

THE ROMANIAN TROOPS OF DOBRUDJA IN THE BULGARIAN CAMPAIGN OF 1913

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Abstract. Relationships with Bulgaria have been encumbered by a series of ambitions on the Sofia government's side, which came in contradiction with Romanian interests. The situation would worsen in the Balkan Peninsula as Bulgaria started the Second Balkan War on June 16/29, 1913. New army reorganizations were undertaken in 1912-1913. On the secondary direction of the military operations theatre, since June 27/ July 10 1913, the Army Corps of Dobrudja has advanced – with the fleet's support, until June 30/July 13 – into the claimed territory between the frontier established in 1878 and Turtucaia – Balcic line, including the town of Bazargic (the small Quadrilateral). On the main direction Sofia, operations started on July 2/15; until July 6/19, Romanian forces were about 25 km away from the capital of Bulgaria. While Dobrudjan troops were returning to the peace garrisons, Interior Minister Take Ionescu sent Dobrudja local authorities a telegram demanding “immediate measures to dress towns and villages. Let us show our gratitude towards H.M. the King, the army and the government through great public manifestations. Romania proudly steps out of this war, with an increased territory and admiration on all of Europe's behalf”.

Keywords: The Second Balkan War, the Army Corps in Dobrudja, Balkan Peninsula, military garrisons, the frontier in the South of Dobrudja.

Throughout the 30 years since the Dobrudja Active Division founding in 1879, February 22, the Dobrudjan ground forces have known a remarkable organizational evolution as well as an infrastructure enabling the military system's well-functioning, according to political orientation and the Romanian national aspirations.

The Romanian army's evolution aligned with a tense European background due to the great powers' arming and arms races. By 1908, the entire infantry structure had been made permanent, outing shifts in the active service. Based on that year's newly elaborated law regarding army reorganization, certain changes were brought upon the organizational structure of the army. Active duty for all marching units was reduced to 2 years. Infantry brigade teams were made up of two active regiments and 1 or 2 spare units. The infantry division came with 2 infantry brigades, 1 riflemen unit, 1 artillery brigade, troops and auxiliary services, while the army division had 2-3 infantry divisions, 1-2 cavalry brigades, 1 pioneer battalion, 1 telegraph company, troops and auxiliary services. In 1909,

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