



STRATEGIC-LEVEL COMMAND STRUCTURES IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE GREAT UNIFICATION

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The campaign of the Romanian Armed Forces in the 1918-1919 period was the last of the National Reunification War, conducted in the post-First World War geopolitical and geostrategic context, having as main objective to defend the Great Unification from 1918. It was a campaign conducted, in certain situations and at different times, in collaboration and cooperation with command structures and troops belonging to the armed forces of the Allied and Associated Powers engaged against the Russian, Ukrainian and Hungarian Bolshevik military forces.

The Great General Headquarters and the Great General Staff, as structures responsible for designing, organising, planning and managing the military operations, had organisations and attributions tailored to meet the specific requirements, carrying out their duties depending on the situation: the attacks of the Russian and the Ukrainian Bolshevik gangs at the Dniester, the need for military cooperation with Poland, the control of the territory of Transylvania, the withdrawal of the Hungarian Bolshevik army from the Apuseni Mountains and the Tisza, the occupation of Budapest and of a largest part of Hungary.

In most cases, the decision-makers within the Great General Headquarters complied with the decisions of the Allied Supreme Council in Paris and collaborated with the allied command structures located in Belgrade and Bucharest.

Keywords: armed forces, Bolshevism, campaign, cooperation, decision.



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INTRODUCTION

The analysis of the importance of the political and military events of 1919, when it was 60 years since the establishment of the Romanian Armed Forces General Staff, as well as of the centennial of the glorious campaign ended with the occupation of Budapest, has to take into account the content of the aim of Romania's entry into the world conflagration, formulated in the campaign plan developed by the Great General Staff, also known as "Z Hypothesis": "The aim of the war that we will wage is the accomplishment of our national ideal, that is to say the national reunification"¹.

1919 is the year when, despite all the political and military restrictions imposed by the representatives of the states that constituted the Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference, the Romanian Armed Forces achieved brilliant success not only at the Dniester (in Bessarabia and Bukovina) as well as in Pocutia, but also in Transylvania and Hungary, thus having under control and administration, in mid-August, a territory that was larger than 350,000 km².

The success of the Romanian Armed Forces campaign in 1919 was the result of the combined efforts of the political and military decision-makers as well as of the structures that conceived, planned and managed the operations and battles at the strategic and tactical level. Among them, the Great General Headquarters, the Great General Staff and the Troops Command in Transylvania played an incontestably important role, acknowledged at that time, in the interwar period, and in the past three decades, highlighted in different recent papers and studies.

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¹ Great General Staff, *România în războiul mondial 1916-1919, Documente-Anexe*, vol. I, *Monitorul Oficial și Imprimeriile Statului*, Imprimeria Națională, București, 1934, p. 111.



structures, remobilised, reorganised and established in the geopolitical and geostrategic context created in Europe during November and December 1918.

THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES MOBILISATION

On 26 October/8 November 1918, King Ferdinand I decided to start the necessary activities for the re-entry of Romania into the war, and the next day, Field Marshal August von Mackensen was presented with an ultimatum so that the troops belonging to the Central Powers had to leave the territory of Romania within 24 hours.

The decisive moment regarding the international situation in the autumn of 1918 was the victory of the allies on the western front, so that, after a series of tense discussions between the delegates from the USA, the United Kingdom and France, related to the conditions of capitulation to be imposed on Germany, on 29 October/11 November, in the forest of Compiègne, the armistice was signed, thus marking the conclusion of the First World War, whereby, as far as Romania was concerned, Germany was forced to renounce the provisions of the Treaty of Bucharest signed on 24 April/7 May 1918. Against the background of the geopolitical and geostrategic developments in Europe, well known in Iași, the Romanian political and military decision-makers acted timely and in line with Romania's interests: in Paris, Victor Antonescu had a series of discussions with the French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau, finalised and materialised in the order sent by the French Government to General Henri M. Berthelot to prepare *"the military mission destined to determine the re-entry of Romania into the war alongside the Entente powers"*²; in Iași, General Constantin Cristescu, correctly predicting the evolution of the military situation, ordered, on 28 September/3 October 1918, preparatory measures for the implementation of the armed forces mobilisation plan, namely *"the deployed troops should come back to their units until 1/14 October"*³; on 26 October/8 November 1918, King Ferdinand I decided to start the necessary activities for the re-entry of Romania into the war, and the next day, Field Marshal August von Mackensen was presented with an ultimatum so that the troops belonging to the Central Powers had to leave the territory of Romania within 24 hours.

