

INQUIRIES IN ANATOLIA

1. — Report of the Interallied Inquiry Mission at Smyrna (1919).
2. — Report of Mr. Maurice Gheri, Delegate of the International Red-Cross.
3. — Report of Miss Florence Billings, Member of the American Relief, Anatolia.
4. — Report of Mr. Raymond Aine.
5. — Explanation furnished by Mr. Gillespie, the American trade attaché, in Anatolian News Agency in connection with allegations made by Major Yowell.
6. — Declaration of the Ministry of Interior.
7. — An Appeal from the International Red-Cross.

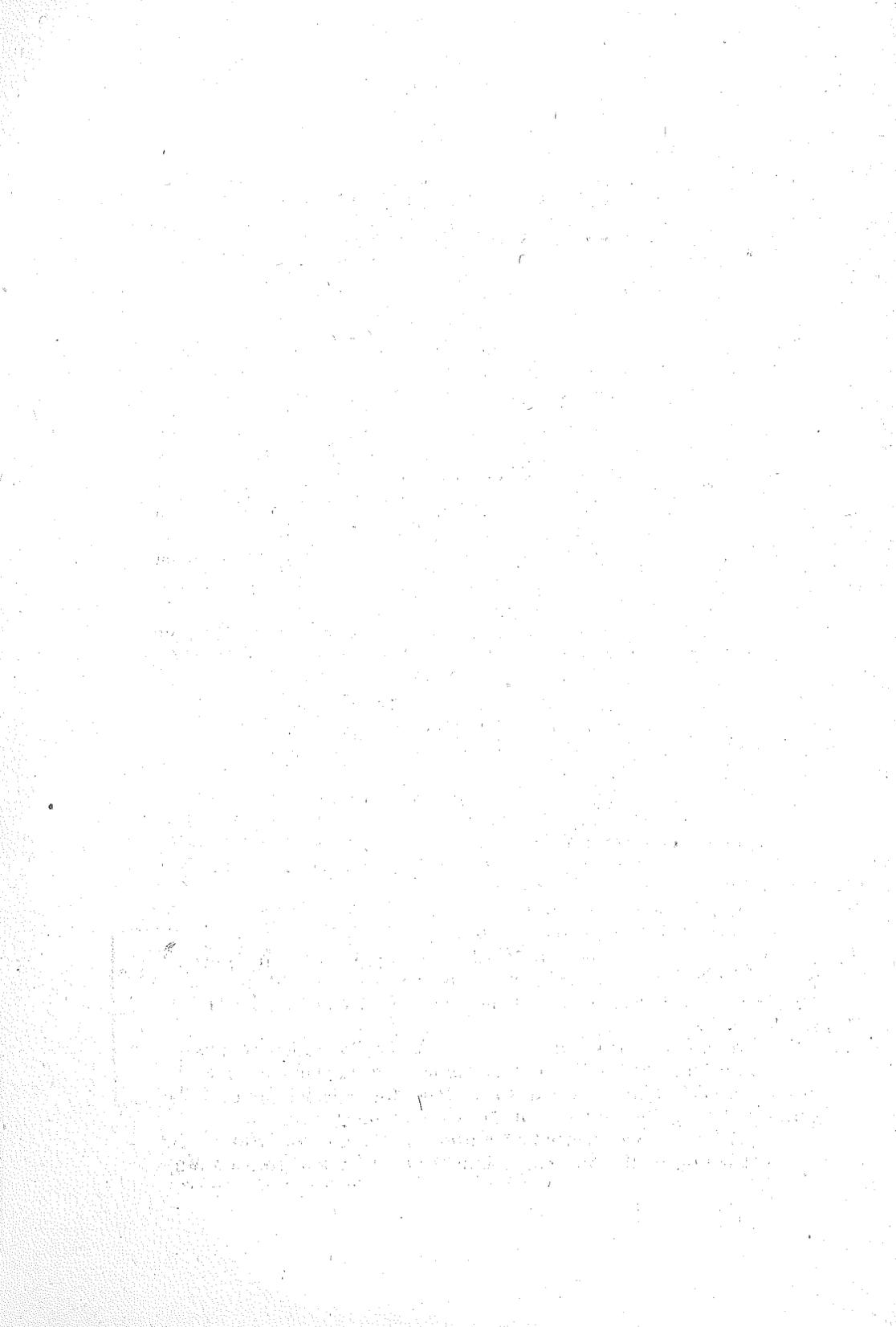
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Report of the Interallied Inquiry Mission at Smyrna. (1919)

Constantinople, October 11, 1919.

PART I.—PROVING OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. The inquiry has proved that since the Armistice the general situation of the Christians in the vilayet of Aidin has been satisfactory. Their safety has not been menaced.

If the order of occupation of Smyrna was given by the Peace Conference in consequence of inexact information, the first responsibility of the events lies with the individuals or the Governments which established or transmitted, without verifying it, information of this kind; such as that of which the points proved are spoken of in No. 1. (The General representing Italy reiterates with regard to this matter the reservations inserted in the Report of the thirty-seventh meeting.)

2. The initial cause of the events must be sought for in religious hatred. The Greeks have done nothing to prevent manifestations of it. Their occupation, far from appearing like the execution of a civilising mission, immediately summed the aspect of a conquest and a crusade.

3. The responsibility for the doings which took place at Smyrna on May 15 and 16, as well as in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, in the course of the first days which followed this landing, lies with the Greek Military High Command, as well as with certain officers who failed in their duty.

The Greek Government has recognised this responsibility by the sentences it has passed.

One part of the responsibility, however, rest with the Turkish authorities of Smyrna, who took no measures to prevent the escape and arming of the prisoners of the common law before the arrival of the Greeks.

4. In the person of the civil High Authority which represents it at Smyrna, the Hellenic Government is responsible for the grave troubles which stained with blood the interior zone of the country during the advance of the Greek troops, because:

(a) The above-mentioned authority did not conform to the instruction of the Supreme Council given by telegram on May

7/20 from M. Venizelos. Without having asked the Representative of the Entente for any authorisation it allowed the Military Commander to give on May 10/23 the order to send troops to Aïdin, Magnesia and Kassaba, beyond the boundaries of the Sandjak of Smyrna.

(b) The same authority voluntarily left the populations in ignorance of the extent of the occupation. It thus contributed to increase the over-excitement of the Mussulman inhabitants and, in consequence, disorders.

5. The responsibility of the High Greek Authorities is involved by the fact that they allowed the circulation of armed civilians in the country. For some of their military or police operations, they even tolerated the use of these armed civilians at the same time as that of regular troops.

6. The first cause of the troubles which took place in the Meandre Valley was precisely the unjustifiable occupation.

The regrettable events which accompanied the march and the establishment of the Greek troops, are the consequence of the state of war in which the country has been since these troops advanced.

The hatred which has existed for centuries between Turks and Greeks has indisputably increased their frequency and savagery. In all justice, the Greeks alone cannot be made responsible for them. The same considerations apply to the events which took place in the regions of Pergama and the neighbourhood of Magnesia and Eudemiche.

7. On the contrary, the Greeks alone are responsible for the massacre of Menemen. This massacre was not prepared. But the Greek Command, knowing the over-excited state of its troops in consequence of the affair of Pergama, ought to and could have taken measure to hold in hand the troops whom enervation, fatigue and fear caused to commit, without provocation, a veritable massacre of the defenceless Turkish civilians. The Greek officers present at Menemen completely failed in their duties.

8. Although the present situation is improved, peace has not yet been re-established in the vilayet of Aïdin.

Almost all commercial transactions with the interior of Anatolia have stopped.

This situation is indisputably the result of the occupation and of the state of war which continues between the Turkish irregular troops and the Greek troops, although the latter no longer extend their zone of occupation.

