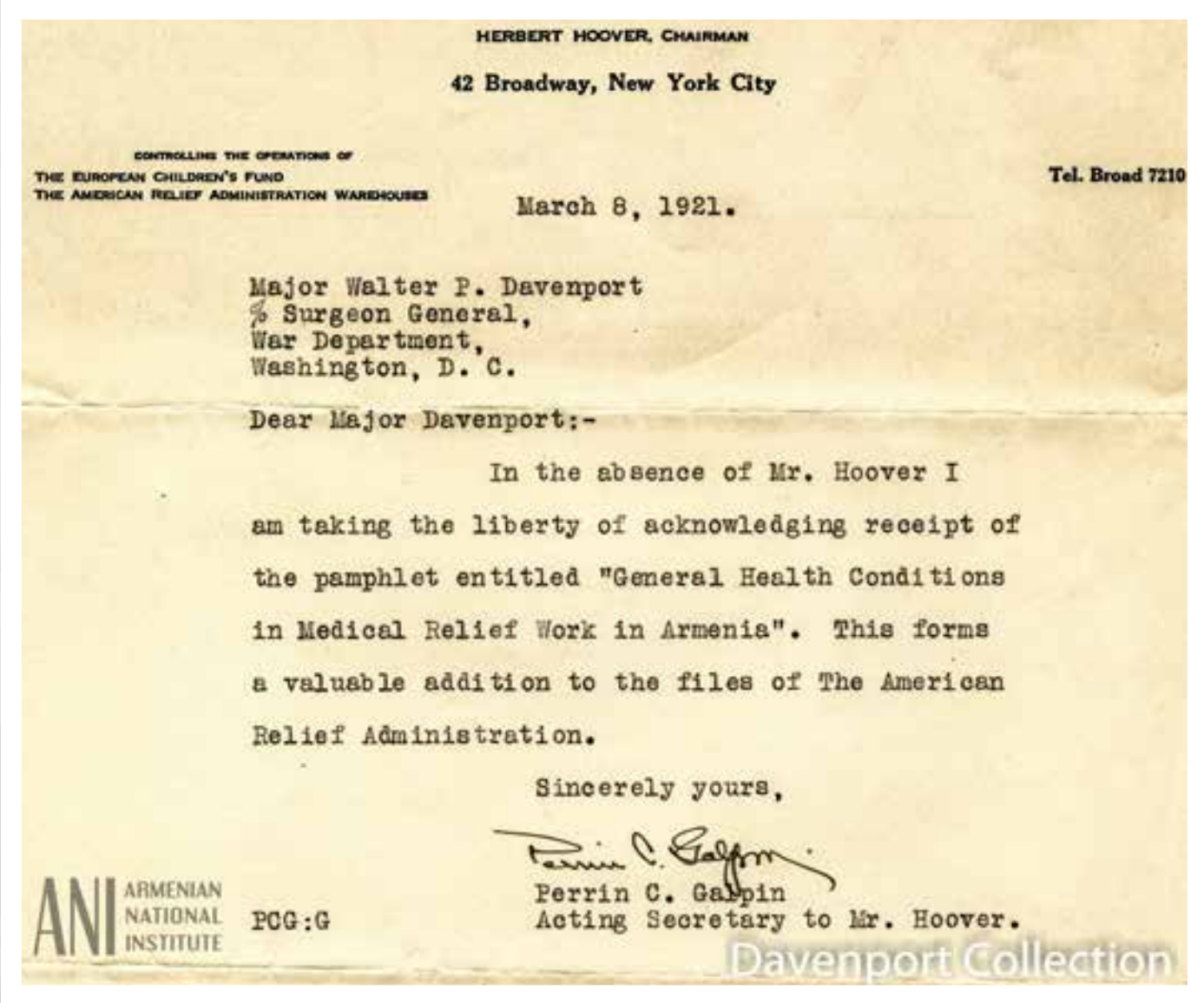
This photograph is supplied by “INTERNATIONAL,” 226 William St. New York. (stamped)
Dr. Walter Davenport with local Armenian medical staff.

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.

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 reports of relief activities carried out in the districts and consolidated monthly at headquarters show that the Near East Relief, Caucasus Branch, is furnishing food relief to approximately 561,870 persons, through bread and flour distribution to adults and through the child-feeding program which includes the orphanages, child hospitals, soup and cocoa kitchens, and milk distributing stations. (Davenport)



75,000 Children Cared for Daily



In Shelter House Yard. (typed)

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)



From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York. (stamped)

All the Children Were Undernourished



From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York (stamped)
Erivan – 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)

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)



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

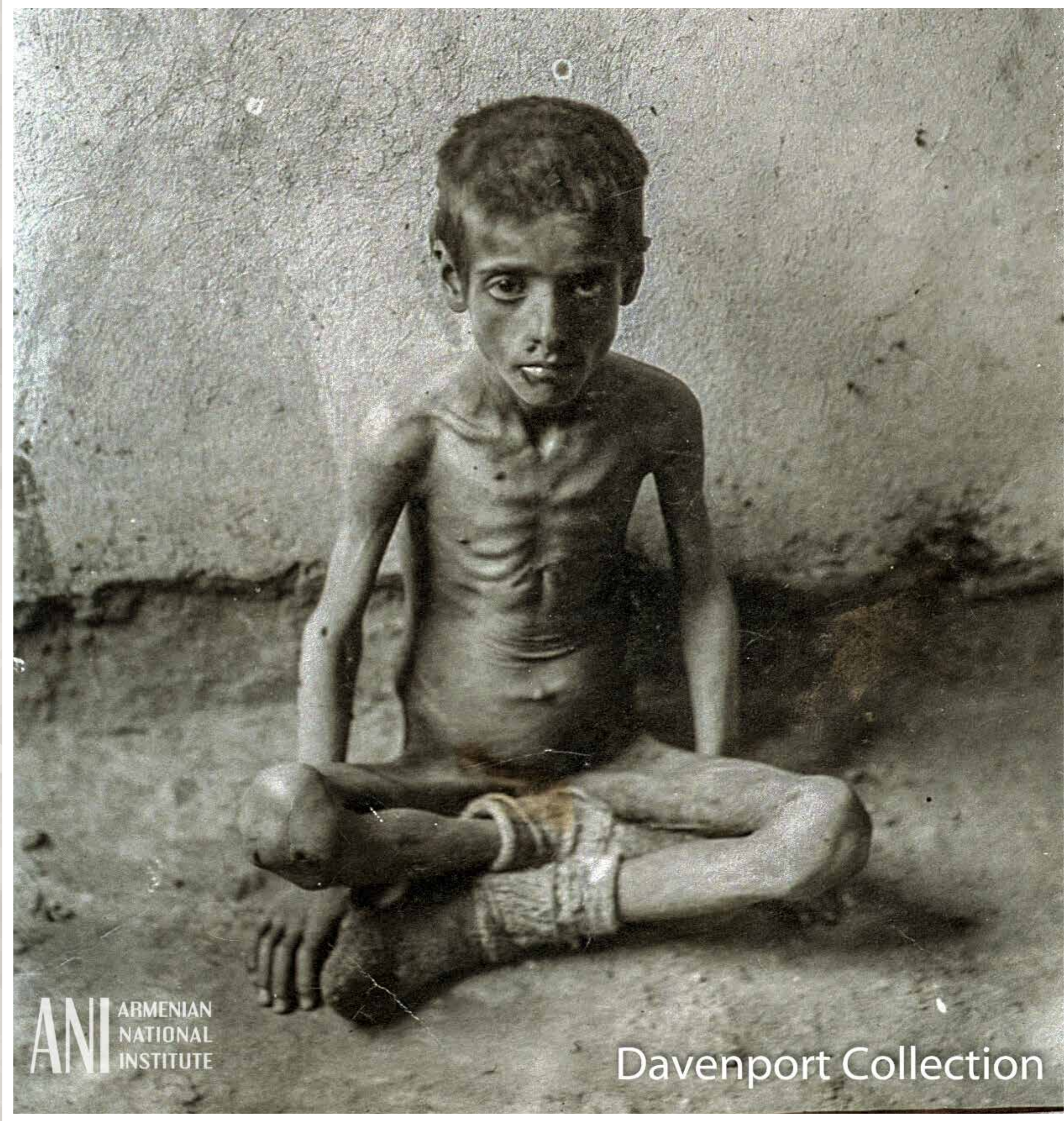
[When] the work was first started last fall, practically, all the children cared for were undernourished and from five to fifteen pounds underweight. All presented evidences of either slight or severe secondary anemia.

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)



(no original caption)

Lieutenant Colonel Spalding's Report



Child from shelter house Erivan Russia. (typed)

“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 Armenian people have occupied about 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



Child as found in streets when taken into shelter house. (typed)

AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION BULLETIN

A CRITICAL SITUATION IN ARMENIA

Prepared from Official Sources
by Lt. Col. S.C. Spalding

Within the last few weeks, military operations in Armenia by Turks and Tartar 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 to the Armenian people have occupied about a third of the entire Armenian Republic, and have begun to massacre the inhabitants. On 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.

The British troops in the Caucasus have not attempted to check the advance of the Turks and Tartars into Armenia but have been of great assistance in keeping open the railroad and preserving order in the Azerbaijan and Georgian Republics. It is feared that this stabilizing influence will be lost, as orders have been given for the British forces to leave on August 15.

The situation of the little Armenian Republic, in which Armenians all over the world have put their faith as the final salvation of the Armenian nation, is indeed desperate. Here are gathered together, in addition to the native Armenians, hundreds of thousands of starving refugees who have fled from the terrible vengeance of the Turks in Turkish Armenia, and more pathetic still, thousands of Armenians from Russia, the Caucasus, and Persia, driven out in past persecutions, who with hopes inspired by the attitude of the great powers, have gathered on the Turkish border so as to be ready to cross over to their long-lost homes.

The starvation which had reached such depths of human suffering that people were digging up corpses from the cemeteries to keep their last spark of life going, was just beginning to be combatted by the food pushed inland by the American Relief organizations. But now, with food supplies only ten days ahead of absolute starvation at hand, relief work has been absolutely cut off in some districts, a large part of the crops has fallen into the hands of the Turks and Tartars; and unless unforeseen aid comes shortly, all relief work will be stopped in a week or two.

HOSTILE NEIGHBORS

The Armenian Republic is surrounded on all sides by either potentially or actively hostile forces. On the north is the Georgian Republic, holding Armenia by the throat, by means of its control over the Tiflis-Erivan Railroad, the only means of outlet and inlet to Armenia. It is over this railroad that all the American Relief supplies are carried, and not long ago, the Georgians held up for arbitrary reasons all shipments for a whole week. Even now, although forced by the Allied Powers to open up the railroad to relief traffic, the Georgian Republic is still holding back normal commercial intercourse, thus forcing Armenia, without waiting for the Peace Conference, to enter into negotiations for the cession of disputed territory in exchange for a railroad transit convention. The refusal of Armenia to join the defensive alliance with Georgia and Azerbaijan against the Denikin volunteer army has increased their hostility, as is shown not only in the increase of obstructive and coercive measures by both countries, but in the openly overt acts of Azerbaijan.

On the east, Armenia is being attacked by Azerbaijan Tartars, led, and to a certain extent equipped by the Turks. When the Turks left the Azerbaijan territory at the time of the Armistice they left behind them a number of Turkish officers and considerable equipment. These officers have been quietly at work organizing and training the Tartar forces for the present eventuality, and now, under the leadership of Khalil Bey, a Turkish colonel, the results of their labors are to be seen in the recent fighting in the Armenian districts of Karabagh and Zangezur.

From the South, Armenia is also being attacked by Tartar forces organized in Northern Persia under the inspiration and guidance of the Turks. On the west, the advance of the well-equipped and disciplined Turkish army has passed the Turkish-Armenian border and armed conflicts of considerable extent have occurred at Nakhitchevan, Kargizman, and Sarakamish.

Large concentrations of Turkish troops are also taking place at Olti and Sarakamish. (This activity on the part of the Turkish forces is, of course, in direct violation of the Armistice conditions, but the Turkish authorities at Constantinople disclaim all responsibility, saying that these forces have declared their independence from the Turkish Empire, and that they are no longer under their control.) The main railroad, which has been used to carry the vital food supplies to the starving Armenians in the districts south of Erivan, has been cut between Erivan and Nakhitchevan, and the road between Erivan and Kars has also been cut.

INTERFERENCE WITH RELIEF

This impossible military and political situation has of course had a direct reaction on our relief work. Major Green reports that relief depots and trains have been surrounded and probably seized, and that the British authorities state that orders from superiors prevent any interference on their part. In another telegram from Tiflis, dated July 23, 1919, Major Green states: "If military protection is not afforded Armenia immediately, disaster will be more terrible than the massacre of 1915, and the remnant of the Armenian nation will be crushed. Predict that relief work will become impossible in a few weeks unless order can be restored."