² Apud Brigadier General Dr Vasile Apostol, Lieutenant Colonel Dr Ion Giurcă, Lieutenant Colonel Dr Mircea D. Chiriac, Colonel (r.) BEng Corneliu Baltă, *Comandamentele strategice române în acțiune (1859-1947)*, Editura Tipo-Light, București, 2000, p. 94.

³ National Military Archives of Romania – Arhivele Militare Naționale Române (AMNR), *Collection Microfilme*, roll PII 1.530, c. 64-65.

On that day, simultaneously with the continuation of the surveillance and the defence of the Dniester line in Bessarabia by the units of the 5th Army Corps, the 8th Infantry Division “stepped on the ground of the Great Stefan Voivode to protect the lives, possessions and liberties of the inhabitants, regardless of their nationality and faith, against the criminal gangs that started to destroy your beautiful country”⁴. Even on the day on which, in Compiègne, it was signed the armistice between the Allied and Associated Powers, the Romanian troops entered Cernăuți so that they could ensure, in the following period, the freedom of action for the National Council in Bukovina⁵. King Ferdinand I decision that the Romanian armed forces had to enter into the war against the enemy troops that occupied the Romanian territory got materialised in the “High Decree no. 3179” on 27 October/9 November 1918, which entered into force on 28 October/10 November and had a historical importance for Romania’s destiny, being decisive for Romania to be admitted to the Paris Peace Conference. The armed forces mobilisation also included the establishment, again, of the Great General Headquarters, led, in compliance with the “High Decree no. 3185” on 29 October/11 November 1918, by General Constantin Prezan, who was appointed Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff. The structure of the General Staff was conceived and established so that it could meet the predictable operational requirements. There were some differences compared to the organisation established in December 1917, which I consider relevant for the comparative analysis. As for the establishment in November 1918, there were 9 generals, 163 officers and 12 civilian personnel in the General Staff. The order of battle highlighted a beneficial aspect, namely the decrease in the number of reserve officers, especially in the bureaus and services that had an important role in the organisation, planning and conduct of military actions or in providing the necessary logistic support. The 20 reserve officers within the General Staff participated in the activity of the bureaus and services that needed experts in aviation,



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⁴ AMNR, *Collection Marele Stat Major (M.St.M.)*, Secția Studii istorice, file no. 835, p. 13.

⁵ For details, see Ion Giurcă, *Generalul Iacob Zadik – loc și rol în realizarea și apărarea unirii Bucovinei cu Țara*, in *Înfăptuirea și apărarea României Mari*, Editura Mad Linotype, Buzău, 2017; *Armata română în Bucovina la sfârșitul anului 1918*, in *Centenarul Unirii Bucovinei cu România*, Editura ALPHA MDN, Buzău, 2018.



In November 1918, and especially in the following period, the situation became increasingly complex, the armed forces actions being conducted, with different intensity, on three fronts: in Bessarabia – on the Dniester; in Bukovina and then in Pocutia; in Transylvania and then in Hungary. It was a great area for the ongoing actions, which generated complex problems related to manoeuvring the forces and assets, providing the resources, and managing the units and large units.

air station, justice, and quartermaster department. Mention should be made that, within Section 1 Operations, there was only one reserve officer, and within the Intelligence Bureau, there were two reserve officers, so that the conditions for an enhanced activity within the bureaus and sections were met. Brigadier Generals Ioan Ghinescu and Nicolae Alevra were appointed Deputy Chiefs of the General Staff, both of them being experienced in the activity of that command structure at strategic level.

The element of absolute novelty was the chief position of Section 1 Operations filled by Lieutenant Colonel Ioan Sichitiu, who had been noted due to the activity carried out in the cabinet of General Constantin Prezan during 1917. The appointment was somehow surprising, because Lieutenant Colonel Ion Antonescu had practically run this section between December 1916 and April 1918. I consider as beneficial and correct the idea of establishing Section II Intelligence, having a well-planned structure, with officers who had acquired sufficient experience in their activity, even if it was not at the level of the armed forces operational requirements. The organisation of the General Staff in November 1918 highlighted the return within this structure of the General Command of Cantonments, in a flexible organisation, certainly more efficient and better connected to the operational requirements.