The Members of the Committee:—

(Signed) *Bristol, Bunoust, Hare, Dall'Olio.*

PART II.—CONCLUSIONS PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. The situation created in Smyrna and in the vilayet of Aïdin by the occupation is a false one, because :

(a) The occupation, which in principle aimed only at the maintenance of order, presents, in reality, all the forms of annexation. The Greek High Commissioner alone exercises efficacious authority. The Turkish authorities who have remained in office have no longer any power. They no longer receive orders from Constantinople, and in consequence of the almost entire disappearance of the Turkish police and «gendarmarie » they have no longer the means necessary for the execution of their resolutions.

(b) The occupation imposes considerable military sacrifices on Greece, out of proportion to the mission to be fulfilled, if that mission is temporary and only aims at the maintenance of order.

(c) It is incompatible in its present form with the return of order and peace of which the populations, threatened by famine, have great need.

2. The Committee considers :

(a) That if the military occupation of the country only aims at the maintenance of public safety and of order, this occupation should not be entrusted to Greek troops, but to Allied troops, under the authority of the Allied High Command in Asia-Minor.

(b) That the occupation by the Greeks alone should only be kept maintained if the Peace Conference has resolved to declare the complete and final annexation of the country to Greece. (In this case liberty of action should be left to the Greek Command with regard to the Turkish Forces.)

(c) That the above considered annexation, pure and simple, would be contrary to the principle proclaiming respect for nationalities, because in the occupied region, excepting the town of Smyrna itself and Aïvali, the predominance of the Turkish element over the Greek element is indisputable. It is the duty of the Committee of Inquiry to observe that the Turkish national sentiment, which has already manifested its resistance, will not accept this annexation. It will only yield to force, that is to say, before a military expedition, which Greece alone could not lead with any chance of success.

3. Under these conditions the Committee proposes the following measures :

(a) To have, as soon as possible, all or part of the Greek troops relieved by Allied troops much less numerous.

(b) If in order to protect the Greek « amour propre » it is decided that part of the Greek troops should cooperate in the occupation, to distribute these troops in the interior of the region occupied, in order that they should avoid all direct contact with the Turkish national forces.

(c) As soon as the occupation by the Allies takes place, to demand from the Turkish Government the re-organisation of the « gendarmerie » under the direction and command of Inter-allied Officers. This « gendarmerie » should be put, as soon as possible, in a state of assuring order throughout the whole region—and with this aim substituting the Allied detachments.

(d) At the same time as the re-organisation of the « gendarmerie, » the Turkish Government ought to restore civil administration.

4. The head of the National Movement having declared repeatedly that their opposition was directed against the Greeks only, the measures ought to remove from them every motive for armed resistance, and to return to the Central Government of Constantinople the authority it no longer has. Nothing should any longer prevent the disbanding of irregular troops. In the contrary event, the « Entente » will, indeed, know how to esteem the protestations of loyalty made by the Turks, whether by the leader of the National Movement or by the members of the Government.

The members of the Committee :

Admiral Bristol, Delegate of the U.S.A. :

(Signed) *Bristol.*

General Bunoust, Delegate of France :

(Signed) *Bunoust.*

General Hare, Delegate of Great Britain :

(Signed) *Hare.*

General Dall'Olio, Delegate of Italy :

(Signed) *Dall-Olio.*

An Overwhelming Document of the International Red-Cross on Greek Atrocities.

Report of Mr. Maurice Gehri, Delegate of the International
Committee of the Red-Cross, who accompanied the Interallied
Inquiry Mission in Anatolia.

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The initiative of sending an interallied mission charged with an inquiry into the atrocities imputed to the Greeks in Anatolia, came from the British High Commissioner at Constantinople, Sir Horace Rumbold. As soon as it knew of the plan, the Ottoman Red-Crescent solicited the International Committee of the Red-Cross to send a delegate to participate in the inquiry. The demand of the International Committee, presented by general C. B. Thomson, its temporary delegate at Constantinople for the question of the Russian refugees, was very favourably received by the British High Commissioner and I was called upon by the International Committee to represent it in the mission.

The mission was composed of three superior officers representing the three allied High Commissioners at Constantinople: General Franks (Great-Britain), with his aide-de-camp Captain Stone, Colonel Vicq (France), Colonel Roletto (Italy); all three accompanied by military interpreters speaking Turkish and Greek.

* * *

The region which has been the object of the inquiry, the Samanli-Dagh, is the part of the East sea-coast of the Marmara between the Gulfs of Ismidt and of Moudania. This region is visible from Constantinople, from where it is only 3-4 hours distant by ship. The peninsula has an area of about 600 km². It is almost entirely mountainous (950 meters). The rivers, numerous and very winding, have formed at their mouth low and marshy alluvion coasts, confined in triangle between the hills. Most of the villages of the coast are built at the back part of these little coasting plains, covered with trees, market-gardening and olive-tree-gardens. Except in these points, the hills of the South-coast slope directly to the sea. On the Northern coast the flat country is more extended.

The peninsula is very fertile: it is the rich point of the basin

of the Marmora Sea, reputed as one the most fortunate agricultural regions. Olive-trees, vines, mulberry-trees, fruit-trees, maket-gardening are the principal wealth. It is from here that Constantinople receives early vegetables and fruits. According to Ali Maadjid Bey, professor at the University of Stamboul, who supplied me with these geograuqical data, the market of Ghemlik sells 10 million kilos of olives and 3 million kilo of grape and raisins yearly. There is also an active commerce of cocoons and silk. The sheep raising is also very important.

The principal localities of the region are : Ismid (ancient Nicomedia) 60 miles distant from Constantinople ; Karamoussal, 37 miles distant ; Ghemlik, 45 miles distant ; Bazar-Keui, destroyed to-day, near the lake of Iznik, ancient Nicea.

The population of the peninsula is Turkish. There are also Greeks and Armenians. With the exception of a few, most of the villages were inhabited by a homogeneous population. The Greek villages are almost all on the coast. The Moslem part of the population, the most numerous, is composed of Turks, properly so called (Osmanlis), and of some Kurds and Tcherkesses, emigrants from Caucasia after the conquest of their country by the Czars. The land belongs to the Moslems. The Greeks and the Armenians are occupied, as in all parts of the Levant, with commerce and coasting-trade.

As for the administration, the peninsula was divided into Kazas (districts), governed by Kaïmakams. According to official Turkish statistics, the population of the three Kazas, viz. : Ghemlik, Bazar-Keui, Yalowa, was, before the Hellenic occupation, composed of : 34,585 Moslems, 16,990 Greeks, and 24,616 Armenians, in 105 villages. According to Dr. Mezbourian, president of the Armenian community of Ghemlik, the Armenian population of these 3 Kazas and that of Karamoussal was, before the war, in June 1914, 43,151 souls in number and 7,002 after the armistice. The Kasa of Karamoussal is actually beyond the Greek front. The other Kazas, all three, go beyond the region that the Inquiry Mission visited and which has as limit the Ghemlik-Bazar-Keui-Yalowa road, beside a portion of 15 km. going from Yalowa to Coury Baths.

* * *

Leaving the Bosphorus on the 12th of May at noon on board the British torpedo-boat *Bryony*, the mission came back to Constantinople on May 22nd. In 10 days, it visited, from Ghemlik to Yalowa, the greater part of the localities on the sea-coast and some in the interior.¹

¹) In the mean time, another interallied mission, of analogous composition, was going over the sea-coast of Tchatak Dagh, on the Black Sea and the Gulf of Ismid. The Inter. Com. of the Red-Cross was not represented in this second mission.

The inquiry was made in an impartial way. All the witnesses who came, be it Greek, Armenian or Turkish were heard.

