

HAYK'S SPIRIT IS IMMORTAL

Danielyan E. L.

Doctor of Sciences (History)

***ETERNAL GLORY AND HONOR TO THE HEROES
AND THEIR COMRADES-IN-ARMS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES
FOR THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE FATHERLAND***

More than 4500-year-old roots of the Armenian Army are hallowed by the freedom struggle of the Armenian nation for the defence of the Fatherland against foreign invaders. The Armenian liberation torch sanctified by Hayk Nahapet (Patriarch) passed over from Hayots Dzor¹ to Avarayr, Zeytun, Sasun, Sardarapat and has reached Artsakh. The heroes sacrificing their lives for the liberation of the Fatherland are immortalized.



Hayk



Lake Van

¹ Մովսէս Խորենացի, Պատմութիւն Հայոց, Երևան, 1991, էջ 32-37: The year 2008 marked the 4500th anniversary of the victory of the Armenian Patriarch Hayk against Bel at the battle of Hayots Dzor (on the shore of Lake Van). The calendar calculation of the date based on the periodicity of “Hayk’s Cycle” of the “Ancient Armenian era” was done by the famous Armenologist Ghevond Alishan (1820-1901) (Ալիշան Ղ., Յուշիկը հայրենեաց Հայոց, Կ. Ա, Վենետիկ, 1920, էջ 85). There was no leap-year in the ancient Armenian era, since a year was always considered to consist of 365 days; hence the year and the date were movable. Thus 1460 years, according to the Julian calendar, amount to 1461 years, according to the Armenian Calendar. By such periodicity of the “Cycle of Hayk”, 2492 BC denotes the year of Hayk’s victory. The beginning of the victorious year was Navasard 1 (=August 11). New discoveries connected with the observations of the starry sky (the 6th millennium BC - Zorats kar (Karahunj)), the first half of the 3rd millennium BC - Metsamor), archaeological excavations and petroglyphs in the Armenian Highland, bear witness to the deep Haykian roots, and that the glorious victory of Hayk symbolized the beginning of a very important new epoch of the Armenian history. The Armenian Apostolic Church has kept counting the years in the Church Calendar, according to “Hayk’s Cycle”. Movses Khorenatsi (the 5th century) depicted Bel as the head of the evil forces trying to conquer the world. Patriarch Hayk was engaged in peaceful work on the Armenian land, when Bel made an attempt to subjugate him. But even the enemy’s enormous force did not help them to realise their evil intention. Hayk killed Bel with his trident (the triple spear) arrow shot from his wide bow in the battle of Hayots Dzor.

The works of the Armenian Golden Age literature (the 5th century) «History of Armenia» by Movses Khorenatsi, "The History of Vardan and the Armenian War" and "Commentary on Genesis" by Eghishe are unique phenomena in the world historical literature where ethnic genealogy and patriotism are brought together in a spiritual unity.

Movses Khorenatsi passed to the future generations the Hayk's commandment given before the battle of Hayots Dzor as a display of the Armenians' unyielding will of freedom: "We shall either die and our household will fall in servitude of Bel, or showing on him the success of our fingers, we'll scatter his horde away and gain victory"². Hayk's victory symbolizes the victory of the Light over the darkness. It is at the very source of the Armenian freedom-loving struggle, as a token of future victories.

The Armenian Fatherland - Hayastan-Armenia has been protected and sanctified thanks to the spiritual wisdom, strong hand and sacrificed blood of its heroes. From the depth of the Armenian history their memory reached the 5th century and Movses Khorenatsi dedicated it to future generations: "I like to call thus, for their courage: Hayk, Aram, Tigran, since the descendants of heroes are heroes"³.



Mt. Ararat-Masis (5165 m)

The Motherland is represented by the surrounding landscape with snow shining peaks of Mt. Ararat-Masis and Mt. Aragats, Mt. Ara and Mt. Khustup, Mt. Kaputjugh and Mt. Kirs, Mt. Mrav and Mt. Dizapayt, freshwater lakes, Sevan and Parvana, masterpieces of architecture Garni and Geghard, St. Echmiadzin and St. Hripsime, Zvartnots and Karmravor, Amaras and Gandzasar, Haghat and Sanahin, Gladzor and



Mt. Aragats (4090 m)



Lake Sevan



Mt. Mrav: Gomshasar (3724 m)

Tatev, Kobayr and Noravank, castles and fortresses of Tignis and Maghasaberd, Amberd and Kakavaberd, Tavush Berd and Lori Berd...

² Մովսէս Խորենացի, էջ 35:

³ Ibid, p. 85.



