

Story #597 (1968, Tape #2)

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Narrator: Mehmet Ali and Makhbule
Ögülen

Location: Narrators from kaza town
of Hınıs, Erzurum Prov-
ince. Tales taped at
Kadıköy, Istanbul

Date: 1968

Kurdish Military Expertise

We were collecting weapons and arms in Erzurum that were left by the Russians after the war.¹ We went to Hınıs where there were some scattered artillery pieces. We were collecting the scattered pieces in a pile.

.Regiments of

of Hamidiye.

Hüseyin Pasha had gathered his Kurdish men and was conducting a drill.

He was giving some commands, and I was listening to him from a distance.

"Hasso!"⁴

The Kurdish soldiers suddenly responded, "Attention!"

"Shoulder your rifles!"

"Yes, sir."

All the soldiers put their rifles on their shoulders.

¹The narrator does not say which war with the Russians, but it was probably that of the first decade of the twentieth century. See next footnote.

²The Hamidiye was a tribal gendarme corps established by Sultan Abdul Hamid II (ruled 1876-1909).

³Blind General Hüseyin. He was probably not blind but called so in ethnic humor.

⁴Kurdish pronunciation of the name Hasan.

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"Hasso! Attention! Turn back! Move forward!!"

Kurds were marching in every direction. I went to my friends and imitated some of Hüseyin Pasha's commands. He heard me and called me over where he was standing. He said, "You donkey and son of a donkey! Why do you make fun of me in this way?"

He slapped me on the face twice. I was grateful that he didn't kill me.⁵

⁵This is obviously an ethnic anecdote illustrating the purported stupidity of Kurds.