The mission came to the conclusion that elements of the Greek army of occupation had, for two months, been pursuing the extermination of the Moslem population of the peninsula. The verifications made — burning of villages, massacres, terrorizing the inhabitants, coincide of the places and the dates — leave no doubt as to this. The atrocities that we saw or of which we found the traces, were the deeds of irregular bands of armed civilians (*tchéte*) and of unities enlisted in the regular army. We are not aware of any case in which these misdeeds were prevented or punished by the military commanders. The bands, instead of being disarmed and dispersed, were seconded in their action and collaborated hand in hand with regular embodied unities.

The peninsula of Samanli-Dagh was, at the time of the inquiry on this side of the Greek front and had never been, since the beginning of the Hellenic occupation, a theatre of hostilities. Till last March, the region had been tranquil. The criminal deeds which came to our knowledge were pread through the last two months (end of March to May 15). They were subsequent to the retreat of the Greek army after the defeat at Eski-Shéhîr, and were perhaps the consequence of it. The third Hellenic division, one of the best of the army, according to the specialists, and whose attitude towards the civilian population, from the testimony of the Turks themselves, had been correct, was relieved by the 10th division, of recent formation, composed of Greeks of Anatolia and who did not distinguish themselves in the battle in front of Eski-Shéhîr. Were the Turks of Samanli-Dagh the victims of the ill-humour of a defeated general? Or was it decided, in prevision, of a return of the offensive, to cleanse the rear from civilian elements which the fortune of the Turkish arms might render alarming? The educated Greeks with whom I spoke affirmed that at the plebiscite which would follow the war, if plebiscite there was, there would be found in the peninsula a great majority of Hellenic population. Were the fires and the massacres a means towards this result? I merely put down the questions, the elements of an objective appreciation being completely lacking.

Arrived at Ghemlik, in the evening of May 12th, the commission opened its inquiry on the following morning, beginning with the visit to some burnt villages: Bazar-Keui (Turkish) near the Lake of Iznik, Tchingelir (Armenian), at the North of the preceding one, Tchertikchi and Ghédélék (Turkish), between Bazar-Keui and Ghomlik. At Tchertikchi, a few houses, which the fire had spared a month ago, were burning at the moment when the mission arrived there and 4 Greek soldiers were arrested in the very act of plunder; they had probably just set fire to the houses.

While the military mission went on by motor-car, I began the inquiry at Ghemlik itself, with the aid of the French interpreter, very kindly put at my disposition by Colonel Vicq. (The British High Commissioner did not authorize me to take with me the interpreter furnished by the Red-Crescent.)

Ghemlik, a township of 7000 inhabitants in normal times, had at this time 16,000 inhabitants, 3500 of whom were Greek refugees, 2000 Armenians and 1500-2000 Turks. The greater part of the Greek refugees — 2800 — came from the burnt village of Kiz-Dervent, at the South of Karmoussal; the most of the Armenians, from Tchéngilér, Yeni-Keuï and Yalak-Déré. These refugees received from the military administration 100 Drams (320 grams) of flour daily.

Almost all the Turkish refugees came from the village of Bazar-Keuï, evacuated by order a month ago, and burnt shortly after their departure. Many complained of having been robbed and maltreated on the way, by civilian Armenians and by Greek soldiers. Here are some of the cases that I saw: A woman, refugee from Ghedelek, Katcha Hanum, wounded by the Armenian bandits with a bullet in the shoulder and with three bayonet strokes; a boy from Ghedelek whose jaw and tongue were shattered by the splinter of a grenade thrown into the house in which the women and children of the village had been gathered; a woman from Bazar-Keuï, Hourié Hanum, aged 60, her money stolen, herself wounded and violated by five or six Greek soldiers, her husband slaughtered at her side; all her neighbours, men and women, confirmed her sayings. The Turks were lodged much more narrowly than the other refugees. Hundreds of them heaped together in the interior of the small mosque yard and the cemetery. In another place, near the *Konak*, 6×5 squarer meters, I counted more than 60 women and children; and the men were absent at this moment, at the terrible toil. For a whole month the Turkish refugees had not received a mouthful of bread from the Hellenic civilian administration and could but live on what their correlative of the neighbouring villages were able to bring them. The mayor of Ghemlik, Mr. Psinikis, declared to me that the Commander of the third army-corps (Broussa) had given orders two days before to feed these refugees too, but that the distribution had not yet begun, nor did it begin during the six days that we were there.

The second day of the inquiry, was employed by the military mission, in hearing at the office of the mayor, the depositions of the Greek and Armenian refugees. For the sake of brevity. I will only note this point of these depositions: ten days ago, arms were distributed to 300 enrolled voluntaries, Greek and Armenian, and two days ago proclamations were issued prohibiting, the Turkish inhabitants, to detain any weapon under pain of death.

I learned, on the other hand the region neighbouring Koumla (Ali) was surrounded by armed Greek bands. Nobody could go there from Ghemlik. The Greek authorities allowed no one to leave this region. «The population of this region, my informer told me, will be rapidly annihilated.» The day of our arrival at Ghemlik, May 12th, the witness was at the Touzla Farm, on the Southern coast of the Gulf. He heard a fusillade. Towards the evening three persons crossed the Gulf on a plank, from Kardja-Ali to Touzla. They had been hit by bullets and had seen a band surround the village of Kutchuk-Koumla. I sent men to fetch these three, who had since gone to Ghemlik: the Moukthar (Mayor) of Koumla, an inhabitant of the same village and a gendarme Hussein Tchaoush. The messengers came and told me that they were not to be found. Later, I learned that the commander of the place had caused them to be arrested, but I was not able to communicate with them.

In the afternoon, I assisted at the Orthodox church at the funeral mass of two young Greeks of Ghemlik, aged 19 and 20 respectively, killed at Koumla Scala three days beforehand. At the cemetery I caused the coffins to be opened and the corpses, said to be horribly mutilated, photographed. I had, afterwards, an interview at the cemetery with the Archbishop of Nicea, Mgr. Vassilios, who related to me the massacre at Iznik by the Turks (June 1920) and declared to me : «The Greek army has been much too mild in the repression. I, who am not a soldier but an ecclesiastic, I should like to have all the Turks exterminated, without sparing one.»

Sunday, May 15th, was a day fertile in emotions. We saw burning, successively, three Turkish villages on the coast : at 8 o'clock, the villages of Narli ; at ten, Karadja-Ali ; a little after a house at Koumla Scala ; at 3 o'clock p. m., the village of Kapakli. A motor-boat break-down having obliged the Mission to come back to the shore, I took advantage of the two hours' delay and went to interrogate at Ghemlik the parents of the two young Greeks buried the day before. I learned there that a Greek detachment of 150 men had left Ghemlik three days ago for the region of Koumla and beyond.

In the afternoon the Bryony anchored before Karadja-Ali. We found on the sea-shore 11 Turkish corpses, of which I woman. They had been killed some hours before with gun and bayonet blows and probably flung down the cliff. Two were still breathing and were immediately transported on board the vessel and their wounds dressed. We met numerous traces of plunder in the village.

At half past four p. m., we returned to Koumla Scala, where

the general headquarters of the division had sent horses demanded by the Mission in order to get to Kutchuk-Koumla. The Mission found the village absolutely deserted. The people terrified, were hiding themselves in their houses. At the sight of the Allied uniforms, the gates half-opened, every one peeped out into the street: and when, one hour later, the Mission came down again to Scala, the entire village, more than 100 persons, followed on its heels and installed themselves on the beach, under the protection of the cannons of the Bryony, which during the whole night, cast its search-lights over the corpses of the hills.

The Mission immediately informed by wireless the High Commissioners at Constantinople of the facts of the journey and dispatched a letter to General Leonardopoulos, Commander of the 10th Hellenic division, at Ghemlik, who was held responsible for an eventual destruction of the village of Kutchuk-Koumla.