Garni: The Sun Temple (I century). Geghard Monastery (the 4th-13th cc.) Rock-cut church (13th c.), Geghard

The Armenian history's knowledge spiritually ties with the native land, keeps vigilant the call of blood, leads to Vaspurakan, Van, Sasun, Mush, Karin, Kars, Ani, Bagavan, Bardzr Hayk' (Upper Armenia) and Tayk', Tsopk' and Aghdznik', Rshtunik' and Mokk', Armenia Minor and Cilicia where our ancestors lived and created.



Van (the 9th c. BC), the Armenian Ararat (Urartu) Kingdom's capital



Lori Berd: archaeological sites (the 2nd millennium BC) and the 11th c. fortress



Maghasaberd (ancient castle, reconstructed in the 6th c.), Shirak



Tigranakert (I c. BC), Artsakh, Great Armenia



Levonkla castle (12th -13th cc.), Cilician Armenia



King of Kings of the Armenian Empire Tigran II Great (95-55 BC).



King of Cilician Armenia Levon I Magnificent (1198-1219)



The castle of Amberd (7th c.) and the Vahramashen Church (11th c.)



Vahka, Cilician Armenia



Kakavaberd (9th-10th cc.)



Tavush Berd (10th c.)



Kars fortress (9th-10th cc.), Vanand



Ishkhan Church (7th c.), Tayk



Ani Cathedral (1001)



Haghbat Monastery (10th-13th cc.)



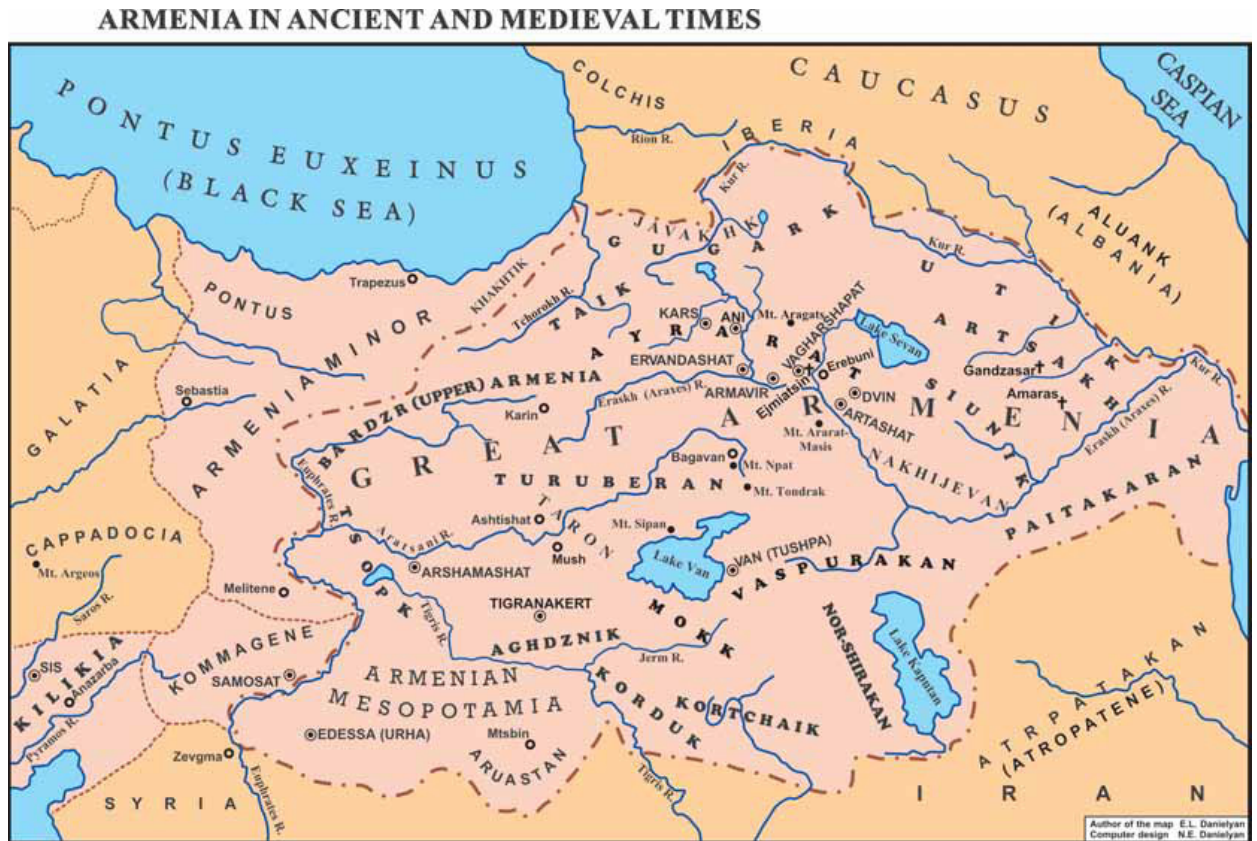
Tatev Monastery (9th-14th cc.)



