

Army'. What is its composition and how is it organised?" I asked this question, because I wanted to encourage it and hasten it on. I received the reply I have already mentioned in response to this question. (Document 15.)

The commander of the Corps had replied to the same question, saying that he knew nothing about the formation of a "Patriotic Army" at Konya.

On the 1st June I informed the commanders of the XVth Army Corps at Erzurum, of the IIIrd at Samsun and of the XIIIth at Diyarbakir of the intelligence that had reached me through my communication with the XXth Army Corps and the Inspection at Konya, as far as it concerned them. (Document 16.)

I had received no information about the troops in Trakya or their commander and had, therefore, I applied to Cevat Paşa, Chief of the General Staff in Istanbul, in a telegram in cipher on the 16th June, 1919, (I had arranged a private cipher personally with Cevat Paşa before I left), asking him to tell me who was in command of the Army Corps at Edirne and where Cafer Tayyar Bey was. (Document 17.) On the 17th June, Cevat Paşa replied: "I have been informed that Cafer Tayyar is at Edirne in command of the 1st Army Corps." (Document 18.)

The report I sent in cipher on the 18th June, 1919, to Cafer Tayyar Bey, commanding the 1st Army Corps at Edirne, mainly contained the following:

"You are aware of the actions the Entente Powers, which strangle our national independence and the way for the disintegration of our country; you have also heard of the servile and apathetic attitude of the Government.

"To confide the fate of the nation to the hands of a Government of this type means to abandon it to ruin.

"It has been decided to set up an energetic assembly at Sivas — which is a safe place — for the purpose of bringing together the national organisation of Trakya and Anadolu, so that they can boldly proclaim the voice of the nation before the whole world.

"The League of Trakya-Paşaeli may have a representative corporation in Istanbul, but they are not provided with full powers.

"When I was in Istanbul I spoke to several members of the Trakya League. Now is the time for us to begin. After you have spoken in confidence to these people you will immediately begin to form the necessary organisations. Send one or two competent men to me as delegates. Before they arrive send me a telegram in cipher, signed by yourself, giving me authority to uphold the rights of the Vilayet of Edirne.

"I have sworn by everything I hold sacred that I shall work loyally and devotedly with the nation until we have gained our complete independence. I have firmly resolved not to leave Anadolu." In order to raise the spirits of the inhabitants of Trakya, I added the following:

"From one end to the other of Anadolu the population is united. All decisions are taken jointly by all the commanders and our comrades. Nearly all the Valis and Mutasarrifs are on our side. The national organisation in Anadolu comprises every district and community. The propaganda aiming at the erection of an independent Kurdistan under English protectorate has been successfully countered and the followers of this movement have been dispersed. The Kurds have joined the Turks." (Document 19.)

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I had been informed meanwhile that the districts of Manisa and Aydın had been occupied by the Greek army; but I could not obtain any further particulars about the troops that I understood were at İzmir and Aydın. I had sent orders directly to their commanders. At last, on the 29th June, I received a telegram in cipher, dated the 27th, from Bekir Sami Bey, commanding the 56th Division.

According to this telegram a certain Hürrem Bey had previously commanded the 56th Division at İzmir. He and nearly all the surviving officers of the two regiments at İzmir had been taken prisoners. The Greeks had sent them to Mudanya by sea. Bekir Sami Bey had been sent to take over the command of what remained of these troops. In his telegram of the 27th June, 1919, Bekir Sami Bey reported that he had received both of my orders of the 22nd on his arrival at Bursa. Among other things, he said: "As I am unable to obtain the necessary means for the realization of the national aims and as I consider that I could render better service by reorganising my division, I thought it better to leave Kula for Bursa on the morning of the 21st June. In spite of many obstacles, however, I have still been able to spread the idea everywhere that our national movement is absolutely necessary if we are to save the country." He added that he had full confidence in my intentions and mode of procedure and that he had energetically set to work at once. He asked me, to send further orders to the 57th Division at Çine, as well as to himself. (Document 20.)

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