Monday, May 16th. In the morning, we continued to interrogate the men on the beach. Summary of the depositions: situation troubled for a month. Last Thursday, 50-60 embodied Greek soldiers and 40 armed Greek civilians came from Ghemlik, killed 3 men, wounded a woman, and left for Karadja-Ali. Yesterday morning, Sunday, Greek detachments — a hundred men — came from Kardja-Ali, killed 8 or 9 men. They had taken with them about forty women from Kardja-Ali.

At ten o'clock the Mission went up to Kutchuk-Koumla to make sure that the village was guarded on its return to Scala, it found a lieutenant-colonel, head of the 3d bureau of the division, who invited the men on the beach to go back to their village, where he said, they would be protected. Nobody left the beach.

The *Bryony* went then to Kapakli which had been burning since the preceding day 3 p. m. A few rare inhabitants among the smoking ruins. The others had fled to the mountains. 8 corpses, of which 4 women. Three of them seemed to date back from about fifteen days. The five others had been murdered the day before. The blood was still flowing from the corpse of a woman. Another woman had been killed on a mattress. Everything in the attitude of the corpses showed that they had been murdered on the spot, in their houses. Some were mutilated.

The murderers, declared the survivors, were Greek soldiers. The officer of the General Staff denied their statements and seeing a small girl, asked that she be questioned, as « truth comes out of the mouths of babes ». The child quietly declared that the malefactors were Greek soldiers.

About the village, numerous articles of clothing, beds, etc., abandoned, some by the inhabitants in their flight, some by the plunderers. There was found also, as in Karadja-ali the day before, as at Narli a little while ago, a jug of petroleum three-

fourths empty. In a garden a baby of a few months abandoned. An Italian soldier took the poor thing on board.

The survivors having asked the Mission to have them evacuated to a quiet place, they were told to go and gather those who were hiding themselves in the mountain, on to the beach, from where they would be transported to Koumla-Scala on the morrow.

On the return, stoppage before Narli. The village, entirely destroyed, was still burning. It was deserted. Only an old Turk, a rose on his hat, was crouched by his smoking house. He knew nothing and made us feel that we were not wanted there.

Return to Koumla at 6 p. m. In the evening, arrived the answer from Constantinople to our wireless of the day before. The British High Commissioner was not favourable to the transport of the refugees to Constantinople and proposed to the Mission to organize a concentration camp at Koumla, under the protection of Interallied officers sent from Constantinople and the Red-Cross. The idea was excellent, but its realization needed time and the men of the beach could not be abandoned to the fate awaiting them after our departure. I proposed to wire to the Red-Crescent. The Military Mission accepted this proposition with much favour and I sent the following telegram :

« Red-Crescent, Constantinople. Karadja-Ali, Narli, Kapakli burnt. Thousand terrorized inhabitants Kutchuk-Kumla gathered beach. Can you send immediately ships to embark fifteen hundred? Can you secure lodging and food Constantinople? Enter in communication with British High Commissioner before undertaking anything. »

Tuesday, May 17th. The Commission received on board the deposition of the lieutenant John Costas and of the adjutant Papoultopoulos, of the 28th regiment of infantry, who commanded the detachment sent on a reconnaissance in the Southern part of the peninsula, on the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th of May. The itinerary followed and the timetable of events coincided almost on all points with the information furnished by the men of Koumla and of the burnt villages. The lieutenant Costas admitted as possible that his soldiers set fire to the villages. He had not thought it his duty to go and see what was going on. At Koumla-Scala he has caused 4 Turks to be arrested and shot.

While the *Bryony* left for Fistikli and Armoudli, I went, on horseback with the Greek lieutenant and adjutant and our Italian interpreter, to see the corpses of the 4 Turks shot. After an hour's horse ride, we found 7 corpses, only one of which the lieutenant recognized as having been his prisoner. To the question : « Why did he have them put to death, as he only had orders to arrest them? », he answered : « Because it pleased me to do so. » The

Greeks went back to Ghemlik and we returned to Koumla-Scala. On our way back, we found 2 more corpses.

In the evening, about 5 o'clock p. m. we received, at Koumla-Scala, the visit of the head of a band Yorgo, of Ghemlik, armed «to the teeth», accompanied by a boy and an armed soldier and followed by a detachment of soldiers hidden under the trees at a small distance from the village. Yorgo boasted of having accompanied Costas' detachment of reconnaissance in all its movements and of having set fire to the villages. On leaving, the trio stole three horses from the men on the beach in order to go up to Kut-chuk-Koumla.

The military Mission which came back at 6 p. m., immediately informed the general of the division of the presence of the bandit. The *Bryony* had taken in tow, in coming back, 2 mahonnes left at Kapakli in the morning, and which were bringing about 200 refugees from the mountains.

Wednesday May 18. The Mission visited the Turkish quarter of Ghemlik and received at the *Konak* the depositions of the Turkish refugees.

In the evening, at 9 o'clock, arrived the ship sent by the Red-Crescent, the *Inéboli*, which immediately took on board the refugees on the beach, aided by the searchlights of the *Bryony*, and left full at 2 o'clock in the morning. As it had not been able to take every one, and as, besides, we had decided, in agreement with the Red-Crescent, to have the terrorized refugees of Ghemlik, evacuated too, I caused a letter to be sent by the *Inéboli* to Captain G. Burnier, permanent delegate of the International Committee of the Red-Cross at Constantinople, asking him to send us the *Wygbert*, arrived the day before from Hamburg bound for Novorossiik, and which sailing under the flag of the Red-Cross was large enough to take all the remaining refugees at the same time.

Tuesday, May 19. A communications officer of the division brought on board, by order of General Leonardopoulos, the band-chief Yorgo, who declared that when boasting the day before he had been drunk: he had indeed accompanied the detachment Costas, but only as guide; it was not he who set fire to the villages, but some Greek brigands from Yalova: the officer and himself had seen them in the act.

At 10 o'clock p. m., came the *Inéboli* (second voyage), followed shortly after by three Turkish ships: *Gayret*, *Galata* and *Galipoli*. The Red-Crescent and the Captain Burnier had much trouble in obtaining the authorization to send these ships, the British High Commissioner having remained very much opposed to the transfer of the refugees to Constantinople. He had not authorized the sending of the *Wygbert*, because its crew was German.

The day of *Friday May 20*, was occupied with the embarka-

tion of the refugees. General Leonardopoulos retained 145 men of military age (20-40), the names of whom I noted. He likewise retained the Turkish inhabitants of Ghemlik, who had also asked to leave. His officers prevented the landing of the food that the Red-Crescent had brought for the population. All that General Franks was able to obtain was the delivery, to the Turkish physician of Ghemlik, of a box of medicine and articles for dressing wounds.

In the night of Friday to Saturday May 21, the *Inéboli* made a third voyage to take the remaining men of Koumla and their cattle. The total of the refugees transported to Constantinople attained 2602, being distributed as follows :

Refugees from Koumla and the neighbouring coast :

1st voyage of <i>Inéboli</i>	820 persons
2nd voyage of <i>Inéboli</i>	350 »
3d voyage of <i>Inéboli</i>	250 »
	<hr/>
	1420 persons

Refugees from Ghemlik :

By the <i>Gayret</i>	250 persons
By the <i>Galata</i>	312 »
By the <i>Gallipoli</i>	620 »
	<hr/>
	1182 persons

After having passed the night before Touzla (Northern coast of the Gulf of Ismid), waiting for complementary instructions from Constantinople, the Mission went on Saturday morning to Yalova, on the Northern coast of the peninsula, and heard there, at the *Konak*, the depositions of the Greek and the Turkish complainants. The region, quiet till the 15th of April, under the 3d Hellenic division, has been since this date deeply disturbed and troubled. From the arrival of the captain Papagrighoriou, fires and massacres had hed their course. 16 villages have been burnt, the survivors of which, very few, had taken refuge at Yalova and in the two remaining villages Samanli and Ak-Keuï. All the rest of the population, about 6000 persons, had disappeared.