Gandzasar St. Hovannes Church (13th c.), Artsakh

In the historical chronicles are recorded the cherished names of statesmen and heroes descending from forefather Hayk and famous for their patriotic acts of courage: Kings Aram Haykian, Haykazun Arame of Ararat (Urartu), Argishti I, Paruyr Skayordi, Tigran Ervandyan, Artashes I, Tigran II the Great, Arshakuni Trdat III the Great, Arshak

II and Pap, General⁴ Vardan Mamikonyan and Vahan Mamikonyan, Teodoros Rshtuni, Bagratuni Ashot II the Iron, Gagik I, Vahram Pahlavuni, Ruben and Oshin, Levon I Magnificent, Hetum I and their faithful comrades-in-arms and many other Armenian state figures and military leaders.



The cognition of the Armenian spiritual roots is a guarantee to protect and lead the nation's vital capacity with wisdom. The thoughts of Movses Khorenatsi ("The Armenian world... the most magnificent of the northern [nations]")⁵ and Eghishe ("With the two rivers⁶ and the Ark [of Noah] we are higher than all")⁷ show that in the 5th century the Armenian people's liberation struggle against the foreign conquerors was endowed with spiritual awareness of such an idea.

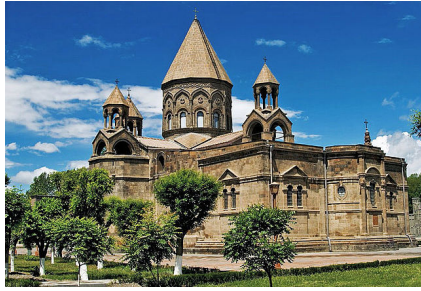
Sparapet Vardan Mamikonyan and his comrades-in-arms who with the cross of Christ sacrificed their lives in the battle of Avarayr (451) for the sake of the Fatherland and faith were canonized saints by the Armenian Apostolic Church according to the canon established by Catholicos Vrtanes I (333-341).

⁴ Sparapet, Commander-in-Chief of the Armenian Army.

⁵ Մովսես Խորենացի, էջ 358:

⁶ The Euphrates and Tigris rivers flowing from the Paradise (Gen. 2.14-15).

⁷ Խաչիկյան Լ., Եղիշեի "Արարածոց մեկնություն", Երևան, 1992, էջ 245:

St. Echmiadzin (4th c.)Amaras Monastery (4th c.)Zvartnots Cathedral (the mid 7th c.)

Before the battle of Avarayr General Vardan made a speech directed to the Armenian army which served also as a commandment to the future generations: “My brave soldiers let us not turn our backs to the mortal human’s huge sword, so that if the God grants us the victory we shall destroy their power and thus the truth will rise. And if for us the time has come to end our life with a holy death in this war, we shall accept it joyfully, but only do not mix the spirit of courage with cowardice”⁸.

According to Eghishe, the motto of the Armenian freedom-fighters at the battle of Avarayr (May 26, 451 AD) was: «Unconscious death is death, conscious death is immortality»⁹.

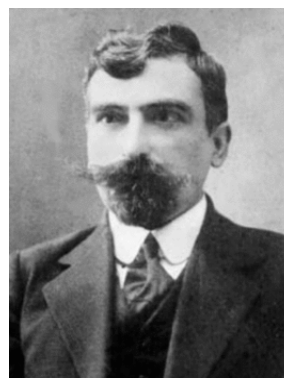


Grigor Khanjyan (1926-2000). «Vardanank» (451), (gobelen)

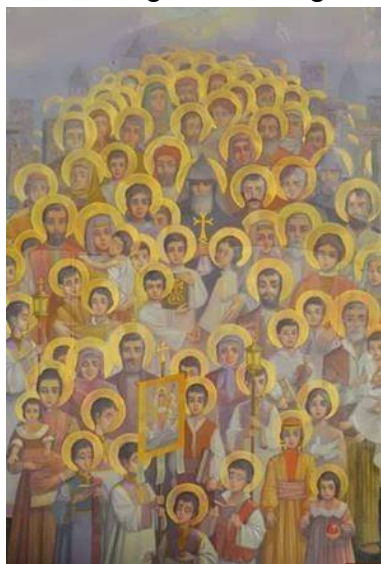
The freedom-loving spirit of Hayk and Vardan centuries later led General Davit Bek (the 1720s), the fidais, commanders and statemen Aghbyur Serob, Arabo, Gevorg Chaush, Hrayr, Andranik, Garegin Nzhdeh, Aram Manukyan and their comrades-in-arms (the 19th- the beginning of the 20th century) in their struggle against Turkish invaders.

⁸ Եղիշէի Վասն Վարդանայ եւ Հայոց պատերզմին, Երևան, 1957, էջ 102:

⁹ Ibid., p.14.

