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A Secret Rather Buried

As the orders to deport Armenians reached the Turkish government officials of every town and village in the Ottoman Empire, implementation began immediately. That was the last phase in the plan of annihilation, and the methods of carrying it out were mostly left to the whims of the local government officials. In many instances, the Armenian population—mostly women, children and old men, as the able-bodied men had been drafted into the army—was massacred outright, such as in villages around Van and some villages of Erzerum province. In other places, the entire population was expelled, first from Zeitun and then from other Armenian towns and villages in Cilicia,¹ followed by the population of some towns

¹ Christopher J. Walker notes that the deportation of Zeitun Armenians on April 8, 1915, occurred before the government passed