The Mission not being authorized to have a greater number of refugees evacuated, did not carry on its inquiry any longer. In the after-noon it visited Tchinaradjik, to the West of Yalova, village formerly Turkish, to-day entirely Greek ; then Inghéré, and from there, escorted by Greek soldiers, went up to the two Turkish villages of Kodja-Déré, the Higher and the Lower, entirely burnt and deserted, where nothing but some human and animal bones were found.

Sunday, May 22. In the morning the Mission, considering its inquiry finished, went back to Constantinople.

Tuesday, May 24. The Allied High Commissioners having decided, on the instances of the Mission, to evacuate the people of Yalova, the Red-Crescent sent there a ship, the *Gul-Nihal*, which I accompanied together with an Interallied commission of protection composed of Captain Lucas (France), Lieutenant Holland (Great-Britain), Lieutenant Bonnacorsi (Italy), and the English interpreter and a policeman. Besides these, came with us: Mr. A. J. Toynbee, Professor at London University, correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, and his wife who had been in the region for 5 months and had a *laisser-passer* from General Papoulas, Commander in Chief of the Greek army, allowing them to circulate on all the front.

This second voyage, although lasting but two days, was still more animated than the first one. I cannot go into the details of the incidents. I will only note two facts:

At Ak-Keui one of the two remaining villages, the Mission found that a quarter had been completely plundered, some ten days before: gates burst open, windows broken, empty interiors, and just by the houses the fresh tombs of 60 inhabitants put to death that day. We were able to note the names of 49 of them. Two courageous boys of the village led the Mission, watched from a far, step by step the Greek keepers and by our Greek escort. One of them was taken on board with his family. The other led aside an instant by a Greek civilian disappeared and could not be traced by our policeman.

It was agreed, on our departure from Constantinople, that we should take with us all the Turks of the region of Yalova, inhabitants and refugees. Captain Papagrigoriou, after having begun by pretending that there were no Turkish refugees in the region, declared to have received formal instructions, from the division, not to let any embark but the refugees. We asked confirmation by wire from General Leonardopoulos, at Ghemlik. The Captain received a confirmative answer. The next day, the instructions were still further limited in that we were only allowed to take the refugees of the burnt villages, only 6 in number. The Greek captain after having obstinately denied that there were other villages burnt, — in spite of the testimonies of men from these villages who took refuge at Yalova — acknowledged at last the fact, but absolutely refused to let the women and the children of Yortan, of Kirazli and of Ghiadjik go, on the pretext that the men had crossed the Greek lines in order to rejoin the Kemalist forces in the sector of Karamoussal. The choosing of the refugees, on the beach, amidst indisciplined soldiers, numerous bandits and chiefs of bands, and a crowd of Greek and Armenian civilians that a Greek priest sent from Constantinople was exciting, was a real struggle, long and painful. We were literally obliged to pull

away the refugees one by one. Out of the 200 that we were obliged to abandon on the beach, we could but note the names of 140.

The ship *Gul-Nihal* left Yalova on *Wednesday evening, May 25th*, at 8 o'clock p. m., with 333 refugees on board, which brought the number of refugees evacuated to Constantinople to 2935 of whom 1250 children.

Remained :

At *Yalova* : about 400 Moslem inhabitants, 45 of whom functionaries, and about a hundred refugees and men from outside.

At *Samanli* : 157 inhabitants and refugees.

At *Ak-Keui* : 333 inhabitants and refugees.

The names of the heads of families of the two villages were written down by the military mission and the lists handed to the Red-Crescent, for control, with a view to fetching them later.

On our return to Constantinople, the Hellenic High Commissioner declared to have consented to the evacuation of all the Turks of the region, inhabitants and refugees. Moreover, to a telegram sent by Mr. Toynbee to the Great General Headquarters at Smyrna, in order to signalize to him the atrocities committed in the region and the difficulties we met with, the generalissimo Papoulas answered by wire that he had given orders to the general headquarters of the 3d army corps at Broussa, to let all those depart, inhabitants or refugees, who manifested the desire to leave.

* * *

At the moment of my departure from Constantinople, on May 30th, the Red-Crescent received the information that in their meeting on the same day, the three Allied High Commissioners at Constantinople had agreed on the necessity of evacuating completely the Moslem population of Samali-Dagh and had obtained the consent of the Hellenic High Commissioner.

On the 24th of June, a telegram from the Red-Crescent informed the International Committee that the evacuation of the peninsula was terminated and that there remained only men of military age retained by the Greek commander.

Report on Certain Destroyed Villages in the Turkish War Zone in Anatolia

by Two Members of the American Relief.

We have both been engaged in relief work in Anatolia. In June we came to Angora and have continued our work here uninterruptedly. In July and August after the big attacks many thousand refugees passed through here and we, working with the Red Crescent, helped as many as our means allowed. After the September retreat of the Greek Army from the Sakaria, the Turkish Government wished neutrals to see the devastated regions; and, as we were nearest at hand, they asked us. We, on our part, urgently needed to consult certain people at Sivrihissar about our orphanage work and so we felt that we were neglecting no duties in going.

In each village we were left entirely free to see and talk as we pleased. As one of us speaks the language well she was born in Turkey — she took down the individual statements. She chose at random someone on the streets, went with another to her house, and, before she left, tried to talk with either the Mouhtar (head man of the village) or the school master.

Many people will testify to the honesty and simplicity of the Turkish peasant, and this impressed us very strongly. They gave their statements simply, with no exaggerations.

In the village of Oghlakji, and we remember the naivité of another woman speaking of her household goods:

« There were many who spoke our language. To the first

« one I said, My son, my son, why do you do this to me?

« And these left me in peace. But others came and took all. »

« Then some were merciful? » (Investigator.)

« Yes, why should I lie? Some gave mercy. »

While one of us talked to the villagers, the other wandered at will among the ruins and took photographs. What greeted the eye, needed no interpreter, especially to anyone familiar with the devastated districts in France. The roofs and the interiors were entirely burnt, the stone walls always partly and sometimes entirely fallen. Long black lines in the fields showed where the wheat had been burned. Jagged and burnt copper utensils showed marks of both bayonet and fire. The villagers held out handfuls of singed wheat grains which they had salvaged. These they ate soaked in water as the mills had been systematically burned. Generally speaking, they had saved enough to last the village in common for ten days to three weeks — after this — nothing.

Narrative of the villagers :

The first village at which we stopped was Mulk.

100 Houses
95 burnt

The Mohtar says, « It was an organised movement for when we begged them (that is the soldiers) not to burn our houses, they replied — we have orders. »

The women when interviewed said, « We older ones were not touched, but our younger women were seized and some violated. »

An old man said : « Money was demanded of my brother and, as he had none, he was killed ».

From Mulk several thousand sheep, oxen and cows were carried off, nothing being left to the villagers. Their food now is burnt wheat.

The mosque in this village was totally destroyed by « bombs ».

The burning seems to have been done with « something like water ». (Probably liquid fire is meant).

Oghlakji.

50 Houses — 46 Burned.

Across a little valley from Mulk is the village of Oghlakji. The walls here are especially badly injured though being of mud brick and stone they naturally did not burn. When the village was set on fire Ashim Oghlou Mehmet told me that he tried to save his house and he was pushed into the fire but escaped. « We went, » he said, « with petitions to the commander who was encamped below the village, but the soldiers would not let us give them, but would tear them up ».

