

## *Chapter Four*

# The NKVD prison in Yerevan, the indictment, and the journey to Siberia

After three days and nights, the prison guard opened the door and took me upstairs to the office.<sup>1</sup> “We are sending you to Yerevan,” the officer said. “You will return home in a few days.” And then, to frighten me, he turned to the officer who was going to accompany me and ordered, “Kill him if he tries to escape.”

They covered me with a Soviet soldier’s cape, put a soldier’s cap on my head and took me down to the backyard where a truck was waiting. My escort consisted of four Russian soldiers with automatic rifles and the Armenian officer with a *Nagant* revolver. We were driven to the Tabriz train station where I was put into a special compartment, surrounded by the same armed guards, and the train took off.

The Armenian officer went to sleep, gun in hand. I

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<sup>1</sup> This chapter continues the narration in my father’s voice. See chapter 3, footnote 1, for further explanation.