Further reports from various sources state that American Relief organizations are prevented by Turks and Tartars from carrying out relief work in several districts where starvation of Armenians continues. The relief storerooms at Nakhitchevan are surrounded, the storeroom at Igat isolated by the advancing Turks, and a train is believed to be in the hands of the Tartars. The fate of the relief workers caught in the advance of the Turks and Tartars is unknown.

Col. W.N. Haskell, who was appointed by the Supreme Council as High Commissioner for Armenia in the name of the United States, Great Britain, France, and Italy, has now arrived in Constantinople. The relief work in Armenia of the American Relief Administration and the American Committee for Relief in the Near East will be consolidated under the American Committee for Relief in the Near East. Col. Haskell will have full and entire control of the activities of the Commission of the A.C.R.N.E., acting directly under the executive committee in New York in this work for the A.C.R.N.E. Col. Haskell has selected a staff of officers to aid him in his work. These are now organizing under the direction of Col. J.C. Rhea of the General Staff, who is acting as Col. Haskell's representative in Paris, and who will leave for the Near East in a few days.

August 11, 1919.

The relief work consists of the allotment made to the Transcaucasus from the unexpended balance of the hundred millions appropriated by Congress for relief in allied countries, and of the funds contributed through the American Committee for Relief in the Near East. All circumstances considered, the Relief Administration in the Transcaucasus seems to have been conducted with more than average energy. It has rescued the refugees there from starvation, and brought the name of America to a height of sympathy and esteem it has never before enjoyed in this region. It extends now throughout the Near East, and is felt by the wild ragged Kurd, the plausible Georgian, the suspicious Azarbaijan[i], the able Armenian and the grave Turk with equal seriousness. (Harbord)

Near East Relief Soup Kitchens

Etchmiadzin



No. 5 – Orphan children from Alikushak – village near Mt. Ararat. (Davenport)



From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York (stamped)
No. 7 – Refugee children awaiting the opening of the soup kitchen [in]
Etchmiadzin – outside of Erivan. (Davenport)

AGRICULTURALISTS, MINOR COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, INDUSTRIAL CLASS, AND SO-CALLED NATIVE POOR

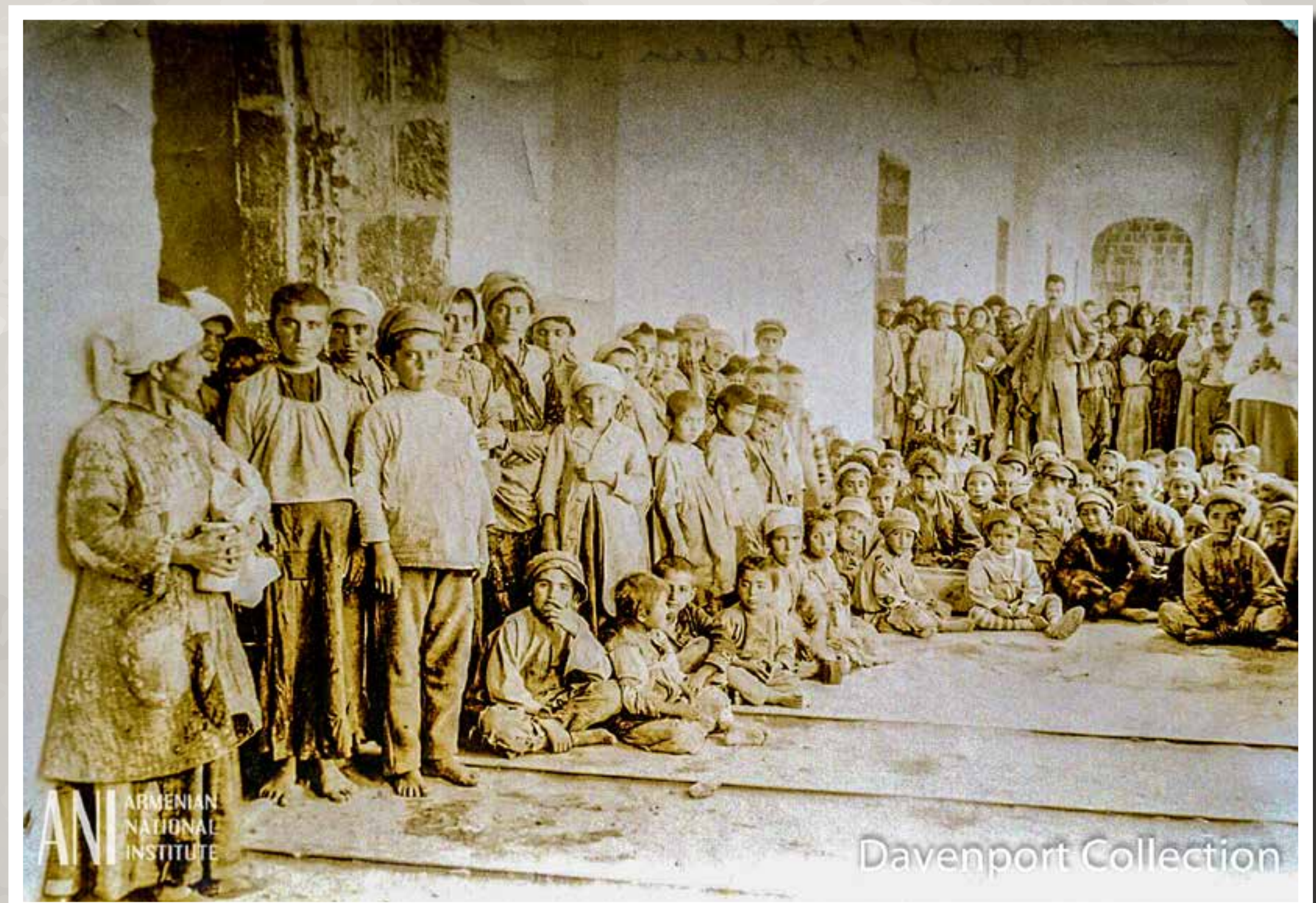
When one examines this class, dependent for livelihood upon commerce and industry which has been paralyzed for four years and upon agricultural pursuits which cannot be followed for lack of seed grain and the necessary implements, one finds the general health far below the average. In any event, its 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. (Davenport)

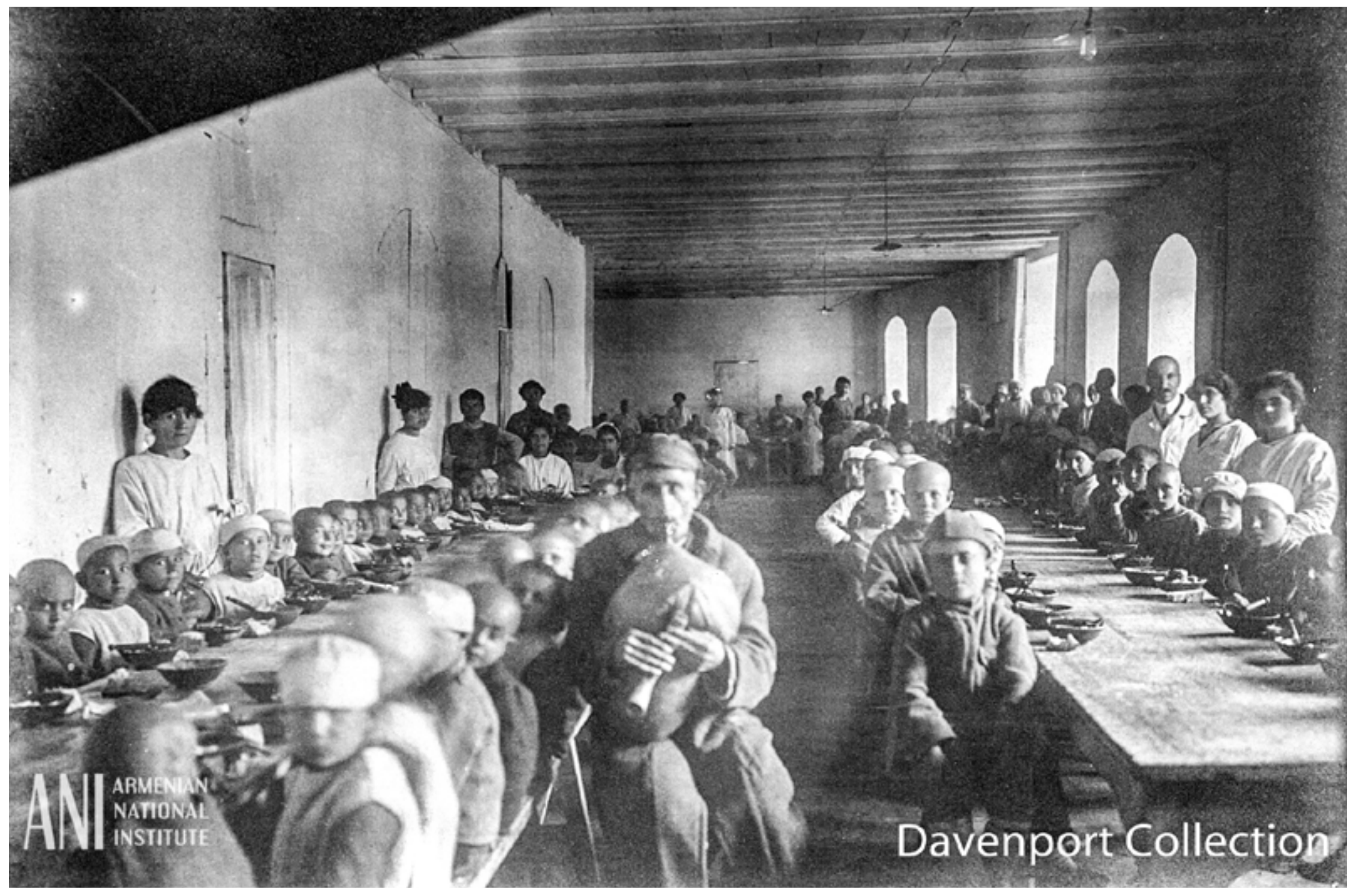


No. 13 – Interior [of the] general medical war orphanage hospital
– Etchmiadzin. (Davenport)

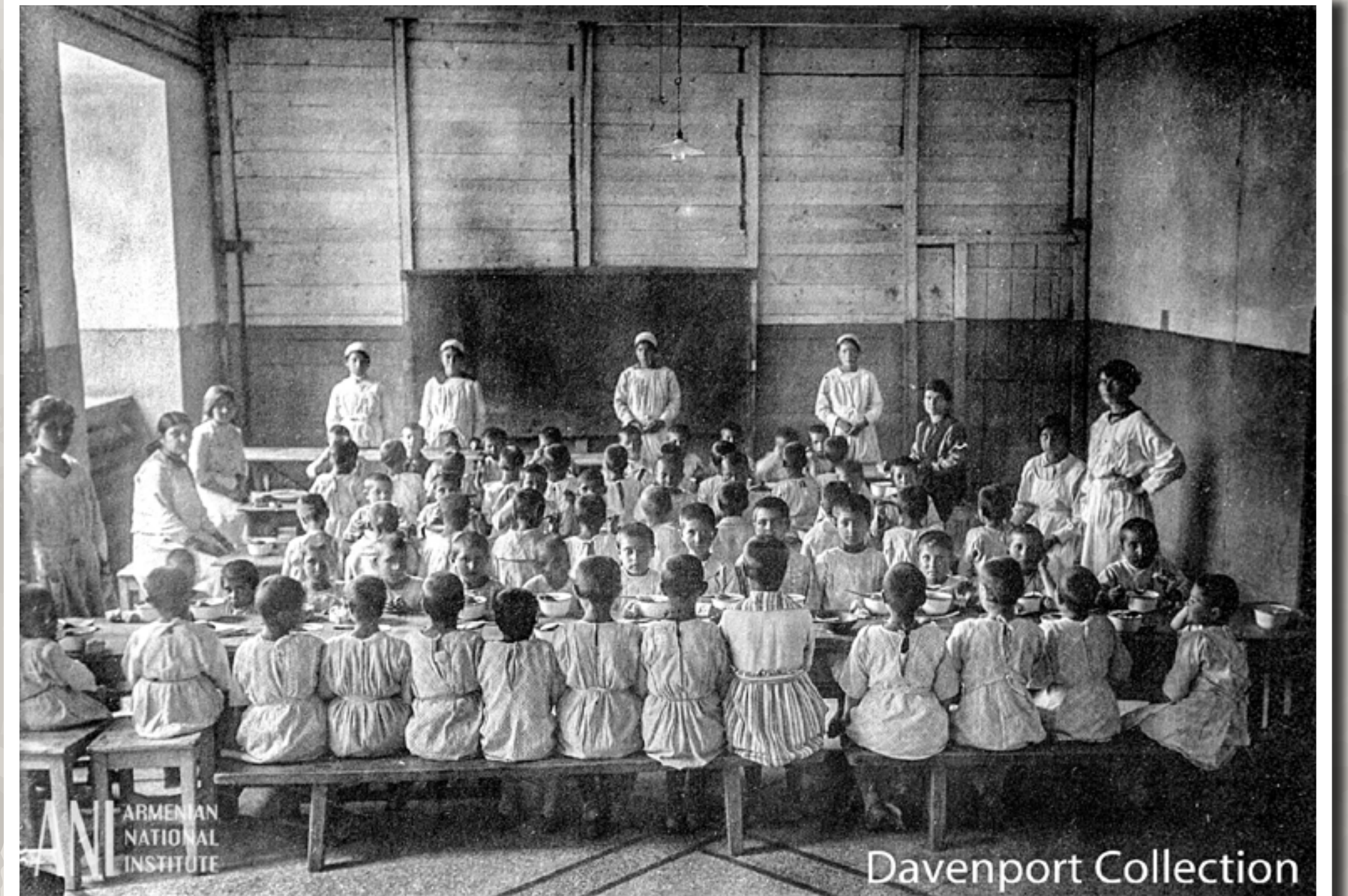


From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York (stamped)
Soup kitchen in Etchmidazin. (penciled)
(repeated) Soup kitchen in Etchmiadzin. (Davenport)

