

THE PRESENCE OF THE ROMANIAN ARMY IN BUKOVINA IN LATE 1918 AND EARLY 1919

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Abstract. In the past years, mostly on the occasion of the Centenary of the Greater Romania, several works have been published on the involvement of the Romanian Army in the achievement of the Great Union.

The recognition of the Great Union was possible through the efforts of the Romanian diplomacy internationally, during the Paris Peace Conference. Internally, the Union had to be defended against various subversive movements; an important role herein was played by the Romanian Army. Hence, various military operations were conducted in the years 1918-1920, mostly in the Bukovinian area, a province annexed by the Austrians as early as the end of the 18th century. In this respect, the use of documents kept in the The Centre for the Study and Storage of Historical Archives Pitești is more than necessary, especially the journals of operations pertaining to certain regiments.

Keywords: Romanian Army, Bukovina area, Great Union, Greater Romania, 1918-1920

Introduction

At the end of 1922, the Assembly of the Romanian Deputies was dominated by ardent debates regarding the answer to the Message of the Throne. Among those who took the floor, there was Iorgu G. Toma, one of the leaders of the national movement in Bukovina, in the first years of the 20th century. The Bukovinian deputy reminded the audience that on November 28th, 1922, they celebrated four years since the union of Bukovina and the Old Kingdom, an anniversary some had forgotten. The Bukovinian Romanians were very much aware of it, though: “in the intimacy of these souls of ours, we have felt again, the fourth time, the charm of those divine moments, the charm of the happy moments of our union with our Motherland”¹. Iorgu G. Toma continued his speech by reminding of the “wounds” left by the war and by the difficult situation of the province both during the world conflagration and in the last months of the year 1918. Starting from the words uttered more than 100 years prior, we aim in this text is to contribute to a better insight into the topic concerning the role of the Romanian Army in the consolidation and recognition of the Great Union, by

¹ “The Official Gazette of Romania” issue 8 of December 17th, 1922, pp. 93-99.