**Aghbyur Serob****Arabo****Gevorg Chaush****Hrayr****Andranik Ozanyan****Garegin Nzhdeh****Aram Manukyan****Vazgen Teroyan**

Their spiritual presence in the national life is symbolic and inspiring. They are individuals whose acts of courage inspire new Haykazun generations. Patriotism has been a huge barrier against enemies with larger number of arms and soldiers.



**THE ICON OF THE
CANONIZATION OF SAINTHOOD
OF 1,5 MILLION MARTYRS OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

As early as May 24, 1915, the Allied Governments publicly informed the Turkish government that "in the presence of these new crimes of Turkey against humanity and civilization... they will hold personally responsible for the said crimes all members of the Ottoman Government as well as those of its agents who are found to be involved in such massacres ..."¹⁰

In fact, under the pressure of the victorious Allies, on December 14, 1918 the Turkish cabinet made the formal decision to set up the courts-martial,¹¹ which charged several Turkish officials with mass murder and plunder of Armenian deportees, but several key figures who had fled (Talaat, Enver, Djemal, Nazim and others) were tried in absentia; they were sentenced to death (in absentia). The Kemalists opposed the trials which soon ended.

¹⁰ History of the United Nations War Crimes Commission and the Development of the Laws of War, London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1948, p. 35.

¹¹ Dadrian V. N., The Turkish Military Tribunal's Prosecution of the Authors of the Armenian Genocide: Four Major Court-Martial Series, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, 11 1997, p. 31.

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) carried out a secret operation of retribution - *Nemesis*, one of the heroic pages of the Armenian national liberation struggle's history as revenge for the Armenian Genocide. In 1920-1922 the main Turkish perpetrators (Talaat, Enver, Djemal, Cemal (Jemal) Azmi, Bahaddin Sakir, Said Halim Pasha, Fatali Khan Khoyski and Behbud Khan Jivanshir) of the Armenian Genocide were found and assassinated by the Armenian avengers:



Soghomon Tehliryan¹²



Arshavir Shirakyan



Aram Erkanyan



Petros Ter-Poghosyan



Artahses Gevorgyan



Misak Torlakyan



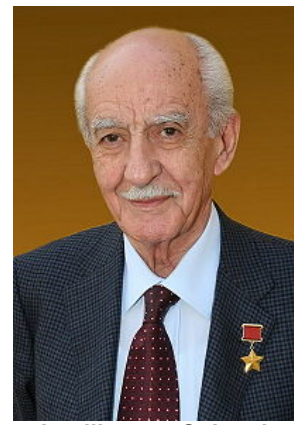
Stepan Tsaghikyan

During WW2, the Great Patriotic War the Armenian people displayed great courage and military skills. 106 Armenians were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union¹³. Nelson Stepanyan and Hovhannes Bagramyan received the award twice. In the war and post-war years 108 Armenians were promoted to the rank of general, and with an additional four eventually achieving the rank of Marshal of the Soviet Union: Hovhannes Bagramyan, Hamazasp Babajanyan, Sergei Khudyakov (Khamperyants) and Admiral Hovhannes Isakov; four achieved the rank of Vice-Admiral and five Counter-Admiral¹⁴.

¹² S. Tehliryan assassinated Talaat and after a two-day trial was found not guilty by the German court, and freed.

¹³ Арутюнян К.А., Погосян Г.Р., Вклад армянского народа в Победу в Великой Отечественной Войне, Ереван, 2010, с. 841-846.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 857. Aganov Sergey, an active participant of the Great Patriotic War, later, in 1980 achieved the rank of Marshal of the engineering troops.

**Marshal H. Kh. Bagramyan****Marshal H. Kh. Babajanyan****Marshal S. A. Khudyakov****Admiral H.S. Isakov****N. G. Stepanyan****Marshal S. Kh. Aganov****General-Major N.G. Safaryan
(1907-1982)****Missak Manouchian (1906-1944)
the Armenian Genocide survivor and
a leader of the French Resistance
fighters during WW II.****Intelligence Colonel
G.A. Vardanyan (1924-2012)**

During the Artsakh Liberation war (1991-1994) Monte Melkonyan, Simon Achikgyozyan, Leonid Azgaldyan, Shahen Meghryan, Tatul Krpeyan, Davit Sarapyan, Ashot Ghulyan (*Bekor*), Vahagn Vardevanyan, Yura Hovsepyan (Yura of the 26th), Vardan Stepanyan, Nikolay Vanyan, Valeri Vardanyan, Karo Qahqejyan, Vigen Zakaryan and their many devoted comrades-in-arms heroically sacrificed their lives for the Fatherland and recreated the spirit of Armenian military art¹⁵.