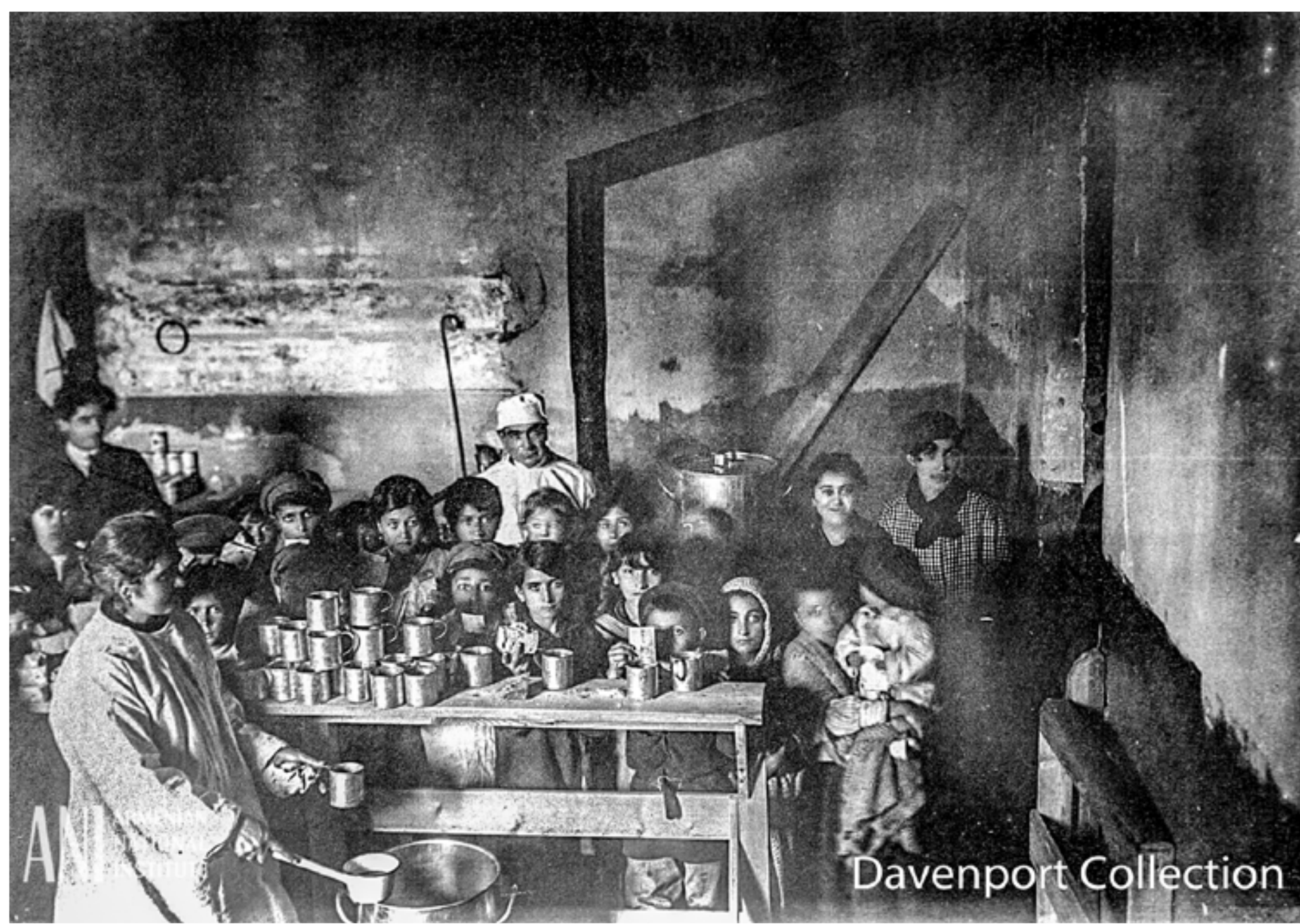
America Feeding the Children



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)

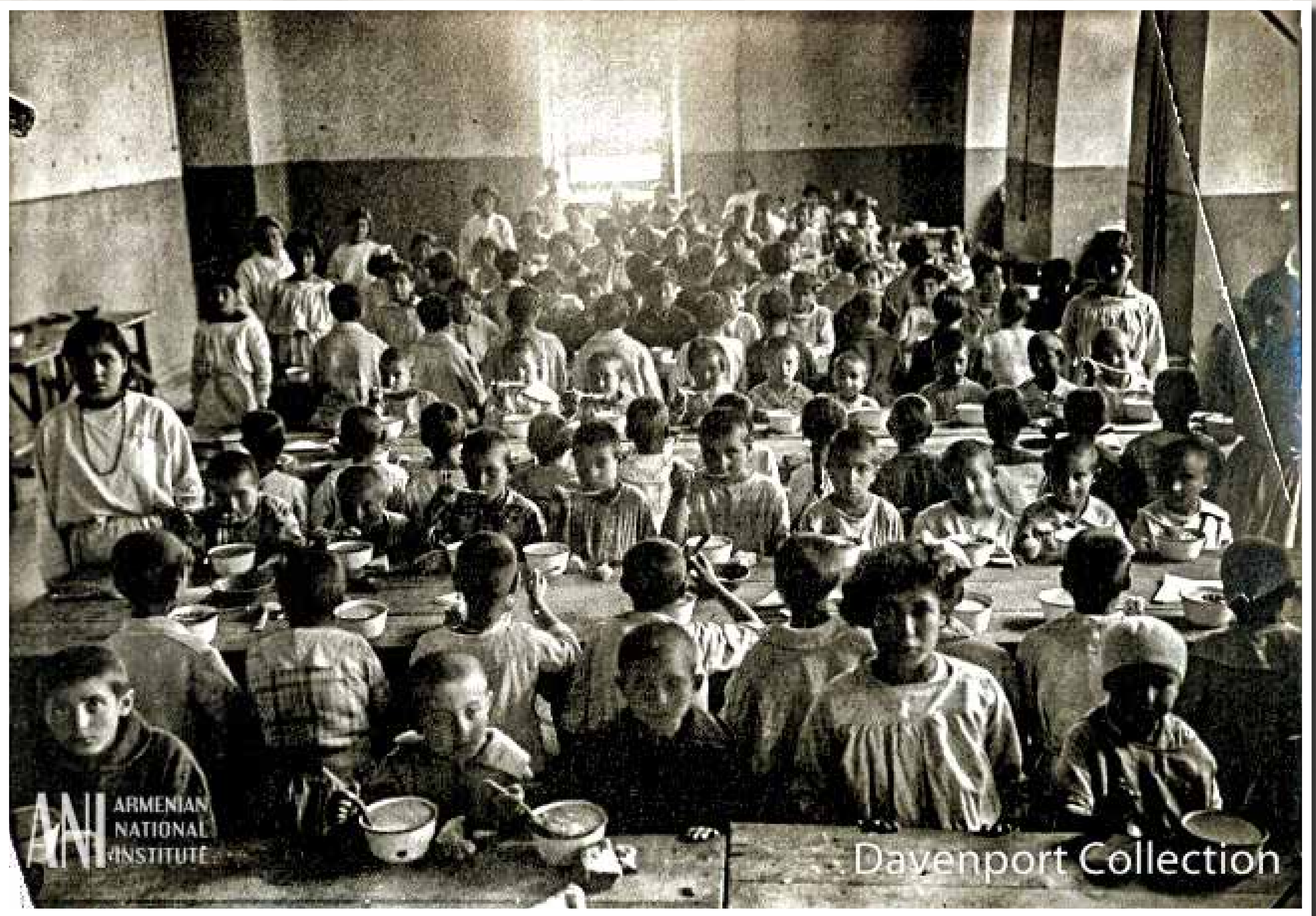


The Tiflis Cocoa Kitchen. The children arrive with their tickets and receive bread and cocoa. Three hundred children are fed daily in this kitchen. (typed)



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

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)

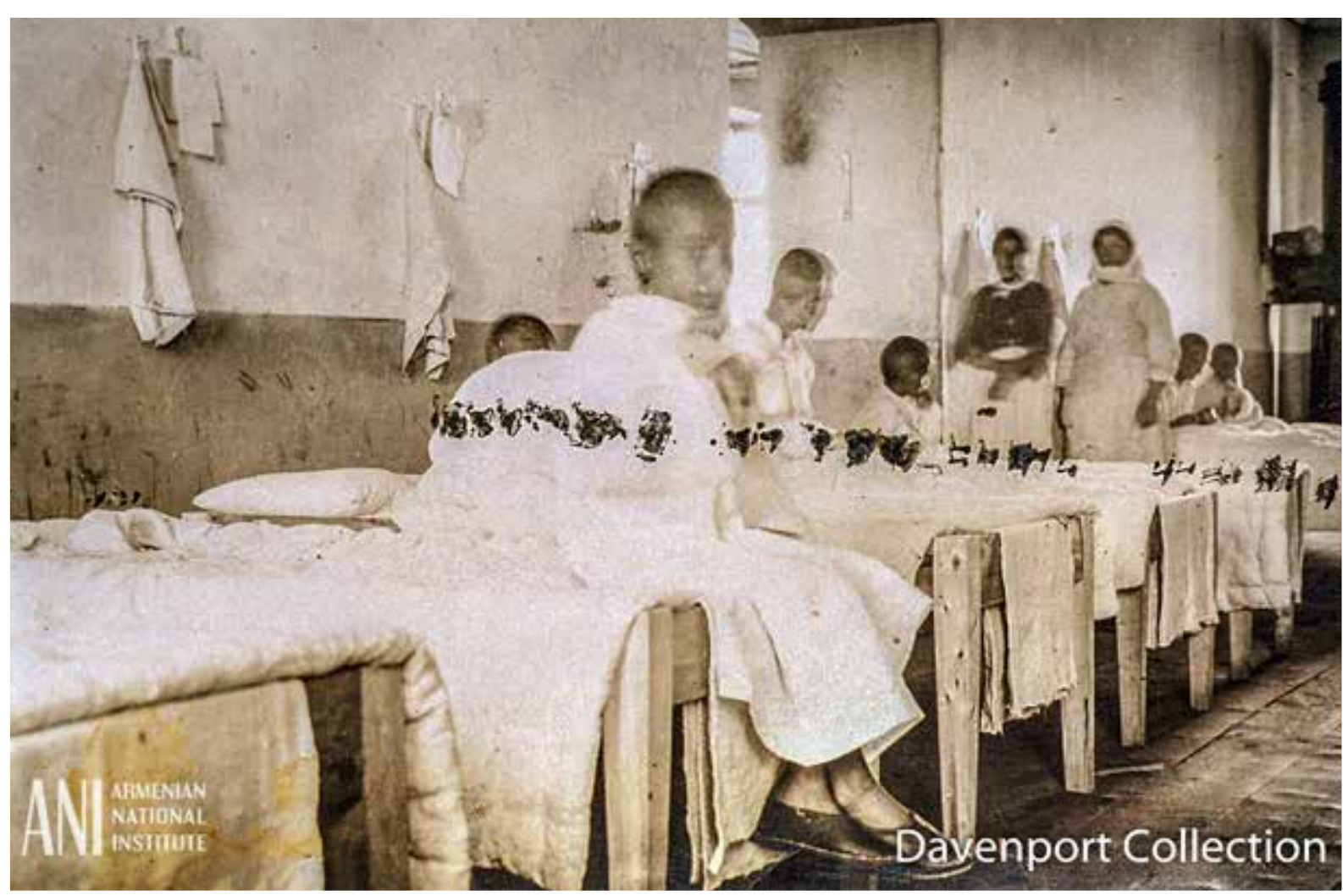


The other section of the dining room at No. 7 orphanage. (typed)

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)