The women interviewed told the same story of the soldiers coming singly and in numbers to the village asking for money and beating them when they did not get all they wished, taking the gold coins from their heads. The young women especially wear a headdress ornamented with gold coins.

One young woman said, « As fled, I snatched the twentyfive lira gold piece¹ from off my head and threw it somewhere in the house. When I returned my gold and all was gone as well as my husband, who was taken as a guide, and we have not heard from him since. I was not violated but some of my companions were. The men were carried off and then the women were taken, those who had not already escaped ».

Mehmet's story was that just at dawn many soldiers came and began to enter the houses, taking everything and piling them into their autos. Horsemen went to the hills and drove off the flocks, at the same time seizing some of the women who were escaping. There were no officers with them, nor were the villagers allowed to

¹) A Turkish gold lira = \$ 5.—

go to the commander. Eight men were taken and guarded for two nights and then three of them were chosen as guides, he being one of them. All the way he was surrounded by soldiers. After sixteen hours he escaped and came back, but the others had not been heard of. A woman said, « It was after the men were collected (it must be remembered that but few men were left in the villages as most of them had gone as soldiers) that the women were separated and some violated ».

Just as we were leaving the village a villager said that one of the mounted soldiers told him that they did not go to Angora as they were asked not to by Stamboul, and he added, « There is a man or a place called Evropa, is there not? » The soldier said that he, (that is Evropa,) said to burn and destroy, so there would be nothing left for the Turks ».... A place or a man called « Evropa »!

Hammankarahissar. (Black Rock Bath).

60 Houses — 57 Burned.

This village in a beautiful little valley was famous for its natural hot springs; the bath house over was entirely destroyed. A mosque dated back to the Seljuks was not destroyed but had been used as a stable. The story here was the same of robbing and beating. A few houses were set on fire at first; when protest was made to the commander, he told them to put it out themselves. « But how can we? » they replied, « when the soldiers stand at our backs with bayonets? » As different groups of soldiers came through setting fires, the people finally all fled. A few had come back. One man with twenty dependents on him had roofed in a small place, each having saved one quilt and a little wheat.

Kozaghaj.

200 Houses — 196 Burned.

This was a large prosperous village, its wealth lying in its grape vineyards. These were at some distance in the foot of hills; they were partly destroyed. Many of the houses had been three stories high. At the entrance was a pleasant open square with trees and a fountain. The walls of the village were badly destroyed. Of the mosque, only the minaret was left. As the villagers were escaping, some of the women were seized and violated. The young men were killed in an attempt to shield the women. As we sat by the fountain the women surrounded us telling of their losses and their escape to the mountain where they remained for eleven days, living on grapes. A boy of seventeen was forced to burn his own house.

Along the way we had seen the harvest that had been burned and we asked how some had managed to save wheat. « We rushed into some of the burning houses and dragged out some, » they replied. In some other cases they had picked up the charred wheat, had washed it and were eating it.

As we walked along the street we were taken into one house where the man had quantities of wool, he had been able to save one hundred okes (259 pounds about) only. One poor woman came along and begged us to go into her ruined house and see the heads of the burned cattle. Some begged our pardon because they could not offer us hospitality, « when strangers came before our village, we entertained them like princes, now, to our shame, we can offer them nothing ».

Shepherd dogs were wandering around with no sheep to watch and, as we looked up the green valley, a man said, « We have the grass but there are no sheep or cattle to eat it ».

One man said, « In my house there stayed a General, a very great man. He promised me that the house should not be harmed but, in spite of this they burned it. When I asked him of his promise, he laughed and said he had forgotten to give the order ».

Gejek. 140 Houses.

25 Houses totally burned — 55 Hay Store Houses burned.

This village was off the main line of march and perhaps for that reason suffered less. Here we spent our third night. We stayed in a very clean house and our hostess took us around the village in the morning. She said to us: « They started to kill my husband but I got out all my gold and gave it to them. I succeeded in getting my pretty daughter-in-law away so that they did not get her. We were in the mountains seven or eight days, then our cavalry came and delivered us. » As we went around women would come out from the ruins and beg us to see their houses. One woman insisted on taking us into her ruined home. « Look, » she said, « what a fine house I had — twelve rooms, » and as we climbed up and down the ruins through her twelve-rooms house she wept bitterly and said, « Will I ever have any home like this again? » One other woman said, « What-ever they asked for on their advance, we did for them, but what good did it do? Look at our homes! »

Two men trying to rescue a woman were shot and the woman herself, taking advantage of the occasion, fled, but was shot down. Her body was found a few days later in the valley.

The teacher of the village, though not there at the time of the attack, was asked on his return to take notes of the villagers' statements, and he told us that the plan was well organised. It was

evident that certain soldiers were delegated to certain forms of destruction. The old Khoja (religious teacher), a learned man, said he was threatened three times with the knife and, each time, money saved him. « All my religious books, my Koran, for which I had paid a hundred liras (one lira about 2 dollars) were torn to pieces before my eyes and burned. I finally escaped but, on my return found my house partly burned. The mosque was stripped of its rugs and furnishings and the Koran was also burned ».

In this same village the wealthiest man said, « Yes, we gave freely to the army of all we had when they went through and, on their return, if they had even stripped our houses, we would still have said, «It is war, but, to burn our homes and to violate our women, this is barbarism ». The same sentiment was expressed by a woman who said, « When the army went through here we did everything they asked us to do ; we gave of our butter, our eggs, our chickens, we baked bread. But what good did it do ? This (the ruined homes), is our reward ». Even the simple villager recognised the right of an advancing army to be fed off the country, but the wanton destruction one could not, nor do we wish to, justify as a necessary part of war.

As we were about to leave the village a group of women surrounded us telling of the various happenings. One said, « It was my sister-in-law who was shot when she tried to escape from the hands of the soldiers. My daughter-in-law was seized and violated. I begged the soldiers not to burn my house and their reply was, « Is not your husband a Kemal soldier ? Get your rights then from Kemal ».

Kochash.

100 Houses — 80 Burned.

We reached here after a ride of several hours. Near it we saw a few oxen grazing and met only one ox cart. Wandering through the streets we came across an ex-soldier who had been a guard in an English prisoner camp. « I know a few English words », he said, and then he repeated some. « I have been a soldier many years, » he went on, « but I never saw soldiers do what was done to us here. « My brother-in-law killed because he tried to protect some women. When I tried to run away they pushed me, bound on a pile of burning hay but, finally, I managed to get loose and run away. We were in the mountains ten days. Our mosque was very solidly built, it was very old. We did not see it burned but, as the ruin of it was so complete, we think it must have been destroyed by bombs ».

Several people said that; as they tried to extinguish the fire, the Greeks said, « No, we have orders if you put out the fire to punish you ». The people fled to a high place near, the village

burned and an auto came up with high officers ; they cried out that the officers help them, but these did nothing. After the Greeks had gone they found there men with their throats cut in a garden. They do not know why, though one woman says it was because they tried to protect a woman. The animals they could not take, they killed. The village was rich in grain, this they burned. The mills were at a small village near by ; these were all burned. On the advance they did not enter this village, but stayed during six days of the retreat, different parties entering. Each day they took about two thousand kilos of food stuffs. They began to burn the first day, and burned a little each day. At first they threw papers from aeroplanes, assuring the people that they should not be ill-treated.

Babadad. 100 Houses.

All destroyed, the mill just outside, entirely destroyed.

Only two or three families are left here, all having fled towards Sivrihissar. Apparently the army was here many days, both on the advance and the retreat. Here fifteen women were attacked and four men killed. Everything was taken from here.

Demirié.

40 Houses — 25 Houses left.

On the advance, the Greek Hospital was here and the villagers said they were paid for things but, on the retreat, the soldiers robbed them of every bit of money. As they fled, that is the villagers, to the mountain, some managed to take there a bed and a quilt. Among those fleeing six women were seized and violated.