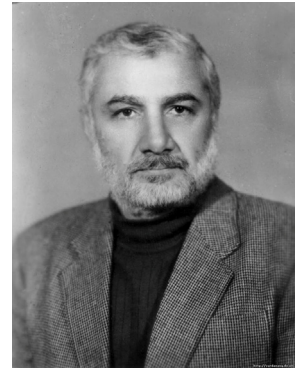
¹⁵ Encyclopedia "Karabakh Liberation War" (1988-1994) (Yerevan, 2004, in Armenian) contains articles about the Karabakh (Artsak) movement (1988) and then the Artsak Liberation war, military operations and battles and heroic freedom-fighters.



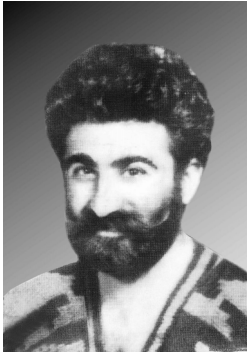
Monte Melkonyan



Leonid Azgaldyan



Simon Achikgyozyan



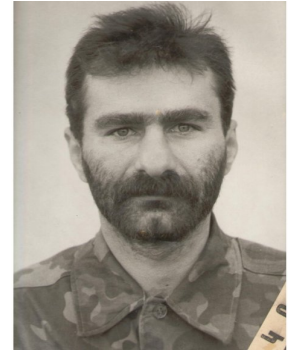
Tatul Krpeyan



Davit Sarapyan



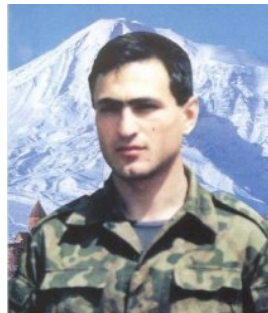
Shahan Meghryan



Ashot Ghulyan (Bekor)



Vahagn Vardevanyan



Vardan Stepanyan



Nikolay Vanyan



Valeri Vardanyan



Karo Qahqejyan



Vigen Zakaryan



**The squad *Eghnikner*,
commander Shahen Meghryan
(near the monastery of *Erits Mankants*)**



**The Liberation Army special operations force,
commander Leonid Azgaldyan**



Yura Hovhannisyan, Arthur Papazyan, Arkadi Ter-Tadevosyan and Felix Gzoghyan.



**The day of the liberation of Shushi (May 9, 1992), the church of Holy Amenaprkich (Ghazanchetsots).
The Head of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Bishop Pargev Martirosyan and Fr.
Grigor Markosyan with the state, military and political figures of the Artsakh Liberation Movement.**



The church of Holy Amenaprkich after restoration. Shushi

Thus has been laid the foundation of the rebirth of the Armenian army¹⁶. The artificially formed Azerbaijan was defeated in the war waged against Artsakh and begged a ceasefire through intermediaries. But instead of learning lessons from that shameful defeat, aggressive Azerbaijan falsifying history and distorting reality spreads lies over the world, and from year to year (having bought a large number of weapons with petro-dollars) more frequently violates the 1994 cease-fire agreement¹⁷ targeting the borderlines of the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic, and houses and civilians.



The Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic¹⁸

On the night of April 1-2, 2016 the enemy launched openly offensive operations with artillery, armored vehicles and aircraft. The notorious Azerbaijani army committed in the Turkish style genocidal violations against the peaceful population torturing and slaughtering the elderly people, killing a twelve-year-old child and wounding two others with rocket firing. The Artsakh Republic Defense Army successfully defeated the enemy's criminal actions in four-day military operations. During the military operations the Armenian forces destroyed 2 helicopters, about 30 tanks, "Grad" type volley

¹⁶ Armenian Army 2015 (Special Forces) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_DR3EAleQI

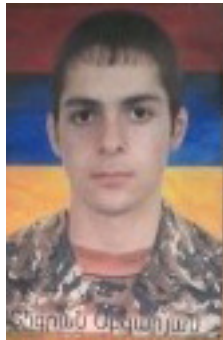
¹⁷ See video: Military Force.

¹⁸ <https://goo.gl/jD8akV>

installations, heavy flame thrower system, engineering equipments, drones. The Azerbaijani armed forces had a large number of casualties. As during the Artsakh Liberation war, this time, too, the Armenian military forces, that defeated the enemy, were led by the just idea of the fight for the defence of the Fatherland which multiplies the military morale and strength of the Armenians¹⁹. The Armenian commanders, soldiers and volunteers and their many devoted comrades-in-arms fought with the spirit of Hayk and heroically sacrificed their lives for the defence of the Fatherland.