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

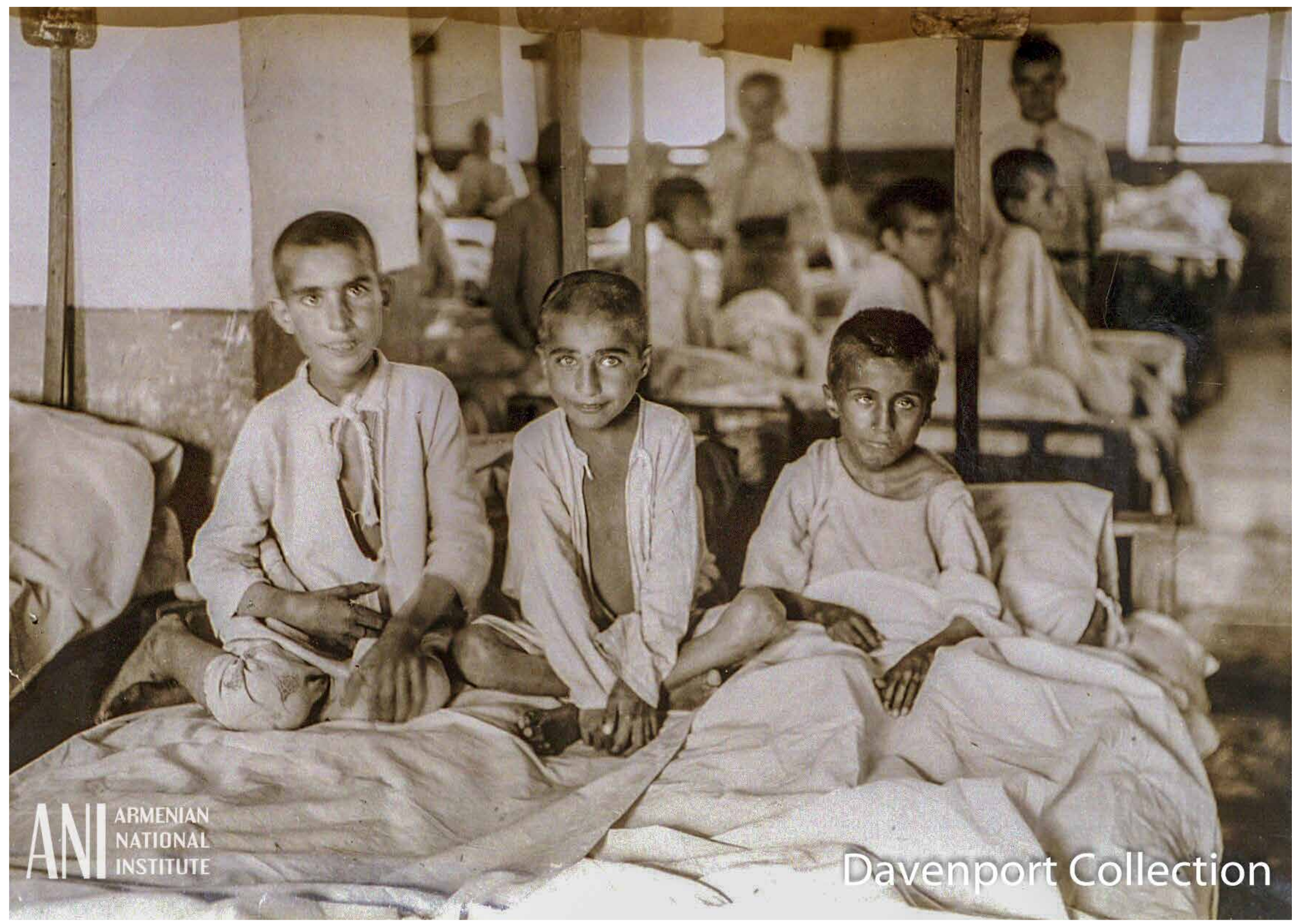


From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York (stamped)
Erivan No. 1 With Dr. Reynolds (penciled)
No. 11 – Armenian orphan inmates of one of the Erivan orphanages. (Davenport)



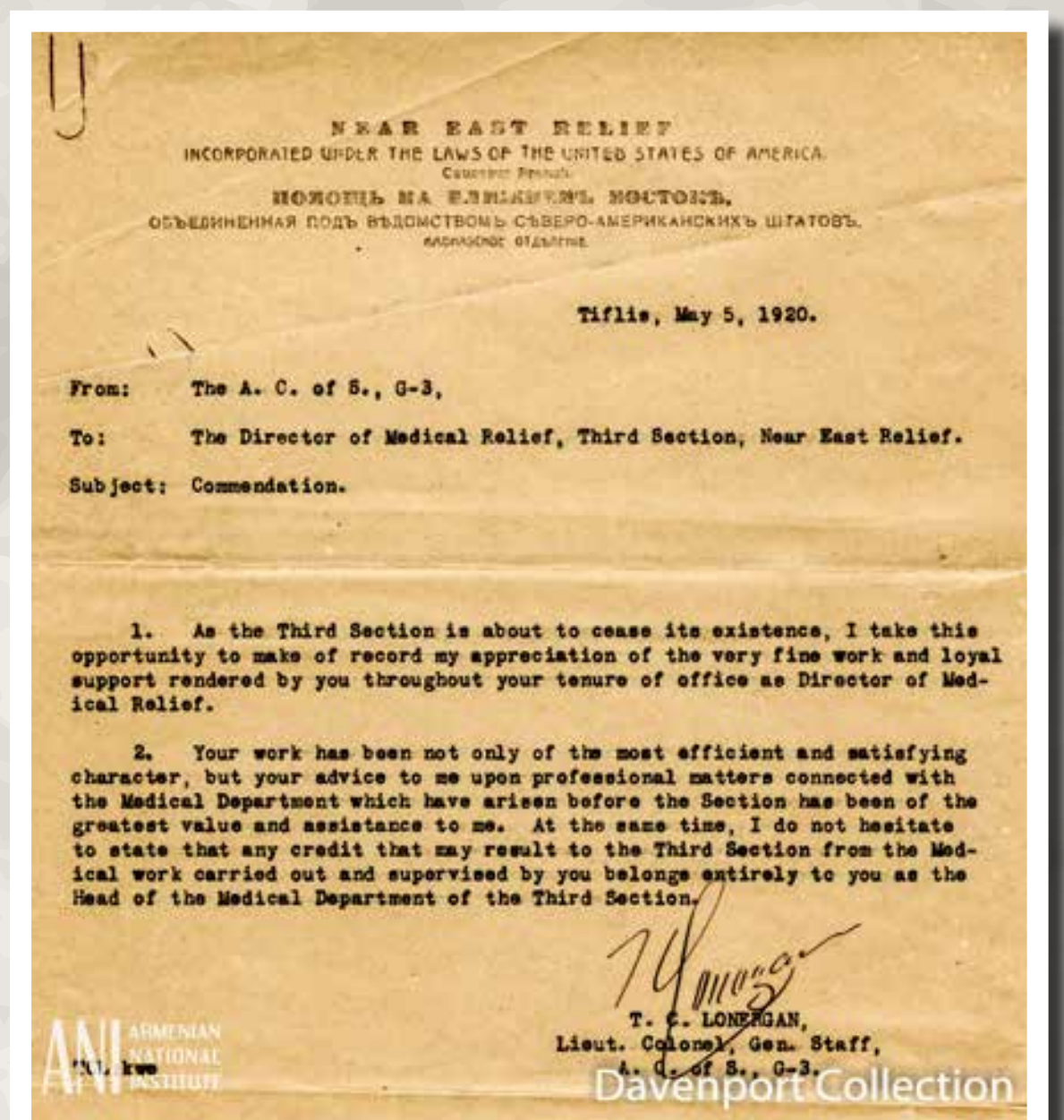
Some of the three hundred children fed daily in the cocoa kitchen, after they have finished their meal. (typed)

The American Hospital Tiflis



No. 14 – Showing interior of one of the wards – favus and scabies hospital – Tiflis. (Davenport)

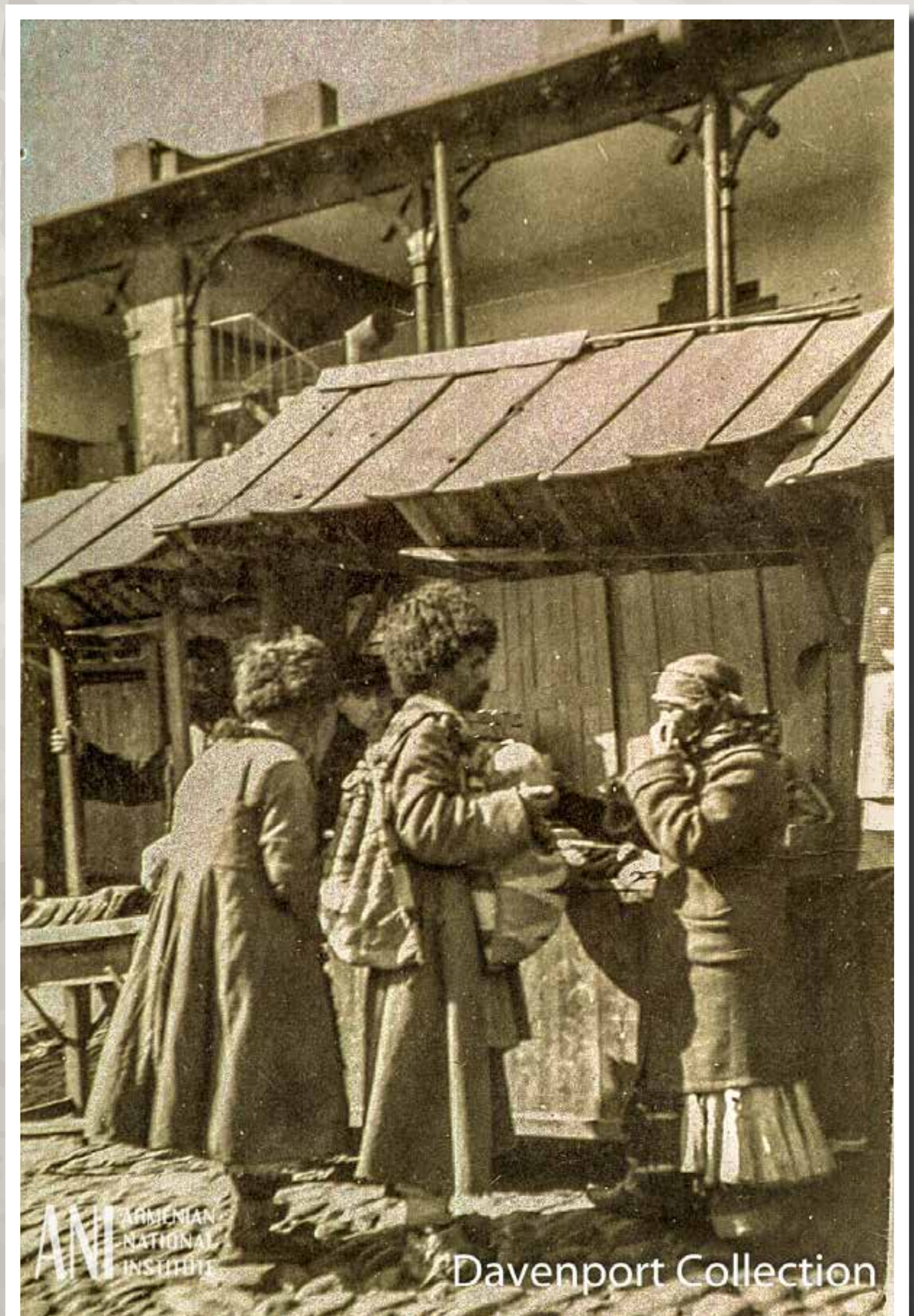
The Near East Relief, Caucasus Branch, possess the only adequate facilities in Armenia, and practically all of the population are dependent upon it for medical relief. Our organization, so far as hospitalization was concerned, was very fortunate in possessing, in most of our district headquarters and 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)



From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York. (stamped)
No. 9 – Interior medical ward orphanage hospital – Tiflis. (Davenport)



General ward in Hospital No. 7 – Tiflis District. Lunch hour. Hospital has a capacity of 1,766. (typed)



No. 12 – Typical refugee types outside one of the bread distributing stations Tiflis. (Davenport)

