

## SUMMARY

Armenian national liberation movement “gave birth” to a great number of heroes who created the glorious history of our nation with their struggle and selfless devotion. One of them is Hamazasp Srvandztiants, a great patriot who came to continue the work of the founders of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Party. At the dramatic moments of the beginning of the 20th-century Armenian history, he harnessed himself to his nation’s struggle for survival without hesitation, with an infinite sense of responsibility. Heroism was typical to the human essence of Hamazasp. He lived a short, but prolific and turbulent life full of endless struggle for his Homeland, getting hardened as a noble military figure of immense will-power. Hamazasp's life was an endless chain of struggle, he sought to use his strength and energy in such a way that he could bring the most benefit to his Fatherland. Hamazasp’s unyielding will and the noblest image were created in this atmosphere. His life is closely connected with the most fatal events of our history.

Hamazasp’s glorious activities go back to Artsakh, to the period of Armeno-Tatar fights (1905-1907). Naturally endowed with military skills, the young man grew from a former jeweler and watchmaker to a leader of an armed group, earning himself high popularity not only among the members of the ARF, but also amidst common people in general. His courage and patriotic deeds truly made him worthy of the glory of a national hero.

Hamazasp’s commanding skills became particularly manifest during the World War I. He was the commander of the 3rd detachment of volunteers, but later, in the days of the heroic fights against Turkish and Tatar mobs in Baku, he rose to a brigade leader. During the existence of the First Republic of Armenia, Hamazasp was the commander of the border-guarding forces of Nor Bayazet.

Regretfully, the great commander who had a glorious life full of military activities was not predestined to die a hero’s honourable death. He did not sacrifice his life on the battle-field: after the Soviet take-over of Armenia, in the days of mass violence perpetrated by the Revolutionary Committee, he was meanly arrested by A. Nurijanian, a Bolshevik and a great traitor, the People’s Commissar of Military Affairs of Soviet Armenia. After 68 days spent in the prison of Yerevan, on the night of 17/18 February 1921, he was brutally killed by Nurijanian’s order...

The hero’s remains were buried as sacred relics, his enthusiastic devotion and deeds remaining ever living in the hearts of his compatriot as national hero. A song «Hamazasp's death» was created in memory of the great Armenian patriot. Hamazasp’s name was consigned to oblivion during the decades of Bolshevik totalitarianism, although the Armenian nation never forgot him even despite persecutions.

Yes, time gives birth to heroes whenever necessary, and stories of their feats impart strength and power to their nation. An eloquent proof of this is that the song dedicated

to Hamazasp was again sung in the days of the Artsakh liberation struggle, expressing the nation's most sacred wishes and imbuing it with moral strength and love of freedom. This is the rule: at the crucial moments of their history, nations give birth to fighters like Hamazasp and perpetuate their names. Hamazasp was the nation's hero, his activities being highly evaluated as follows from the words of G. Lazian stated in the early 1950s: **“The Armenian nation has always venerated heroes like Hamazasp, whose blood became the “cement and mortar” of today’s Armenian Homeland.”** Indeed, the truthfulness of these words has been confirmed by history itself.