

Badalian's home where we enjoyed the warm and sincere hospitality of Gurgen and his wife Varti for a few days until we found a house in Lilava. The house was on a narrow street like others in the neighborhood, relatively safe and away from any unwanted incidents.

The rumors were not totally wrong. The Red Army had invaded Azerbaijan, and meeting little resistance, had captured Salmast and Rezaiyeh (Urumieh). They were now stationed at the Iranian-Turkish border, apparently to prevent any Turkish-German aggression toward Iran that could menace the routes of assistance to the Soviets or the way to the oil fields of the Caucasus.

Another part of the Red Army had moved on Tabriz and "victoriously" entered the city on August 26, 1941, then continued in haste toward Tehran, apparently intent on reaching the capital before the British. When they reached Karaj, however, they were compelled [by the British] to stop and go back to Zanjan and station there, since Tehran was declared a neutral zone.

Tabriz was in turmoil. Soviet planes were circling over the city, dropping leaflets warning people to "surrender weapons." The situation was quite attractive for the Turkish mob which attempted to attack the Armenian quarters on the pretext of carrying out the orders of the occupying army. With no functioning governmental institutions, the unruly Turkish mob controlled the streets, shouting jihadist slogans against the Armenians and the Dashnaks. Like a fifth column in this volatile situation, the *mohajeers*, Turkish and Armenian refugees who had been expelled from the Soviet Union in 1938–