Junior Sergeant
Abajyan Robert²⁰
1996-2016



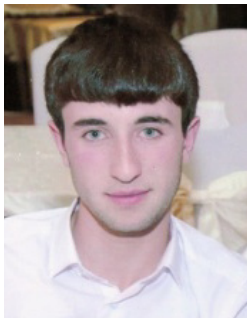
Private
Abgaryan Tigran
1996-2016



Private
Abrahamyan Aram
1996-2016



Military contractor
Abrahamyan Harutyun
1985-2016



Sergeant military
contractor
Abrahamyan Robert
1993-2016



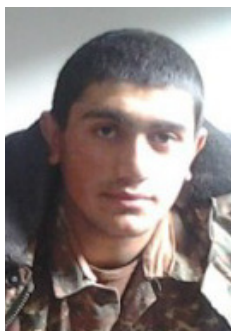
Private
Aghajanyan Misha
1996-2016



Private
Aleqsanyan Bagrat
1995-2016



Private
Alikhanyan Vladimir
1996-2016



Sergeant
Andreasyan Arman
1996-2016



Lieutenant-Colonel
Arakelyan Alexan
1982-2016



Private
Asatryan Aghasi
1996-2016



Private military contractor
Balayan Aznaur
1987-2016

¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWXUj8nJ7nM>

²⁰ Robert Abajyan fought the battle until the very last minute; then he blew himself up with a grenade.



Private
Berakchyan Tigran
1997-2016



Military contractor
Davtyan Karen
1981-2016



Senior Lieutenant
Eghoyan Benyamin
1992-2016



Private
Erznkyan Mher
1995-2016



Private
Esayan Zhora
1996-2016



Senior Lieutenant
Galstyan Hrach
1991-2016



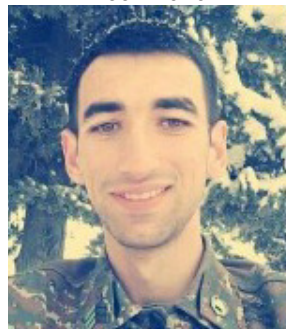
Junior Sergeant
Galstyan Sasha
1996-2016



Senior Lieutenant
Gasparyan Armen
1974-2016



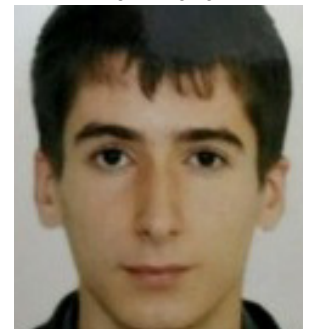
Senior Corporal
Gasparyan Davit
1979-2016
Stepanakert



Sergeant
Gasparyan Norik
1996-2016
Kapan



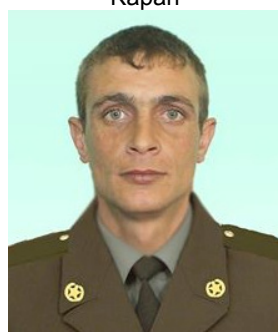
Private
Gevorgyan Arthur
1997-2016



Private
Ghahramanyan Henrik
1996-2016



Private military contractor
Gharibyan Hrant
1947-2016



Private military contractor
Grigoryan Andranik
1986-2016



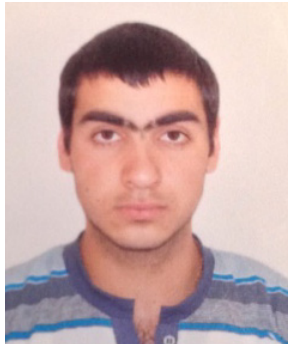
Lieutenant
Grigoryan Hayk
1993-2016



Senior Lieutenant
Grigoryan Maxim
1986-2016



Lieutenant-Colonel
Grigoryan Onik
1978-2016



Private
Hakobyan Rafik
1996-2016



Private
Harutyunyan Grigor
1997-2016



Private
Hayrapetyan Davit
1997-2016



Junior Sergeant
Iskandaryan Ruben
1993-2016



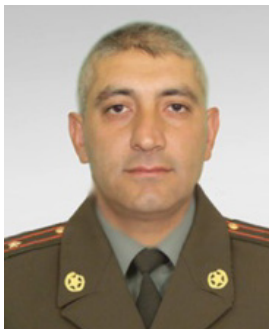
Private
Kirakosyan Gor
1996-2016



Capitan
Kirakosyan Hovsep
1988-2016



Private first class
Margaryan Nodarik
1963-2016



Major
Mayilyan Hovsep
1978-2016



Military contractor
Melkonyan Gagik
1982-2016



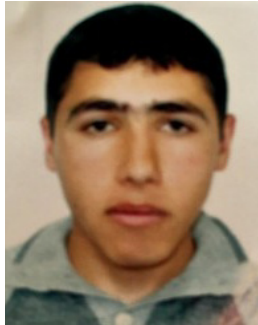
Private
Melkonyan Vladimir
(1996-2016)