Largest Refugee Camp in the World

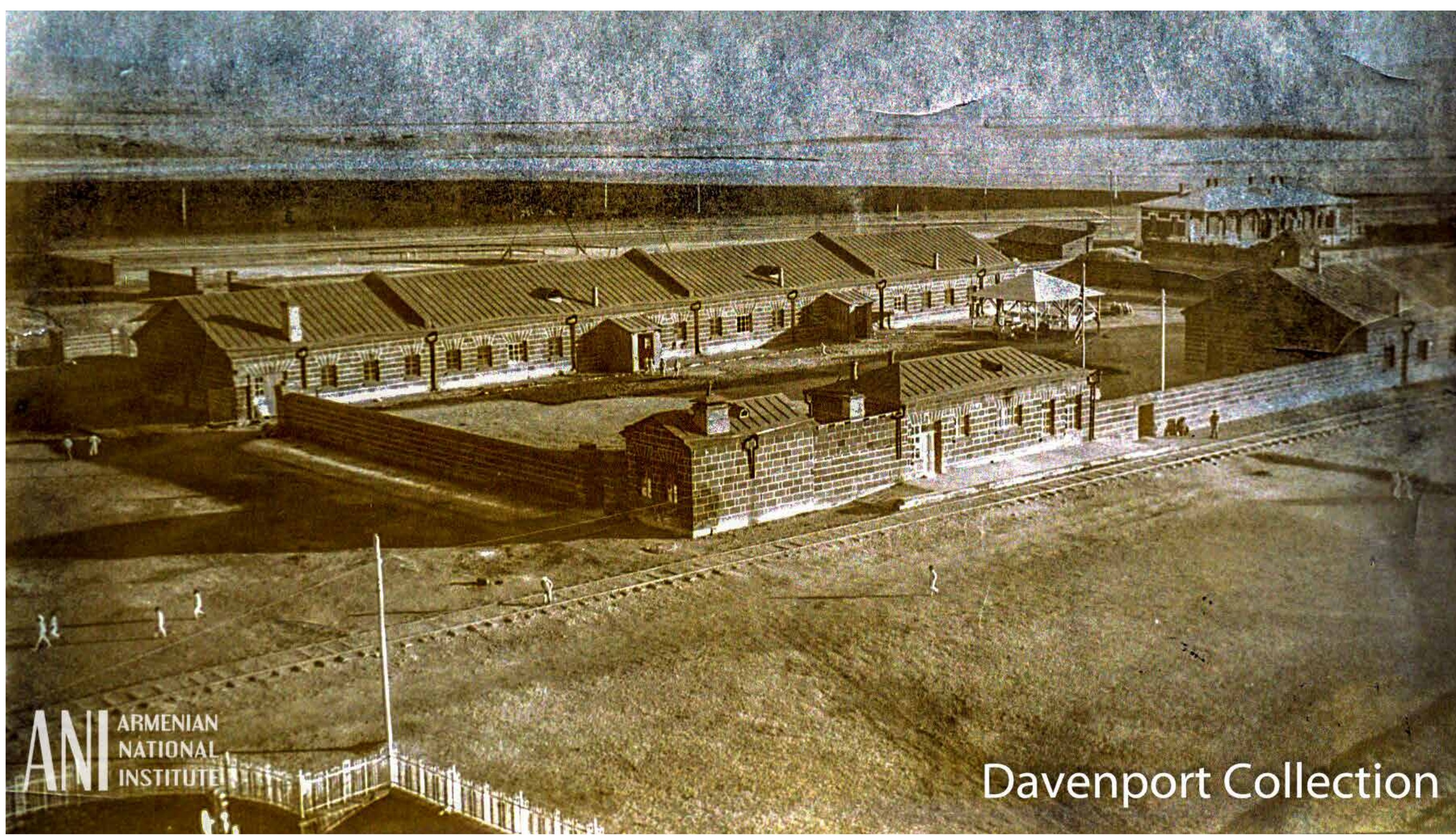
Alexandropol (Gyumri)



No. 3 Alexandropol – Armenian refugee types – also showing part of “Polygon” old Russian military barracks used to house 25,000 refugees. (Davenport)



No. 15 Showing typical refugee types outside “Polygon” Alexandropol. (Davenport)



No. II [2] Alexandropol – showing a part of Kasachi post – which housed 5,000 orphans – Mt. Alagoz beyond. (Davenport)

REFUGEES

This class comprises the refugee Russian, Turkish and Oriental Armenians, whose lot has been very hard. Driven from their homes by the vicissitudes of war, they have constituted the shifting part of the population. Unwelcome in most communities, due to lack of food and crowded conditions, without money, without friends, and with no available work, they have suffered acutely and intensely and furnish the greater part of the mortality list from both epidemic disease and starvation. At this time it may be said that with refugee camps organized in all districts, where they regularly receive food and medical relief, with an opportunity to bathe and keep clean, and in many instances the opportunity to work, they are gradually regaining their self-respect and a different perspective on life.

This class numbers approximately 450,000, or roughly, 35 per cent of the total Armenian population. (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 .040 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)



This photograph is supplied by “INTERNATIONAL”, 226 William St. New York. (stamped)

No. 1 – Alexandropol – showing part of Kasachi post which housed our largest orphanage – 5,000 children were cared for in this group of buildings. Orphanage hospital group – capacity 1,200 beds. (Davenport)



From NEAR EAST RELIEF, 1 Madison Ave., New York (stamped)
No. 4 Alexandropol – showing a portion of another view of the “Polygon” where 25,000 refugees – were housed – fed – bathed, deloused and provided clean clothing. Hospital facilities were provided in the compound. (Davenport)

American Red Cross Among Armenian Refugees in Armenia, Greece, & Russia



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)

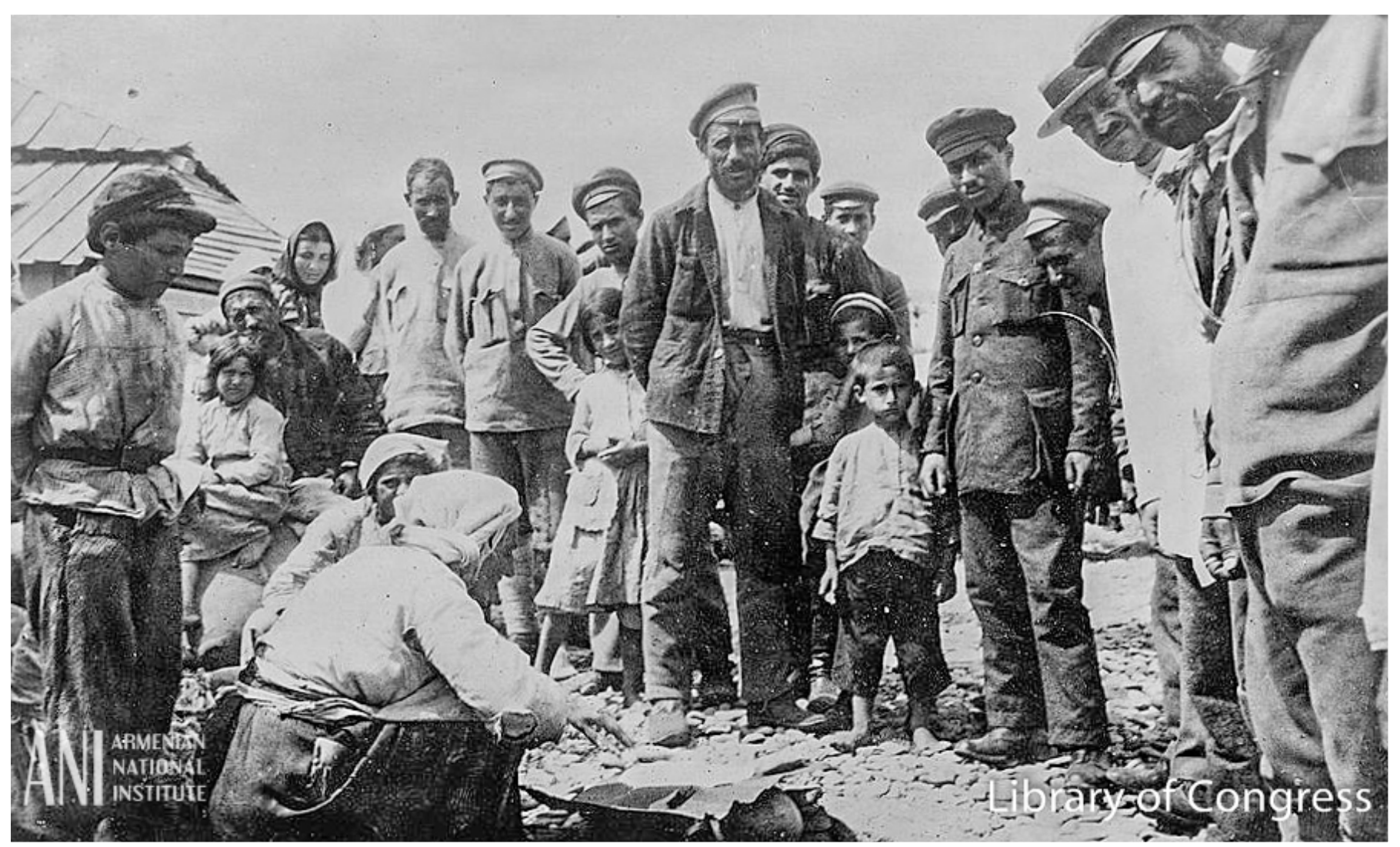
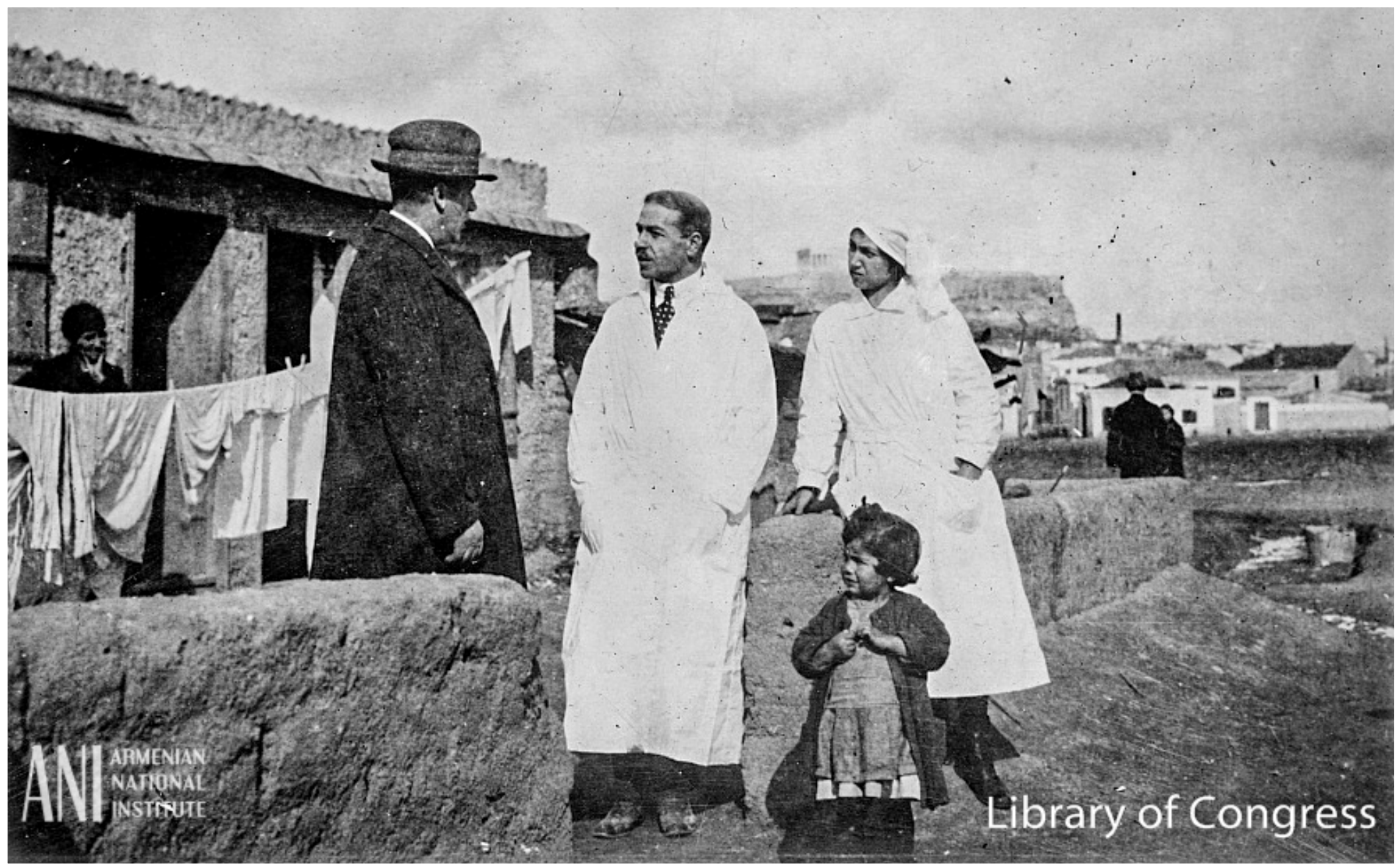


Mrs. Haskell's protégés at the Erivan refuge, 23 October 1919, American Red Cross collection. (as captioned)



