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

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!"

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.
"Hassol! Attention! Turn back! Move forward!"

Kurds were marching in every direction. I went to my friends and imitated some of Huseyin 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.  

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