It was here the old lady said, « Yes, some were merciful ».

In all these stories certain points come out over and over again. The villagers said repeatedly :

« The work of destruction was done systematically. »

» The officers were here (or near by) but either we were not allowed to see them, or they answered, Put out the fire yourself. »

« There were many who spoke our language. »

« When the first came in, we did all for them and they said they would not harm us but, on their retreat, they robbed and burned, saying 'We have orders. »

« To take what they need, that is war, but why should they burn or kill what they could not use themselves ? »

Since our visit we have read some of the Turkish official reports of these same villages ; the facts agree with our. Thus far a hundred and thirty villages have been reported as similarly destroyed. The state of the other one hundred and twenty-two is the same as those which we personally visited. Houses were burned, many women who refused to give money, were wounded and

killed ; women were violated ; wheat, both on the harvest floor, or in the houses, was deliberately burned ; sheep and cattle driven off and killed ; in fact, every means by which the villagers could sustain life was destroyed.

Winter is coming on, the army itself must be fed first — it has already given much of what it had — unless a great effort is made these people, even if they survive the winter, have no prospect of a harvest for the next year.

We do not know whether the world now accepts as legitimate these methods of warfare ; practised first, as they were, in Europe during the Great War. In any case, will it not feel sympathy for the suffering women and children and therefore act in such a way that the Moslem world can not say, « We are Turks. Therefore they say nothing ».

(Signed) *Annie I. Allen.*

» *Florence I. Billings.*

Members American Relief,
Anatolia.

Report on the Greek Misdeeds in Asia-Minor.

In the rough estimate which I will try to give, I should first of all state that I spent a long time at Broussa (as founder of the School of the silkworm industry in that town in 1902), and later drew up the statement, of the registration of houses first in the town of Inégueul and then in Yeni-Chehir.

This work allowed me to make a long stay in these regions, giving me leisure to go on with the statement of Islamic works of art.

The estimated figures which I put forward are only approximate. Such works of art as the Mosques at Broussa and the other towns in this Province cannot be estimated. I even find it profane on my part to give them a monetary value; for it is an incontestable fact that their archaeological, artistic and historic value is beyond price.

From this it must be concluded that the Imperial Ottoman Government in reclaiming the undermentioned amounts, really only reclaims a poor share of the value of its works of art, which have been destroyed, stolen or pulled down.

The Imperial Ottoman Government could easily make the civilized world understand that the champions of the new Hellenic civilization were only vile malefactors, bands of vandals and thieves.

Town of Broussa.

	Francs.
1. <i>Shehadet-Djamissi</i> . Turned into Stables. Damage caused	100,000
2. <i>Yeshil-Djami</i> . Destruction of the exterior of the Shadirvan, and of the sacred fountain	50,000
3. <i>Yeshil-Turbessi</i> . Part of the new earthenware outside, taken away, and two tympana of the outside windows.	50,000
4. <i>Yildirim-Bayazid Djamissi</i> . Turned into a prison and later into a barrack. Wonderful Mirab destroyed and Minber unique of its kind burnt, General state lamentable	
5. <i>Yildirim-Sultan Turbessi</i> . Entirely destroyed	100,000

6. <i>Valide Kouch Djamissi.</i> Turned partly into a Storehouse and partly into a W. C.	100,000
7. <i>Emir Sultan Turbessi.</i> Tomb profaned. Precious earthenware stolen . .	100,000
8. <i>Kalé Djamissi.</i> Entirely destroyed	200,000
9. <i>Sheih Sabit Effendi Djamissi.</i> Entirely destroyed	50,000
10. <i>Turbe of Sultan Osman-el-Chazi.</i> Precious shawl covering over 100 catafalques stolen, as well as all the carpets	100,000
11. <i>Abdal Turbessi.</i> Turbe destroyed and precious carpets stolen.. .	100,000
12. <i>Ahmed bey Djamissi.</i> Turned into stables	100,000
13. <i>Hodja Naib Djamissi.</i> Destroyed and burnt	150,000
14. <i>Mourad Zade Djamissi.</i> Turned into a workshop.	200,000
15. <i>From the following Mosques</i> antique carpets and other valuable objects have been stolen : Selim Pacha Djamissi. Aabedin Pacha Dja- missi. Hamza bey Djamissi. Hudavendiguar Djamissi. Ahmed Pacha Djamissi. Yeni-Na- mazkiah Djamissi. Bedreddin Pacha Djamissi. Isaak Pacha Djamissi. Eski Namazkiah Dja- missi. Alti-Parmak Djamissi	300,000
16. <i>Baba-Sultan Tekessi.</i> Shrine of the Companion in Arms of the Sultan Murad I. profaned. The precious notices in « (fine golden work) » « altounlama » and other objects belonging to the Baba were objects of admiration	100,000
17. <i>Baba-Sultan Tekessi.</i> Entirely destroyed	150,000
18. <i>Hammam of Sultan Osman-el-Ghazi.</i> Prototype of Hammam of the whole Ottoman Em- pire. A superb building destroyed	2,000,000
19. <i>Suleiman Pacha Turbessi.</i> Set on fire	25,000
20. <i>Tcharshi Djamissi.</i> Set on fire	200,000

21. <i>Orhanie Djamissi.</i>	Set on fire. I contained exquisite earthenware and possessed a beautiful minaret	1,000,000
22. <i>Sinan Pacha Djamissi.</i>	Small Mosque with remarkable earthenware and graceful minaret	250,000
23. The Town of Yeni-Chehir	possessed, in the street Orhanie Djadessi, some houses dating from the first Sultans, containing stained-glass windows, veritable works of art of that period. Burnt. . . .	1,500,000
Town of Ismid.		
(For an account of the devastation committed see « Le Monde Illustré » N° 3297 of the 26th February 1921. 13, Quai Voltaire, Paris).		
24. <i>Yeshil Djami.</i>	Marble ajoure balustrades broken. Mirab burnt. Precious Minber burnt. Part of the marble interior destroyed. Work of art demolished. . .	1,500,000
25. <i>Imaret de Yeshil Djami.</i>	Superb building. Completely destroyed.	2,000,000
26. <i>Eshref Pacha Djamissi.</i>	Entirely burnt, it contained the most precious, artistic and richest collection which the School of Ceramic at Ismid has ever produced. . . .	5,000,000
27. <i>Mahmoud Tchelebi Djamissi.</i>	Marble balustrades broken. Artistic doors burnt. Precious Minber destroyed Mirab burnt. Completely devastated	1,000,000
28. <i>Teke de Mahmoud Tchelebi.</i>	Completely razed to the ground	200,000
29. <i>Turbe of Haireddin Pacha.</i>	Part burnt. Magnificent tombstone broken. . . .	100,000
Total. . . .		20,425,000

In the total should have been included devastations committed in Seughud, which has been completely ravaged and burnt, and which contained the following Holy Buildings :

1: *Two Libraries.*

Three Mosques — one of which was built for Tchelebi Sultan Mehmed. Three medresses.

If one included in the estimats all the devastations committed in which sacred and ancient buildings were concerned, it would easily reach 50 million francs for the Vilayet of Broussa alone.

Written at Constantinople, 9th March 1922.

A. Raymond Aine, Architect.

Explanation Furnished by M. Gillespie in Anatolian News Agency in Con- nection with Allegations Made by Major Yowell.

It is well known that it was felt necessary to expell Mr. Yowell and a few of his colleagues from Asia Minor, on account of the agitation they had engaged in and intrigues they were guilty of. These persons having been offended on account of being expelled, determined to rervenge themselves on the local government by inventing certain atrocity stories and having them published in the 6th. May issue of the *Times* and thus once more appearing before the public, in their true character. These so called atrocity tales have been denied by Mr. Gillespie, the trade attaché of the American Embassy at Constantinople, in an interview given by him, to a correspondent of the Anatolian News Agency. Mr. Gillespie said : « Yowell's statement published in the *Times* about atrocities perpetuated against non Moslems in Anatolia is nothing but a repetition of the lies which appeared in the European and American Press, some five or six months ago.

