

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE ROMANIAN-RUSSIAN MILITARY ALLIANCE: THE BATTLES OF GALAȚI, PAȘCANI, SPĂTĂREȘTI (JANUARY, 1918)

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Abstract. Relying on all the accessible publications, the press, and particularly the research carried out in the Military Archives in Pitești, we set out to bring to light the less known events from the end of 1917 and the beginning of 1918, which unfolded in harsh conditions for the Romanian state in general, and for the Romanian army in particular. We intend to analyse the retreat of the partially bolshevised Russian army from the Romanian territory, focusing on the manner in which the Romanian political and military leaders dealt with this complicated relation with the Russian army. We are intent on revealing some less known aspects of the abuse carried out by the Russian army on our territory.

Keywords: *Romanian-Russian military alliance, january 1918, battles of Galați, Pașcani, Spătărești and Mihăileni*

Historiographical considerations

The Romanian historiography comprises numerous papers and studies exploring the Romanian-Russian military cooperation between 1916 and 1918. However, these historiographical analyses failed to provide a homogenous image of the military relations between the two states for the given period of time. One of the topics worth a more thorough investigation is the unravelling of the Romanian-Russian military alliance at the end of 1917 and the beginning of 1918.

During the interbellum, the historian Constantin Kirițescu published the first edition of one of his most important works, focusing on Romania's involvement in the first World War. One of the chapters deals with the dissolution of the Russian-Romanian alliance, while the battles of Galați, Pașcani, Spătărești and Mihăileni between the Romanian and the Russian armies do not take central stage¹. The memoirs of Constantin Argetoianu², I.G. Duca³, Nicolae Iorga⁴,

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¹ Constantin Kirițescu, *Istoria războiului pentru întregirea României 1916-1919*, vol. 2, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, 1989, p. 207-213.

² Constantin Argetoianu, *Memorii*, III-IV, The second edition, Supervised by Stelian Neagoe, Editura Machiavelli, București, 2008,

³ I.G. Duca, *Amintiri politice*, Colecția „Memorii și mărturii”, vol. III, Jon Dumitru-Verlag, München, 1981.