Major
Melqumyan Suren
1979-2016



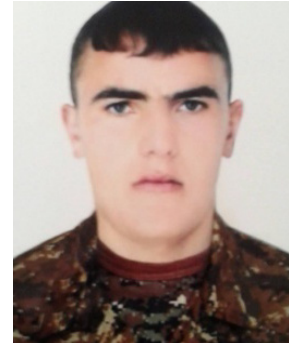
Private
Mghdesyan Gevorg
1996-2016



Private
Mikayelyan Aramayis
1996-2016



Private military contractor
Mkrtchyan Gegham
1986-2016



Private
Mkrtchyan Narek
1996-2016



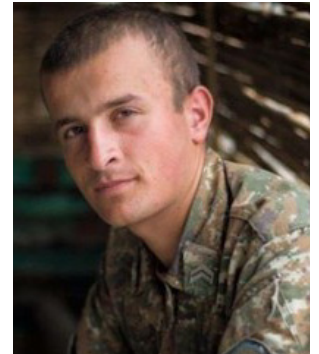
Private
Mkrtyan Sasun
1989-2016



Major
Movsesyan Rudik
1976-2016



Military contractor
Muradyan Hrach
1983-2016



Junior Sergeant
Narinyan Vladik
1996-2016



Sergeant
Nersisyan Karen
1997-2016



Private
Ozmanyany Boris
1996-2016



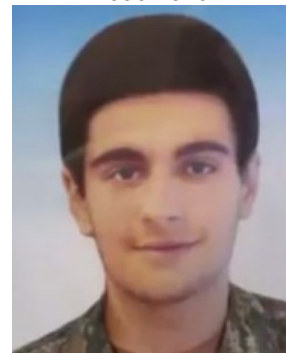
Sergeant
Paramazyan Yuri
1996-2016



Private
Petrosyan Artak
1997-2016



Lieutenant-Colonel
Poghosyan Roman
1979-2016



Sergeant
Sahakyan Adam
1996-2016



Senior Sergeant military
contractor
Sahakyan Gharib
1987-2016



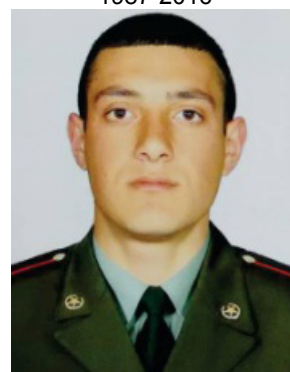
Private
Sahakyan Sargis
1995-2016



Private
Sargsyan Norik
1996-2016



Military contractor
Sargsyan Vrezh
1989-2016



Lieutenant
Shahbazyan Ashot
1993-2016



Private
Simonyan Azat
1996-2016



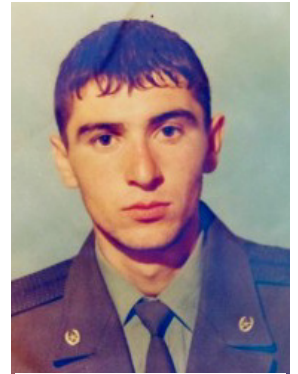
Senior Sergeant
Simonyan Nver
1990-2016



Private
Sloyan Kyaram
1996-2016



Senior Lieutenant
Stepanyan Meruzhan
1993-2016



Private military contractor
Tadevosyan Vardan
1990-2016



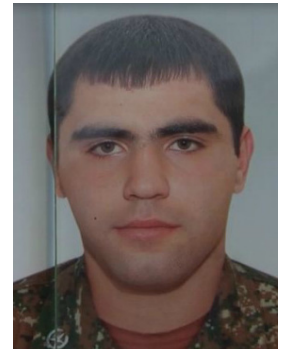
Major
Toroyan Hayk
1985-2016



Captain
Urfanyan Armenak²¹
1990-2016



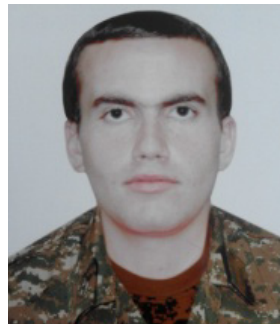
Private
Vardanyan Gevorg
1996-2016



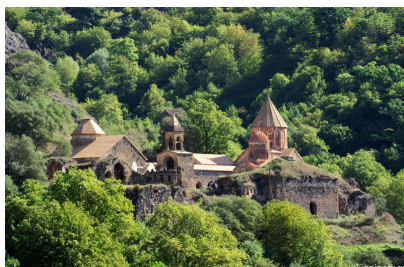
Military Contractor
Yuzikhovich Victor
1997-2016



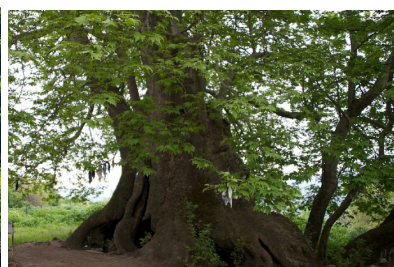
Private
Zakaryan Vahe
1995-2016



Private
Zohrabyan Andranik
1996-2016



Artsakh: Dadivank (9th-13th cc.)



