

shown above average ability and in my last year I won 1st prize in English recitation.

FROM 1882 to 1896 I had lived in our city residence and from 1896-1900 at HARDIN orphanage where my parents took care of Armenian orphans - survivors of the 1895 Massacres. I offered to help my parents in my spare time. As well as the some 60-70 orphans, of both sexes, who were left in our care, referred to me as NERSES *KARDASH.

In 1898 I felt a self-awareness and decided to be a member of the church. I applied at NAYIG church. I was accepted and took part in HOLY COMMUNION.

A few years later there was a Spiritual revival and I, at that time, was fortunate to get involved more deeply with God and His work. For a few years I worked as a Sunday School teacher in the poorest section of the city.

1902-1905 I worked as a teacher for 3 yrs. One year at KAYAJEK church and 2 yrs. at NAYIG church's grade school. During my teaching period my savings were around 45 OSMANIAN gold. With these savings I was able to attend the "American University of Beirut, Lebanon, in *1905 in order to study Pharmacy. My savings barely covered my expenses for that year.

Towards the end of that year, during the era of SULTAN ABDUL HAMID, it was forbidden for Armenians to go abroad. With the aid of a seaman by the name of BALTAJE MOUHAMED, I was able to get away as a "stowaway". Went to Egypt to join my foster parents who had already left for Egypt 5-6 mths before me and

were living with my real parents at SHARABIEH street at the *ISHKANIANS house. ✓

There, through the help of REV. KNADJIAN, I was hired at STEPHENSON'S PHARMACY and worked for 13 mths. as an apprentice as was required by the University -

In 1907 as a result of my apprenticeship I ✓ pocketed my savings of £ 23 (pounds) and went back to school even though that would not even cover half my expenses. Luckily the pharmacy at the University hired me and paid me £ 6 a year because I was considered the best in passing my exams. During that time I also served at tables for the teachers, as waiter, and had free meals in return. This way, during that year, I was able to save another £ 8-10. Later in the year, having borrowed £ 15 from my foster father, I graduated successfully from the University. After receiving my diploma in 1908, I returned to Egypt still considered a fugitive -

- While at University I was obliged to change my surname to GYZELIMIAN since in my identification papers it was written that way, therefore on my diploma it had to be written that way as my lawful name was GYZELIMIAN the other was false.

After barely 5-6 weeks of looking around I, in 1908, started working at "THE NEW ANGLO-AMERICAN PHARMACY" as manager for the next 6 years. During the first 2 years I had saved close to £ 100-.

In 1910, as my foster mother had died, I

returned to Aintab with my biological mother where I got married to *GULENIA ISHKHANIAN and returned to Cairo, Egypt. A year later, Lucy, our first child was born. Consequently we moved to a home of our own.

Until our move to *Aleppo, we had saved about £100- and in 1914, the beginning of March, with a loan of £100- from my brother Khatcher, reached Aleppo with £200-. Thus we succeeded in opening a pharmacy with 1/4 partnership of HAROUTUNE ISHKHANIAN. 4-5 months after the opening of the pharmacy in August, *Vahram, our second child was born just when the Great War broke out. The following year I *joined the Turkish army as a pharmacist to work in military hospitals with the title of 1st officer. I left the pharmacy in the hands of Haroutune Ishkhanian and later to others.

For about 1 1/2 - 2 yrs. I worked near ISLAHEYELI, *TAKHTA-KEOPRI Hospital. Later for about a year near OSMANIYERI MARMARA Hospital. After 3 mths the British Army occupied HAIFA taking the Turkish soldiers and officers prisoner.

After the occupation of HAIFA, because of my knowledge of English and at my request, the British Authorities gave me the duties of QUARTER MASTER in the Turkish Hospital where there were 1200 Turkish soldiers & about 20 officers.

Every morning I used to go to the canteen by horse drawn wagon to bring food supplies to the 1200 prisoners and distribute them. This was a special privilege as the other officers were not allowed to go out.

The British Commander appreciated my faithful services of the previous 3 mths and set me free, giving a free pass to join my family. Even a Colonel came to the railway station to wish me farewell while the rest of the Turkish officers were sent to Egypt as prisoners - ✓

I went directly to ZAHLE took my family with me and in January 1918 travelled to Aleppo.

