

**ARMED CONFLICTS AND CAPTURES OF ROMANIAN
MILITARY UNITS IN THE MIHĂILENI – DOROHOI AREA
DURING THE RETREAT OF THE RUSSIAN TROOPS
FROM THE FRONT (DECEMBER 1917 – JANUARY 1918)**

Ion I. SOLCANU*

Abstract. Starting with the beginning of the spring of 1917, the Bolshevik plague infests the Russian troops, affecting their judgement: the soldiery depose, demote, arrest or even kill their own officers, promoting in their place inferior officers or simple soldiers, according to the model of Praporshchik Krylenko, appointed on 9th/22nd November 1917 Generalissimo of the Russian Army, Commander-in-chief of the General Headquarters by the new Soviet power. This phenomenon increases in the autumn and spring of the same year. Anarchy is instituted in the Russian army on the Moldavian front. On their retreat to Russia, isolated individuals and organised gangs openly resort to thefts, plunders and even murders; gangs, squads and units occupy trains without authorization. The civilians live in a state of terror. In order to put an end to these disorders, the Supreme Headquarters stipulates the disarmament of all the Russian troops and their retreat on established routes. Some Russian army corps, instigated by Lenin's and Krylenko's envoys, oppose the disarmament operation. As a result, conflicts occur between the Romanian troops and their former allies near the border of Botoșani and Dorohoi counties. The Russian troops even manage to capture eight Romanian officers and six platoons (215 people) who are taken across the border where the Romanian officers are taunted. A commando is successful in releasing them and bringing them back to Romania.

Keywords: *The First World War, 1917-1918, the Moldavian front, Iași, the bolshevization of the Russian troops, the Bolshevik Russian troops oppose the disarmament by force, the counties of Botoșani and Dorohoi, the Russian General Șerbacev, The Romanian Supreme Headquarters, General Prezan, General Rujinscki, Petrograd, Lenin, Praporshchik Krylenko, Mihăileni, Mamornița, General Stan Poetaș, Colonel Rasoviceanu, Colonel Scărlătescu, Colonel Georgescu, the Russian troops capture eight Romanian officers and six platoons*

**I. The disaggregation of the Russian Army on the Romanian front.
The Supreme Headquarters' measures to maintain order and protect the
population**

There had been signs of the disaggregation of the Russian army on the Romanian front as early as the summer of 1917 at Mărăști, Mărășești, Oituz. The frequent abandonments of the Russian troops on the battlefields culminated with the battle of Irești, on 28th August 1917, when the 124th Russian Division

* Ph.D. Professor at the Faculty of History, 'Al. I. Cuza' University, Iași, full member of the Academy of Romanian Scientists.