More than 2000-year-old tree.



Talish, the Martakert Region of the NKR

²¹ “Captain Urfanyan and his unit were in a long fight against the enemy. Due to the enemy’s prevailing forces, Armenak courageously sent back his unit and continued to fight alone. During this battle, the Captain singlehandedly hit one tank and ten Azeri soldiers. Using his last grenade, he waited until the enemy was close and blew himself up with the rest of the Azeri unit. Glory be to our Heroes!”

<http://www.panorama.am/en/news/2016/04/04/Heroic-act-Urfanyan/1557059>

Volunteers



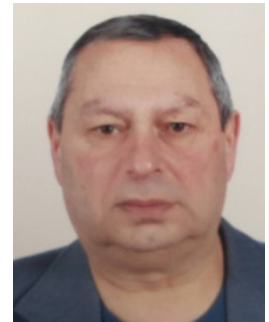
Aleksanyan Eduard
1955-2016



Asryan Sedrak
1972-2016



Beglaryan Armen
1973-2016



Chartanyan Suren
1955-2016



Danghyan Sergey
1958-2016



Hajiyan Norayr
1976-2016



Hambardzumyan Karo
1959-2016



Hovhannisyan Armen
1978-2016



Hovsepyan Nikolay
1953-2016



Khalafyan Sargis
1967-201



Mirzoyan Mayis
1956-2016



Nikalyan Eghishe
1961-2016



Parsadanyan Gagik
1960-2016



Sargsyan Davit
1956-2016



Tovmasyan Masis
1979-2016



The National Security Council (April 12th, 2016) discussing the issues related to the violation of the ceasefire of 1994 by the Republic of Azerbaijan and their offensive

operations towards NKR recorded that during the military operations launched by Azerbaijan the Armed Forces of Armenia successfully performed their tasks. The defence army of the NKR defeated the enemy, destroying their plans. This time, too, the aggressive Azerbaijan's leadership begged the mediators to consolidate a ceasefire. About such a cowardly behaviour of official Baku Archbishop of Artsakh Diocese Pargev Martirosyan said, "when it starts to lose it starts to ask for the ceasefire".



Major E.M. Maloyan



**The victorious defenders
of Martakert, Mataghis and Talish**

On the night of April 2, E. Maloyan, an infantry battalion commander with six soldiers, who aimed at bringing back one of the captured stations, did not know that the enemy unit approaching them was a big 150-people division. The Armenian commander decided to stay and enter into the battle. The shootout lasted for an hour and a half. After that, the Major and his soldiers passed around the position, delivered a blow from the right wing and threw the enemy into confusion. As a result, the enemy retreated, and the station has been returned²².



During Azerbaijan's aggression against Artsakh on April 2-4, 2016 Armenian servicemen bravely were suppressing adversary attacks and inflicting punitive measures. Numerous servicemen were appreciated for high military, moral and strong-willed qualities. Substituting their commanders who were either killed or wounded, they were able to lead successfully military operations. Among them were M.M. Muradyan, G.V. Avagyan, D.A. Khatayan, S.S. Safaryan, A.G. Aghasyan whom Superior Command awarded the rank of lieutenant.



²² <http://news.am/eng/news/326670.html>



Private Manukyan Gevorg destroyed enemy helicopter



Private Petrosyan Marat destroyed 5 enemy tanks



Junior sergeant Stepanyan Vahan took out from a burning Azerbaijani helicopter important documents proving that Azerbaijan's military-political leadership planned a large-scale operation.



Sergeant Hovhannisyan Rafael destroyed 2 enemy tanks.



Corporal Khachatryan Gevorg destroyed 2 enemy tanks.



Corporal Sahakyan Samvel destroyed 2 enemy tanks.



Private Hayk Melkumyan destroyed enemy tank





Armenian Military Forces

Commending the patriotic spirit, combat readiness and unity of the Armenian soldiers, commanders and volunteers, Archbishop Pargév Martirosyan, the Head of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church said, “I am delighted by the Armenian soldiers; these 18-19 year-old boys are true heroes. What a wonderful and perfect generation. It comes out of patriotism; it is not something that is acquired, but that patriotism is transformed into talent, bravery and ability. When you are ready to sacrifice your life, God gives you everything. I am delighted by my people that reacted spontaneously; everybody came to Artsakh and stood in the front line. The Armenian people are truly a sacred nation”²³.

²³ <http://www.tert.am/am/news/2016/04/06/pargev/1984774>.