Yowell tried to have his report sent to their respective papers by the correspondents of the *Chicago Tribune*, *Associated Press* and the *Chicago Daily News*. But as these correspondents knew the contents of the report of Yowel was pure invention, they refused to take it. The report was then sold to the Armenians who had it published in the *Times*. Any one who knows Asia Minor will not doubt that this report is false. I, Miss Billings, Mr. Mc. Dowell and the late Miss Helen who have had the opportunity of seeing how polite and humanitarian the noble Turkish poeple are, have given our respective reports to this effect. We Americans and other foreigners who have visited Anatolia have been very courteously received. The accusations against the Angora Government for mistreatment of Christians of Anatolia have proven to be baseless on investigation made by Americans who travelled in Asia Minor.

Yowell's digging up old accusations which have already been printed in the press and making them appear in a new form and thus trying to arouse Western public opinion, has been received with detestation by the Americans who know the facts ».

Besides this statement, Miss Billings of the Near East Relief

has sent a telegram, on the 14th. of May 1922, to the American High Commissioner in Constantinople, Admiral Bristol denying the publication of the *Times*. The telegram is as follows: «To Admiral Bristol, American High Commissioner. I heard, rumours of fresh massacres having occurred at Kharput circulating in Constantinople. I am in constant communication with the Americans in Kharput, I have also seen Americans who have recently come from there. I believe rumours are without foundation. Signed: Florence Billings.» Mr. Jaquith, the Director General of the Near East Relief, who is at Angora at present said to a correspondent of ours:

«I express my sorrow for the statement of M. Yowell and similar statements. These people are causing unnecessary misunderstanding between the government and ourselves. Mr. Yowell was under my authority when he was in Asia Minor, being an official of my department. But his contract came to an end when he was expelled from Asia Minor and therefore he made these accusations in his private capacity.»

Declaration of the Ministry of Interior

The Anatolian News Agency has asked for an explanation of the statements made by Major Yowell of the Near East Relief Committee to the correspondent of the *Times* and which appeared on the 6th of May 1922, in the said paper. The explanation given is as follows: «We are deeply indebted to the Americans who come to Asia Minor to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate people of this unhappy country. It exemplifies the humanitarian feeling of the American Government and the American people, but Mr. Yowell and a few of his colleagues who had proven themselves to be anti-Turkish had tried to sow the seeds of disunion among the population, were requested by the Angora Government to leave the country. Mr. Yowell and his colleagues Dr. Ward, being offended on account of this request made certain spiteful statements on reaching Aleppo. Certain British officials and news-papermen who made it a duty for themselves to do every thing in their power to prevent the Turkish nation from attaining its freedom and independence, have taken hold of the statement made by

Mr. Yowell and have used it for their purpose so that the European Press, is again busy with stories of Turkish atrocities. These men could not have missed this opportunity to show that the minorities, who have lived and became prosperous under the benevolent rule of the Turkish nation for centuries, were displeased with this administration. The correspondent of the *Times* has telegraphed this statement to his paper a copy of which appeared on the 6th. of May issue and the contents of which are nothing but lies.

1 — The Grand National Assembly by a law which it enacted leases by public auction, through a public custodian, the property left by the Armenians and deposits the rents received from such houses to the credit of their owners. No confiscation whatever of any such property has been made.

2 — The rights of the Armenians before the courts of law are not restricted.

3 — The right of inheritance of the Christians is not restricted. They are on the same footing in this respect as the Mohammedans. This can be verified by consulting the files of the government.

4 — Christians have never been imprisoned without due process of law. Our prison files will show the veracity of this.

5 — Christian women are not employed in Turkish houses without their will. The accusation made in this respect is made with the intention of lowering the Turkish nation in the eyes of the world.

6 — No Turkish official is guilty of enriching himself at the expense of the Christians. Turkish officials are cheerfully facing greatest hardship, in order that the national aspiration of the Turkish Nation may be realised.

7 — As for the Greeks, when the National Government was in a desperate struggle for the independence and liberty of the Turkish Nation, those suspected of trying to strike the armies from the rear, have been sent to the interior in an orderly way and have been set free there. No civilized law can prevent a Nation from taking such measures by way of defense. The sick and the feeble of these deported Greeks have been taken care of by the government and in recent times have begun to send money to their families as will be proven by the records of the Post Office and the Agricultural Bank. In view of these facts it cannot be claimed that the Turkish Government is pursuing a policy of extermination.

8 — The accusation that Christian women and girls have been used for immoral purposes by the Turks is one which has always been used against us by our enemies and is made for no

other purpose than blackening us before the world ; and is entirely false. In fact, it does not even call for a denial.

In view of the explanations given above it will be understood that the statement of Mr. Yowell was made for the deliberate purpose of revenging himself for having been expelled from the country. We have no doubt that our American friends who have intimately come into contact with us, will agree with this statement. Mr. Yowell's statement is not based on any document and is utterly without foundation. At a time when, as the whole civilized world knows, the Turkish population in the countries occupied by the Greeks, is suffering from terrible atrocities, Mr. Yowell's and his colleagues accusations have offended the Turkish nation.

An Appeal from the International Committee of the Red-Cross in Behalf of the Ottoman Populations, Victims of the War and for the Reconstruction of the Regions Devastated by the Greek Army in Anatolia.

Geneva, June 1st, 1922.

The *International Committee of the Red-Cross* has decided, on the demand of the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and that of the *Ottoman Red-Crescent*, to organize, together with this latter institution, a vast relief work, with the object of coming to the aid of Ottoman populations, victims of the war and of what has followed it.

The villages that these populations were inhabiting are utterly destroyed ; immense lands that they were cultivating, prosperous then, are waste to-day ; the young and vigorous men among them have been decimated during the wars which exhaust them since more than twelve years ; tens of thousands persons have been obliged to flee and take refuge at Constantinople abandoning not only their homes and fields but all that constituted their wealth.

The extreme misery and distress of these disinherited people be they disseminated among the ruins of the devastated regions or crowding an already overpopulated city — necessitates, most urgently, a general effort of mutual help allowing to reconstruct their ravaged country and to give them the possibility of devoting themselves again to an existence of useful labour.

The International Committee of the Red-Cross addresses, therefore, a pressing appeal to all those whom the deprivation of these unfortunate people moves, so that each one may come to their aid, according to his means, by sending to the International Committee of the Red-Cross (1. Promenade du Pin, Geneva) his contribution to the resources necessary for this work.

The International Committee of the Red-Cross has concluded an agreement with the Ottoman Red-Crescent according to which this work will be carried. The collaboration of these two institutions, — to which the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey has promised to bring all its assistance (and for which the French and British governments have given assurance of their sympathy and support), — furnishes the donors with all the guarantees as to the technical knowledge of the country and the needs of its inhabitants and as to the strictly non-political and humanitarian principles which will determine the use of the relief funds and the direction of the reconstruction works.

The reconstructions will be enterprised village by village, which will allow to obtain immediate results and anticipate a continuous and progressive development of the works.

In behalf of the Ottoman populations, victims of the war and what has followed it, whom it plans to repatriate and to render again in a position to live normally by their labour, the International Committee of the Red-Cross counts upon an ample movement of charity and of solidarity and most particularly upon the generosity of the Moslems of the whole world who will certainly have at heart to participate largely in the relief of their so cruelly suffering bretheren.

The International Union of Help for Children has already promised its devoted and efficient collaboration for the work.