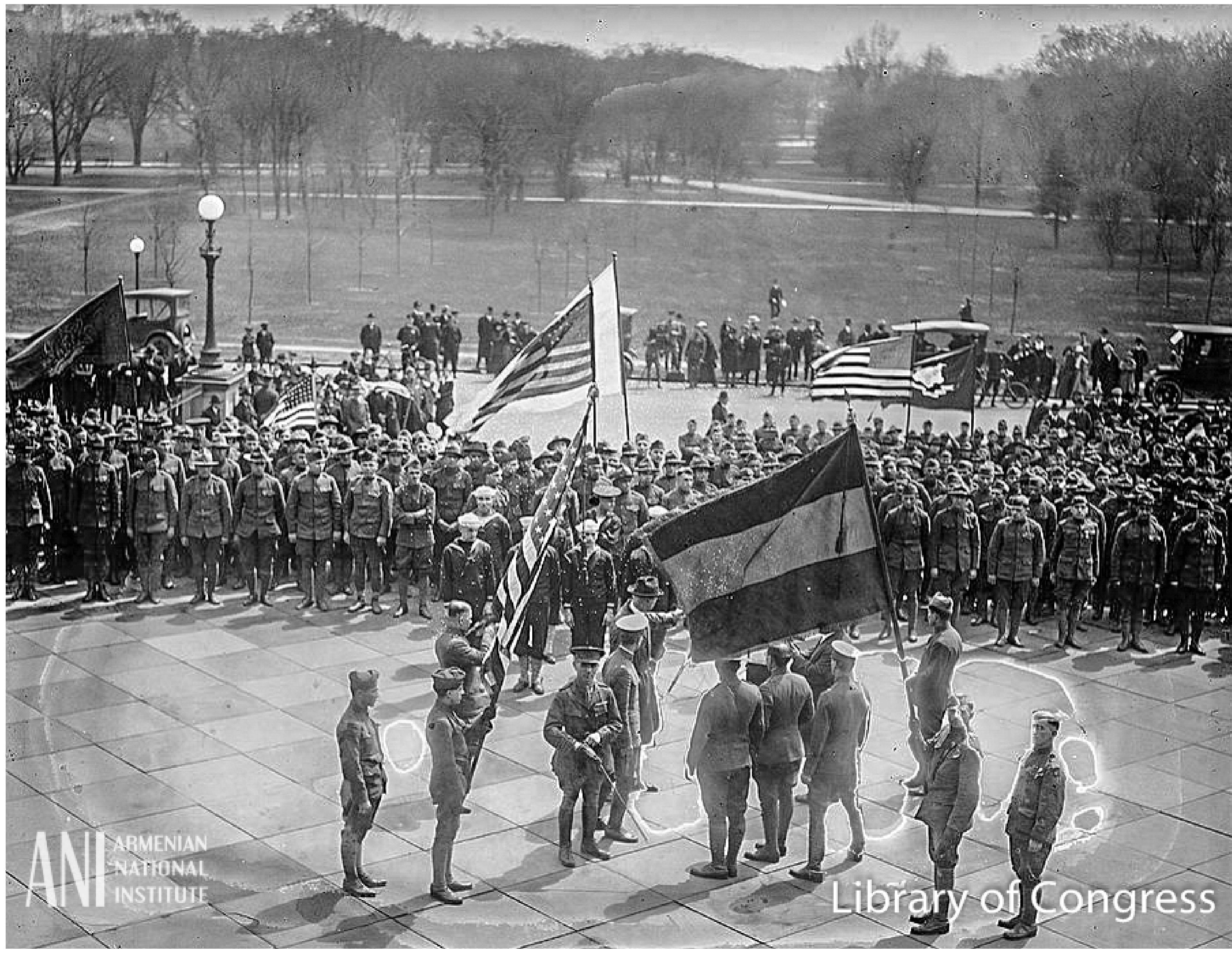
(Left photo) [Winifred Farrell] Mrs. William N. Haskell, wife of Col. Haskell, General Staff. U.S.A. who is operating an American Red Cross refugee orphanage in Erivan, Armenia, where her husband is on duty as the High Commissioner of the Allied Council. The natives call her "Queen of Armenia". (as captioned)

(Below photo) Colonel William N. Haskell American Red Cross commissioner to Greece is shown with a doctor and nurse who distribute American Red Cross supplies to an overnight city of 2,000 Armenian refugees on the outskirts of Athens, Greece [1922]. (as captioned)



Armenian refugees on Black Sea beach with household possessions, Novorossiisk, Russia. American Red Cross official photographs. (as captioned)

Armenian American Servicemen in Washington, DC



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)



Major Varaztad Kazanjian, D.D.

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 Rogers, acting for Chairman Porter of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The memorial said 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 the principles for which she stands 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 kinsmen would still be at the mercy of the Turk, would still be subject to violence and massacre, would still be prevented from returning to their homes by an undisciplined foe and forced to the humiliation of subsisting upon charity, we should not have believed it."

"We, therefore, respectfully urge our Government to take the necessary measures for the immediate protection of the Armenian people, now in imminent danger, to furnish them with adequate means of self-defense, and to provide them with facilities for the repatriation of the Armenian people, so that they may resume their normal life, and to extend immediate recognition to the republic of Armenia, already in existence."

The New York Times

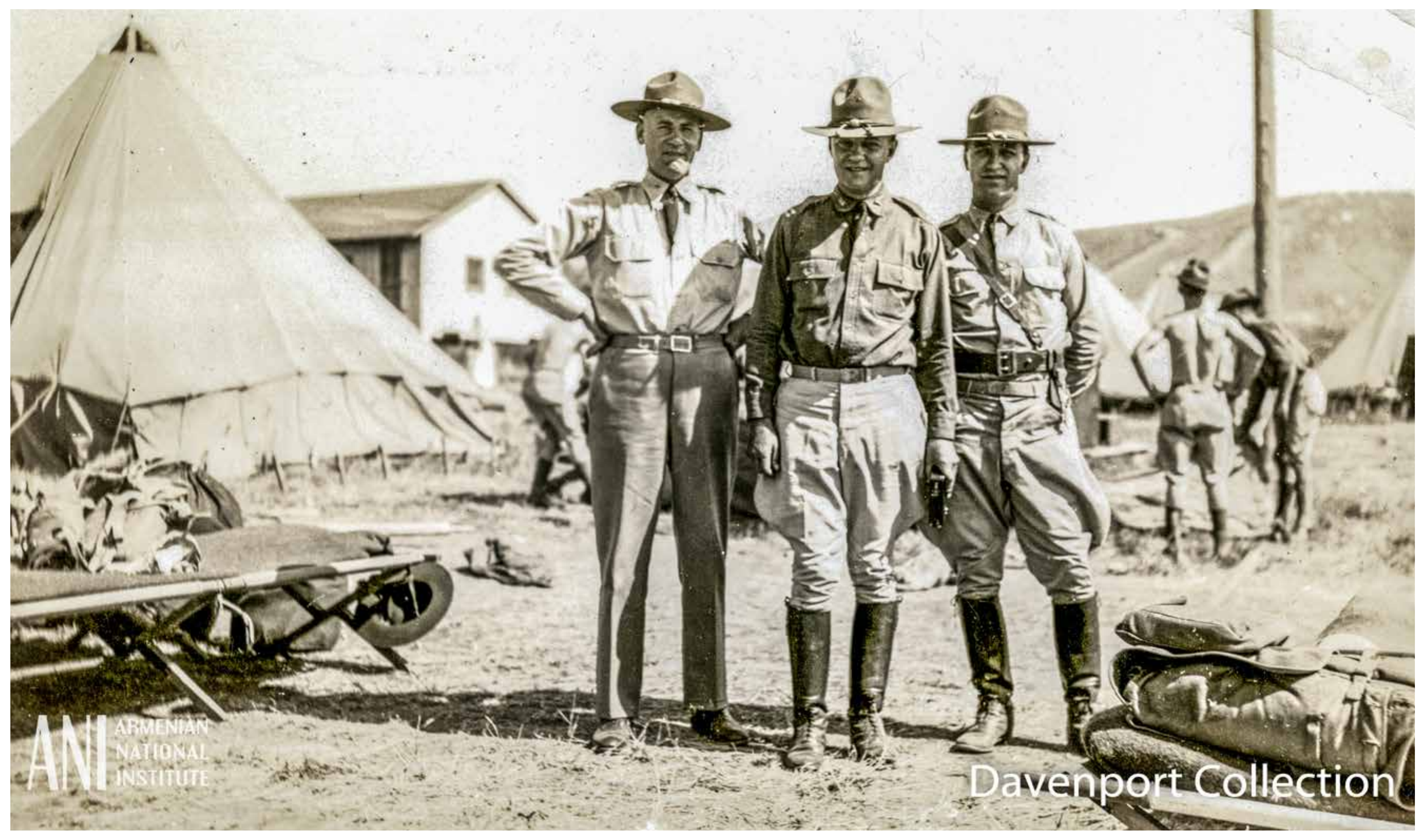
Published: April 15, 1920

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Emmons K. Ellsworth, acting director of the Council of National Defense with flag "To American Women from Armenian Women" Armenian flag November 11, 1920.

For Country and Mankind



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

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 Minister 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)

| PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | |
|---|--------------------|
| Age | 31 years. |
| Height | 6 ft. --- in. |
| Forehead | high |
| Eyes | grey |
| Nose | large and straight |
| Mouth | large |
| Chin | square |
| Hair | light brown |
| Complexion | ruddy |
| Face | long |
| Place of birth | MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. |
| Date of birth | November 14, 1887. |
| Occupation | Relief Work. |
| Distinguishing marks: Scar over left lower leg. | |

PHOTOGRAPH OF BEARER

Signature: Walter P. Davenport

Armenian National Institute logo and Davenport Collection watermark.

No. -3191-

"SPECIAL PASSPORT"

AT PARIS, FRANCE.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING :

I, the undersigned, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, hereby request all whom it may concern to permit

WALTER P. DAVENPORT

a citizen of the United States safely and freely to pass and, in case of need, to give him all lawful Aid and Protection.

This passport is valid for use only in the following countries and for the objects specified, unless amended :

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| FRANCE, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, ROMANIA | EN ROUTE |
| KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES | EN ROUTE |
| GREECE, CONSTANTINOPLE | EN ROUTE |
| ARMENIA | AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION |

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Embassy of the United States, at Paris, France, the 27th day of September 1919, and of the Independence of the United States, the one hundred and forty fourth.

Signature: Hugh C. Wallcut

Armenian National Institute logo and Davenport Collection watermark.

To Colonel Walter Davenport

I.

From the farms of Minnesota
And the ether smell of Augustaner
To the Caucasus and Russia
And the daily routine of medical duty -
You have travelled and labored -
Uncomplainingly, cheerfully.

II.

Human herds have paraded before you,
Which famine and pestilence had devastated.
Feed and Heal - Food - Medicine
The cries of anguished souls for help -
606 - cod liver oil - typhus
Medicine in tonnage in the Caucasus.

III.

Never before, such mass medical practice
To alleviate quickly suffering millions -
To restore to health - to regenerate faith in living -
To prevent the spread of disease the world o'er.
A stupendous task accomplished by the men of the A.R.A.
With esprit-de-corps unsurpassed.

IV.

You played your part well - unostentatiously,
For country and mankind.
Your reward is the blessed memory
Of helping in a great work of human reconstruction,
Of millions foreign to our ways of living
Irrespective of color, creed and whether friend or enemy.

V.

Today the eagle soars to lofty heights
To rest upon your shoulders.
We join with your assembled fellow-medicos
To pay you honor and rejoice
With you on this happy occasion -
Our best wishes go with you,
Colonel Walter Davenport.

Bill Haensler
Jack Swersey
Lou Wall
Hugo Loesch

12A * THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR Tues., July 17, 1956

Col. Walter P. Davenport Dies, Served in Two Wars

Col. Walter P. Davenport, who served with the army medical corps in both World wars, collapsed and died at 7:40 a.m. today while mowing the lawn in front of his home at 2711 W. Forty-seventh street.

He had retired 10 years ago.

Born at Appleton, Minn., Col. Davenport graduated from the University of Illinois and the army medical school in Washington.

He served as medical adviser to the inter-allied high commission to Armenia and was director of medical relief there. His World War I service also included a period as commanding officer of the army general hospital in New York.

From 1940 to 1942 he was chief surgeon of the government's Puerto Rican department. During World War II he served in Europe on Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters.

medical staff.

Col. Davenport was a member of the American Medical association, the New York Athletic club, and St. John's Episcopal church of Minneapolis and a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Surviving are his wife, Lillian; two daughters, Mary and Jane, Minneapolis; two nephews, Donnell Davenport, Turlock, Calif., and James Schendel, Minneapolis, and a niece, Helaine Hopper, Appleton.