When I arrived to Aleppo, I found my drugstore in a state of bancruptcy so I separated from my partner. Thanks to the fact that the British were present and other opportunities, I had a successful business and within 2 yrs. had saved £ 600-700-. When the British left and life was no longer *safe I sold the pharmacy for £ 400-.

With £ 1000 we left for Egypt first, with plans to immigrate to North America later.

After arriving to Egypt the desire to move to America was not so strong anymore. ✓

We, 3 brothers together, opened a hardware store at SHARA BAWAKI putting great hopes on REX-BLUE and *NADCO. My 2 brothers put in merchandise

worth £550- as capital and I put in £1000 - with the understanding that I get a larger share of the profits. But business did not go well and the income was far from being sufficient to support 3 families. In order to solve this problem I left the store to my 2 brothers and moved out. I took from them £500- worth of merchandise and cash. With £300- I bought the present pharmacy. The first couple of years business did not do well, I was discouraged and again thought of moving to America but that also did not materialize so I had to continue working until business became somewhat successful due to hard work and God's help.

I lost heavily when my brother LOUDER went bankrupt. I was obliged to pay his guarantor's debts, close to £200- not to mention his personal debts which were close to £100-.

From 1928-1938 on I was burdened with the care-taking of my (biological) parents. Due to my brothers' unemployment and unwillingness to help support our parents it cost me close to £180- to date.

Thank God aside from business debts of £180- (plus interest of 10%), £100- to MRS. BARONIAN and £80- to my sister GULENIA have been paid. Only Louder's debt remains to Mrs. Baronian the sum of £40-.

Our family consisted of *5 children, 2 boys and 3 girls. Thank God we have not had any deaths in the family. We all enjoy good health and family happiness.

~~Nerses Guzelimian~~ NERSES GUZELIMIAN

ADDED INFORMATION

NERSES was first born child, had 2 brothers and 4 sisters.

- YESTER - English translation = ESTHER
- HARDUTUNE - " " = HARRY, in Turkish = ARTIN
- PECHUCKJIAN - " " = CUTLER (CUTLERY)
- GUZELIM - TURKISH WORD = My beautiful one

1895 - NERSES was 13 yrs. old

1895 MASSACRE took place in BOLIS, Eastern Armenia

KARDASH - Turkish word for BROTHER

1909 MASSACRE - Took place in GILIGIA & ADANA where 30,000 died

1905 - It was only then Nerses found out he was adopted, at age 23, he heard people talking about it. also when he was to go to University

ISHKHANIANS - Had a very large property with 2 houses. Their business was dying yarn or materials. The clan lived there. During political disturbance in Cairo other Armenians have found shelter on their property.

GULENIA - her brother, MIHRAN, was studying Dentistry at the American University same time as Nerses. That is how he learnt about Gulenia. They were married 2 weeks after they had met.

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CONTINUED

- JOINED ARMY - He was conscripted
ALEPPO - IN SYRIA
VAHRAM - his birthdate is JULY 19th, 1914
TAKHTA KEOPRI - Turkish word for "Wooden Bridge"
SAFE NO LONGER - Christians were a minority
& not favoured by Moslems.
NADCO - Trade mark for a dye for clothing
5 CHILDREN - LUCY, VAHRAM, GEORGE, ANAHID & ROSINE
ISHKHAN - In Armenian means PRINCE
IAN - Endings mean THE SON OF

translated from Armenian by Rosine Vaartaja
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Nerses Guzelimian

(A quick summary to continue and complete his brief Autobiography)

Nerses Guzelimian established his own Pharmacy in Cairo, Egypt, and ran it successfully for many decades. In addition he developed and held the patents for skin care products – creams, lotions and powders - that he distributed.

He was active in the Armenian community in Cairo and served many years as a member of the Board of his Armenian Evangelical Church.

With his wife Gulenia Ishkhanian Guzelimian they raised five children – two sons and three daughters. They were blessed with eight grandchildren.

With the political situation changing in Egypt, four of his adult children left Cairo with their families in the 1950's and settled down in Canada. He later sold his pharmacy and joined them with his wife, and lived in Montreal until his death in 1962, two months short of his 80th birthday.

*To be attached
to the English
translation of his
autobiography.*