Services will be 2 p.m. Thursday at Burr mortuary, with burial in Lakewood cemetery.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Program

Introduction
DEAN CURRIER McEWEN

Presentation of Commissions in the Medical Reserve Corps, United States Army
LIEUTENANT COLONEL WALTER P. DAVENPORT

Announcement of Prizes and Honors
DR. SAMUEL A. BROWN
Dean Emeritus and Chairman of the University Council Committee on Medicine and Dentistry

Speakers
PAUL N. UNGER
President of the Class of 1939
DR. EDWARD S. RIMER
President of the College of Medicine Alumni Association
DR. CHARLES HENDER SMITH
Professor of Pediatrics

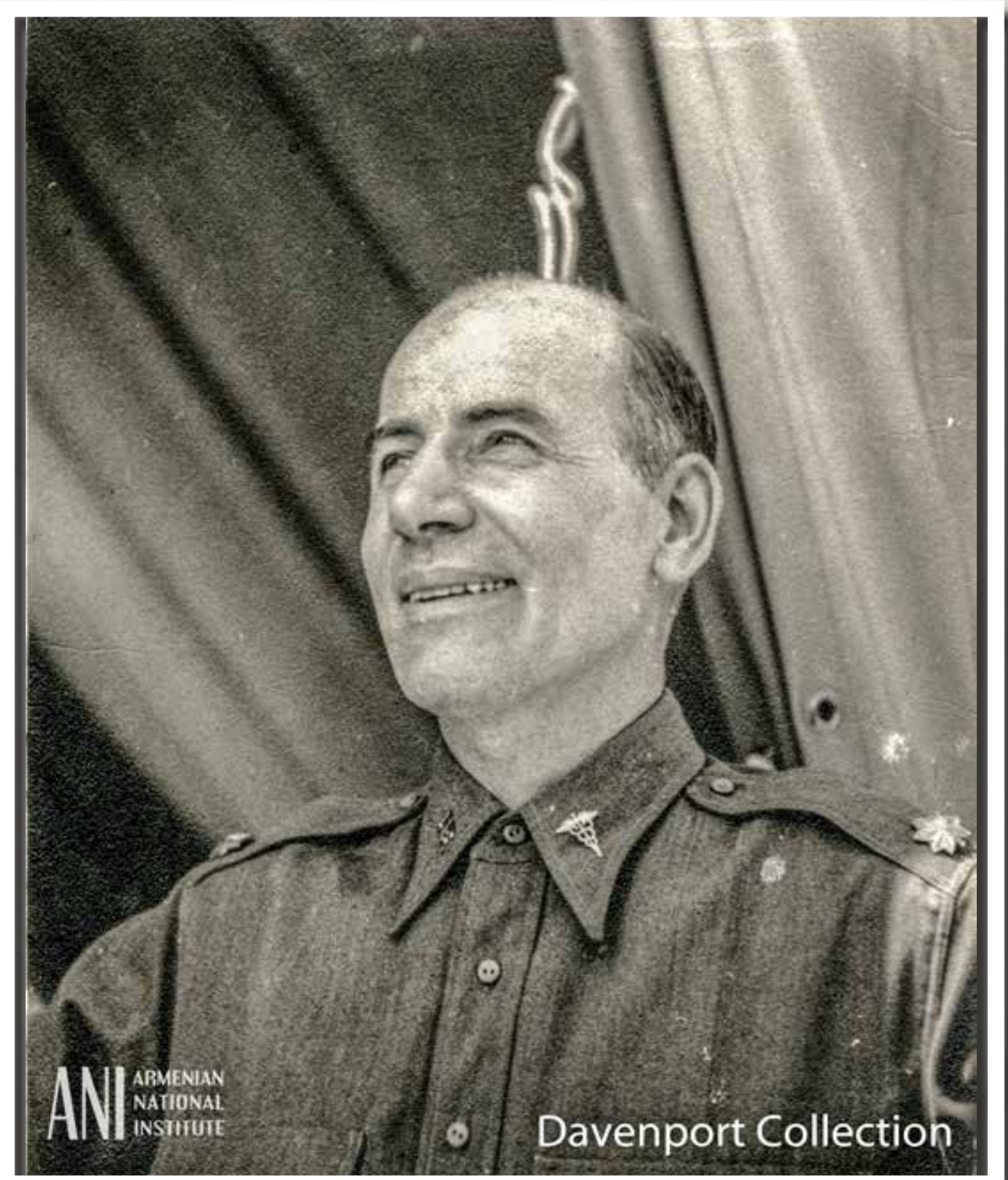
Buffet Luncheon

Last Day Exercises
Class of 1939

Tuesday, June 6, 1939, at 11:30 a.m.
CARNEGIE LECTURE HALL, 338 East 26th St., New York

Reproduced with the permission of The Lillian and Clarence de la Chapelle Medical Archives at New York University.

Such are conditions today in the regions where the remnant of the Armenian people exist; roads and lands almost back to the wild; starvation only kept off by American relief; villages and towns in ruins; brigandage rampant in the Transcaucasus; lack of medicines and warm clothing; winter coming on in a treeless land without coal. (Harbord)



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

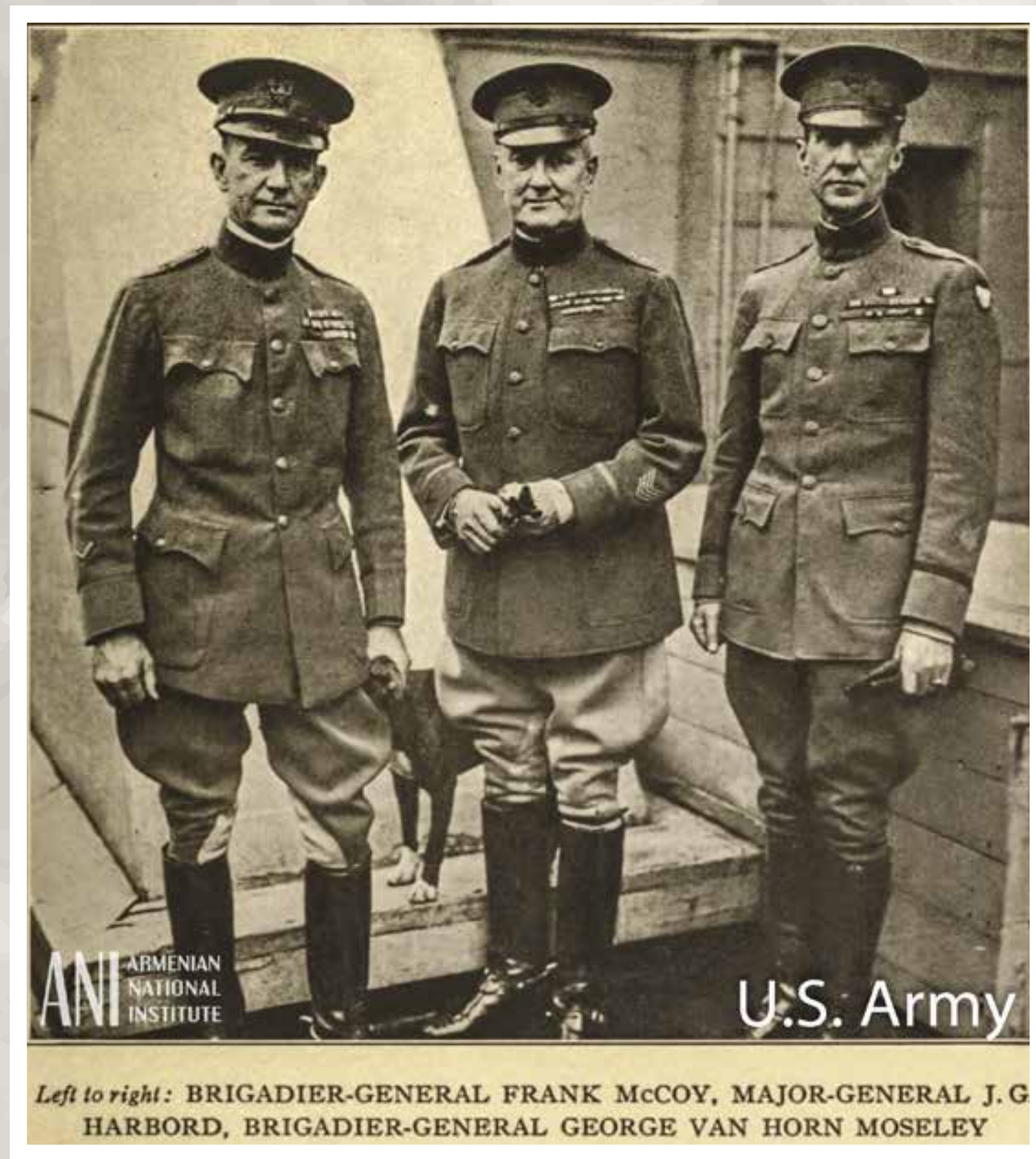
Unsung Heroes I

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.



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 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,

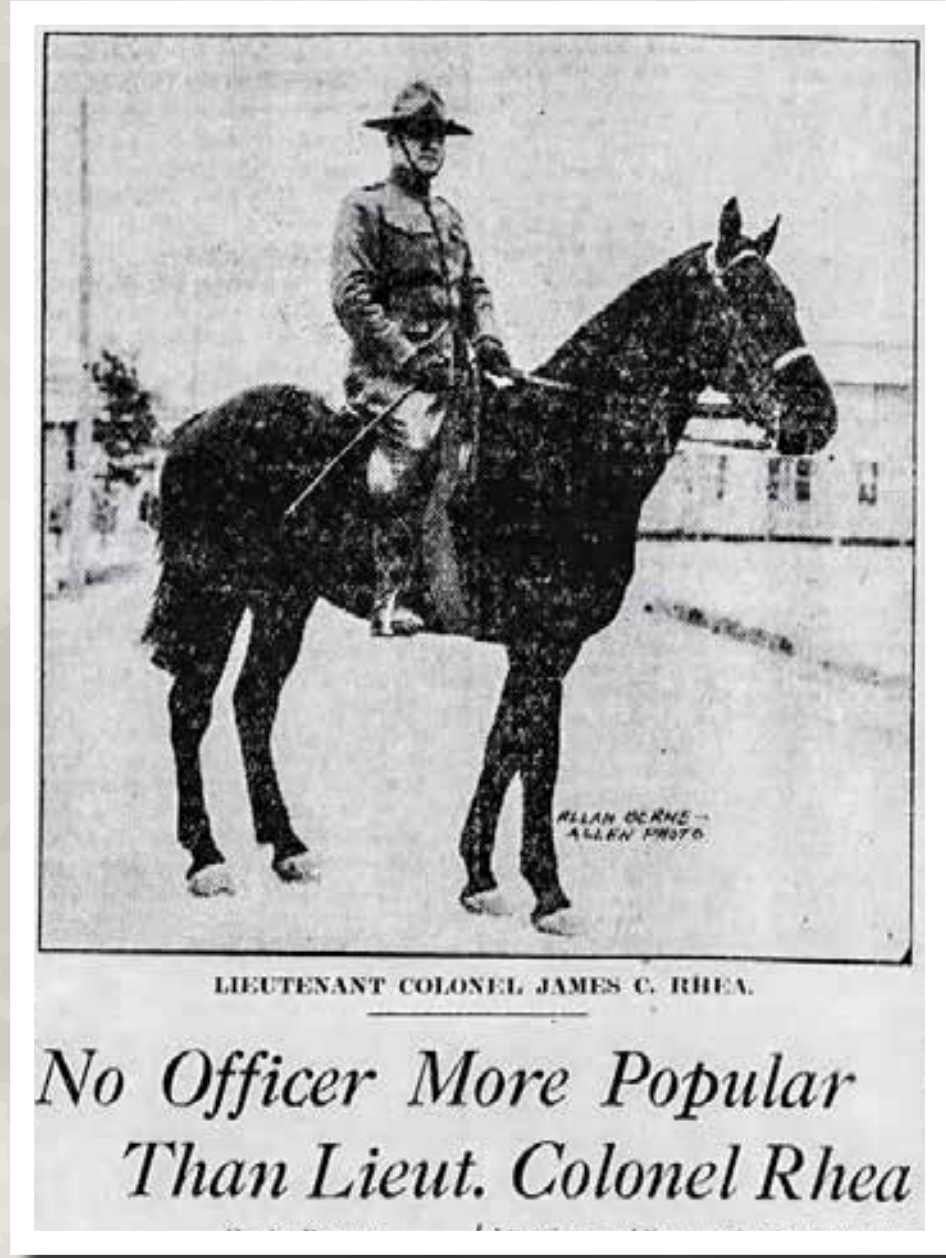
carries with it a large variety of implications concerning character, personality, consideration for others, mentality, and leadership. Since then I have become even more impressed with the correctness of my judgment, and I always felt a comfortable sense of gratification whenever you sought me out. Despite your desire to pursue coming years untrammelled by fixed obligations, I look forward to seeing you serve in highly important positions in public life."

In the 1920s, when Near East Relief embarked upon a fundraising effort in the American Philippines, then serving as an aide to Governor General Leonard Wood, McCoy readily assisted in the campaign by facilitating meetings to gather funds.

Major General Sidney Parker Spalding (1889-1988) of Lowell, Massachusetts, a 1912 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, as an ordnance specialist was assigned to the Service of Supply (S.O.S.) of the American Expeditionary Force headed by General James Harbord and General Charles Dawes. Following the war, Spalding was an Assistant Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of California, Berkeley, where, with another ordnance specialist, Major J. H. Burns, in view of the challenges confronted in converting national industries for the production of war materiel, promoted the idea of forming what became the Armed Forces Industrial College. General Spalding played a major role in preparing U.S. industry for the Second World War, which saw him once again in the Near East creating the supply lines to the Soviet Union through Iran for the delivery of U.S. armaments to the Russian armies facing Nazi Germany. Spalding's parleys with Soviet authorities were conducted through the highest ranking Armenian member of the ruling Communist Party in Moscow by the name of Anastas Mikoyan, then Minister of Foreign Trade. He was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal "for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services to the Government of the United States, in a duty of great responsibility as Chief of Supply Division, U.S. Military Mission to the Soviet Union, from 1943 to 1945." Spalding retired in 1949.



Unsung Heroes II



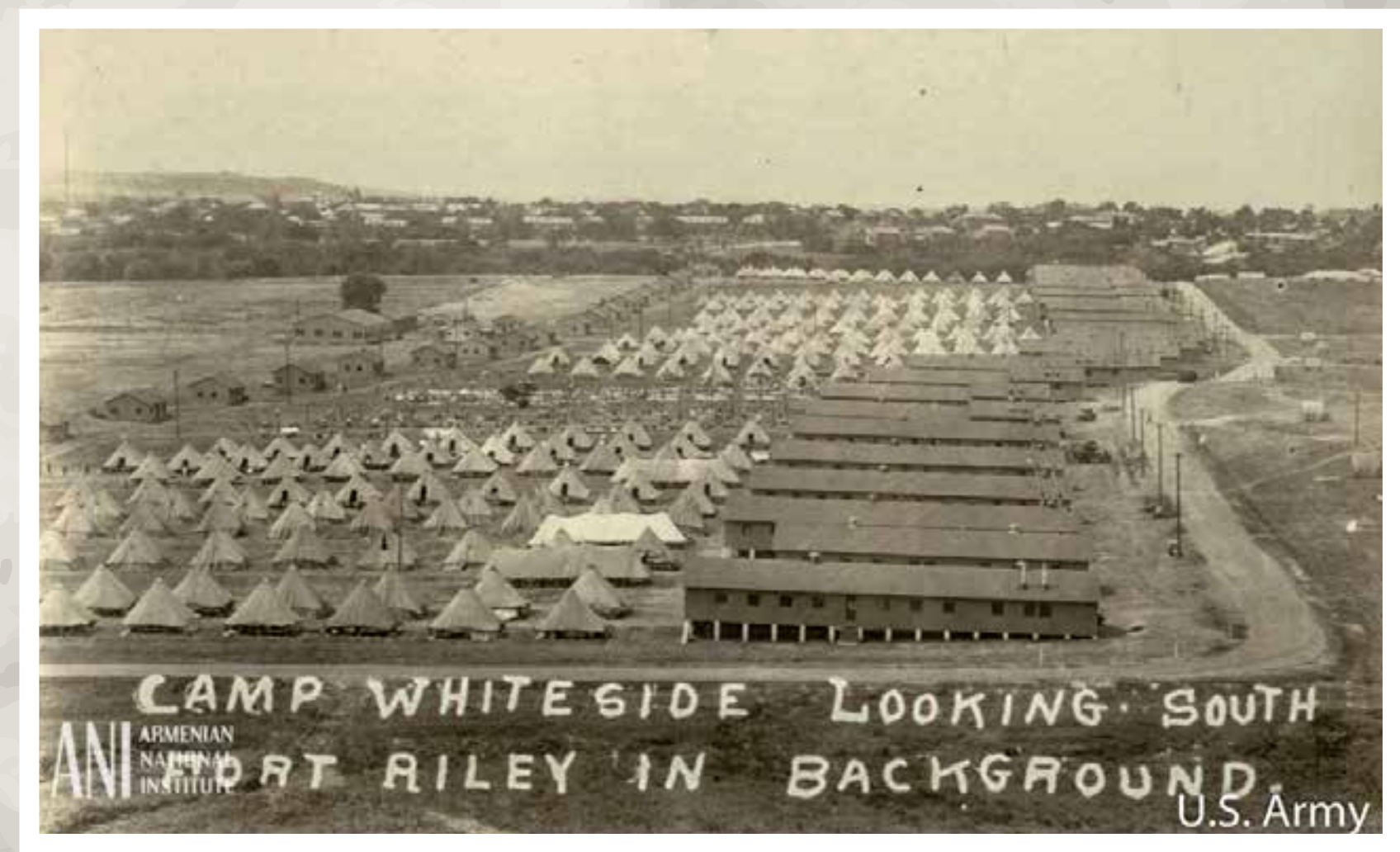
Prime Minister of France George Clemenceau congratulating the 2nd Division leaders of the American Expeditionary Forces for their first victory in battle at Belleau Wood in northern France, 1918. Then Colonel James C. Rhea is standing on the right.



The Second Division, AEF in France, 1917-1919.

New York: Historical Committee, Second Division Association

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 Whiteside 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 Philippines, 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 Whiteside 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 Herbed 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.



Unsung Heroes III



General Pershing (seated second from left) Commanding General of the American Expeditionary Forces and his staff, with then Lieutenant Colonel Harbord, Chief of Staff (seated left), 1917.



France Honors the Valor of Belleau Wood. Following the reading of a citation in the name of the 6th French Army, relating the heroism of the 4th brigade, U.S. Marines, under his command, Major General James G. Harbord, U.S.A., received the Croix de Guerre [War Cross] with palm. (as captioned)

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.

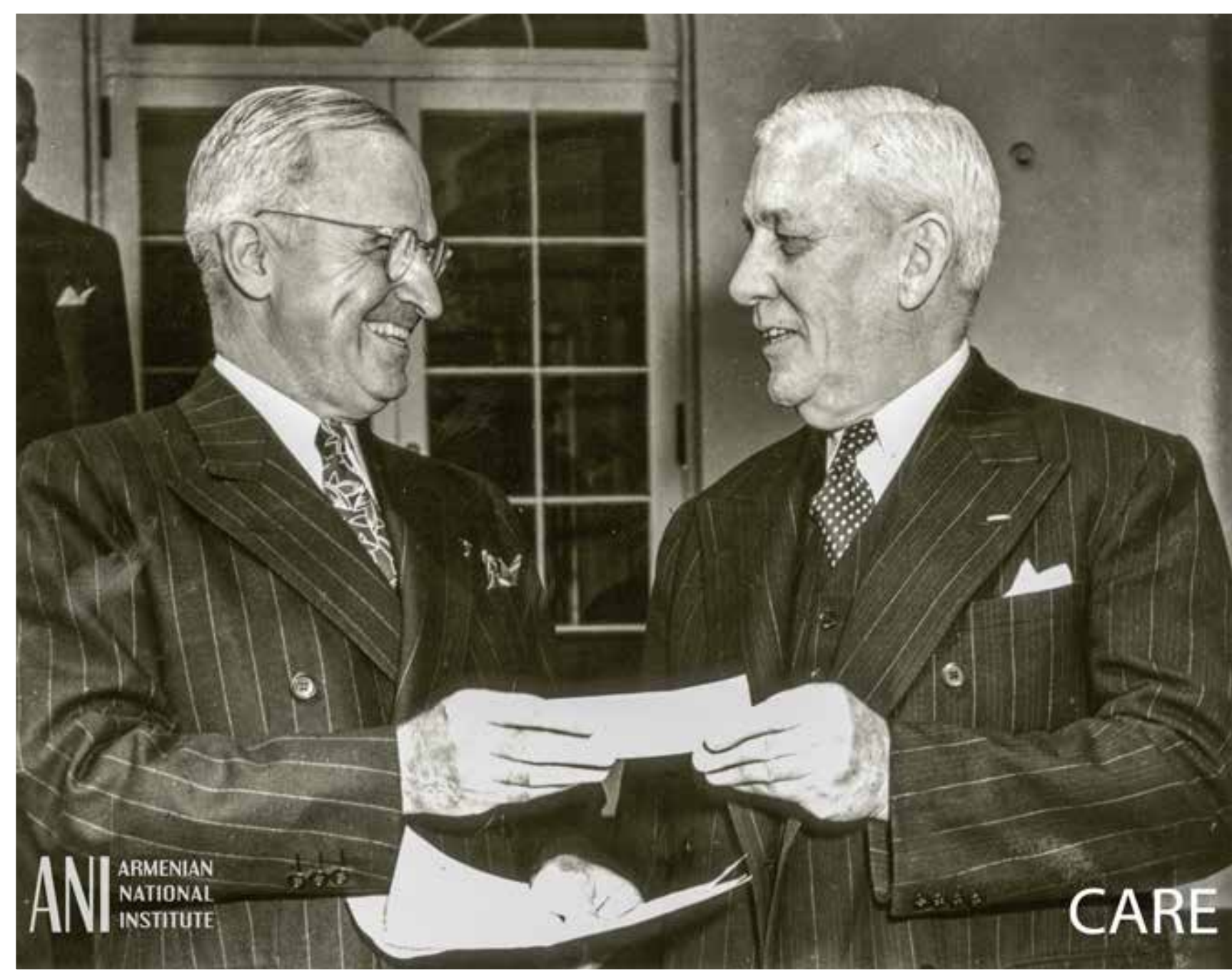
Retiring in 1946, he settled in San Francisco, where George Mardikian, a local restaurateur, approached him about the thousands of Armenian Displaced Persons (DP) stranded in postwar Europe. A food consultant to the Quartermaster General of the United States Army between 1942 and 1954, Mardikian had made improvements to the quality of food provided the men and women in uniform that was appreciated to such a degree that he was awarded the Medal of Freedom, a decoration instituted by President Harry S. Truman to honor civilians who aided in the war effort. Along with San Francisco attorney Suren Saroyan, in 1947 Mardikian and Shekerjian formed the American National Committee for Homeless Armenians, which became better known by its acronym ANCHA. Shekerjian oversaw the resettlement to the United States of over 3,000 Armenians who had been forcibly relocated to Germany by Nazi authorities as slave labor from conquered parts of Russia.

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.

Lieutenant General William Nafew Haskell (1878-1952) graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1901 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Cavalry. He also graduated from the Infantry and Cavalry School in 1904, and from the Army and Staff College in 1905. He served three tours of duty in the American Philippines, and was a regimental commander during General Pershing's Mexican Expedition. During World War I, after a couple of months in the Army General Staff College in France, he was made, successively Assistant 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.

After the war, Haskell was responsible for several relief operations. He was briefly Director of the American Relief Mission to Romania in 1919, before being put in charge of all relief efforts in the Caucasus in his capacity as Allied High Commissioner to Armenia between 1919 and 1920, for which position he was also elevated to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1921 he was dispatched as the Director of the American Relief Administration program to relieve the famine in Russia, and in 1922 he was American Red Cross Commissioner in Greece. Haskell resigned from the Army after earning a law degree in 1925 from Georgetown University and took the post of Commander of the New York National Guard as a Major General. He resumed active duty during WWII as commanding general of the 27th Division. Former Governor of the State of New York Herbert H. Lehman, in an August 30, 1943 letter to Haskell, wrote: "While you were training your Division, I visited you at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and saw the splendid way you were molding a green division into an efficient fighting force."

Haskell retired in August 1942 and ran unsuccessfully in 1943 on the Democratic Party ticket for the office of Lieutenant Governor of New York. Lehman, then Director of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations at the Department of State, had already appointed him in early 1943 as Chief of Field Operations of the agency, a predecessor to the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In early 1944 he was appointed National Director of the Office Civilian Defense that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created at the start of WWII out of concern of possible aerial attacks upon American cities. Haskell served until mid-1945 when President Harry Truman disbanded the agency. In one last assignment for relief work in another postwar setting, in 1946 Haskell became the first executive director of the Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe, which subsequently renamed Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, became one of the largest international humanitarian agencies famed for its CARE packages.



President Harry S. Truman hands CARE Executive Director General William Haskell a check for \$1,500. The President's personal donation helped provide 100 CARE packages to needy families in post-war Europe.

The Hoover Report



The Chairman of the American Relief Administration (Hoover) to the (U.S.) Secretary of State

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 August 1st, 1920.

Faithfully yours,

HERBERT HOOVER



Haig Patigian

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.



General John J. Pershing statue

United States Military Returns to Armenia: New Missions



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 authored 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.

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.

President Ronald Reagan, "Remarks to American Participants in the Armenian Earthquake Rescue Efforts," speech, The White House, December 22, 1988



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.



"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.