Compared to January 1917, the number of officers in the General Staff decreased by 17 officers, which did not have negative effects as far as the accomplishment of the given tasks was concerned. However, I underline the fact that, in 1916, the Great General Headquarters led the military operations on two fronts. Moreover, from October 1916 to September 1917, its activity was focused on conducting the actions on only one front. In November 1918, and especially in the following period, the situation became increasingly complex, the armed forces actions being conducted, with different intensity, on three fronts: in Bessarabia – on the Dniester; in Bukovina and then in Pocutia; in Transylvania and then in Hungary. It was a great area for the ongoing actions, which generated complex problems related to manoeuvring the forces and assets, providing the resources, and managing the units and large units. The troops in Bessarabia and Bukovina, and later in Pocutia, were led by the 4th and 5th Army Corps commands, directly

subordinated to the Great General Headquarters. To command the forces earmarked for acting in Transylvania, initially the 7th Infantry Division and the 2nd Hunter Division, then the 6th Infantry Divisions, the 2nd Hunter Division and the 2nd Cavalry Division, it was established and installed, on 11/24 December 1918, in Sibiu, where there was also the Governing Council headquarters, the Command of the Troops in Transylvania, thus being provided a solution in compliance with the operational requirements in that part of the country, which proved viable in the 1918-1919 campaign. The establishment of a structure similar to the Command in Iași, to lead the troops in Bessarabia, Bukovina and Pocutia, as it was suggested, since February 1918, by Colonel Toma Dumitrescu, the Chief of Staff of the 5th Army Corps at that time, would have been, maybe, beneficial and effective for the simplification of the overall management of the Romanian armed forces operations and battles during that period. It was possible for the establishment of the command structures in the two theatres of operations of the Romanian troops to have been generated not only by the small number of staff officers but also by the fact that the two army corps commands, deployed in Iași and Chișinău, could successfully resolve the operational situations.

THE GREAT GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AND THE GREAT GENERAL STAFF – COOPERATION AND PROMPTITUDE

The relocation of the Great General Headquarters from Iași to Bucharest, in the building of the Military Circle⁶, in November 1918, executed in compliance with the provisions of the “Circular Order 904” on 16/29 November 1918, was a political and military necessity. The presence of that structure in Bucharest as well as the relocation of the Royal House, the Government and the Parliament in the official Capital of the country had a political significance, especially considering that the entry ceremony of the political and military leaders was held on the day when, in Alba-Iulia, it was organised the Great General Assembly. King Ferdinand I, Queen Maria and those comprising



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⁶ AMNR, Collection Microfilme, roll PII 1.2577, c. 534-537.



Among the sections in the structure of the Great General Staff, it is worth mentioning "Section I B – Mobilisation, Private Industries, Requisitions", and especially the component "Private Industries", established out of the necessity of an inventory of the facilities remained in the territory occupied by the troops of the Central Powers as well as in Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania, in order to continue the war production that was so necessary considering the great deficits the armed forces had to face.

the official retinue were accompanied by General Henri M. Berthelot, and, alongside the Romanian troops, there were the Allied troops. The presence of the command structure at the strategic level in Bucharest provided the advantage of a direct and effective cooperation between the King, the Royal Military House and the General Staff, as well as with the representatives of the states that were later part of the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control, having their place and role in imposing and adopting certain decisions of the Romanian Great General Headquarters.

Returning to the numerical composition of the General Staff, we consider that the reduction in the personnel of that structure was directly linked to another situation that was created in an apparently unnatural way. Unlike the 1916-1918 period, when the Great General Headquarters was established and operational, after the mobilisation of November 1918, it was not established the Great General Staff – the sedentary part, but a complex organisation of the Great General Staff. By the organisation established in November 1918, the Great General Staff order of battle provided 54 positions (2 generals, 32 officers, 6 non-commissioned officers, 7 sergeants and corporals, 7 civilians), which were filled by active duty military personnel (one position was filled by a non-commissioned officer in reserve), many of them working, in previous periods, for the General Staff, the Great General Staff – the sedentary part, or for the army or division staffs.

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⁷ AMNR, *Collection Marele Cartier General (MCG)*, file no. 1041, p. 272.

The activity of the Great General Staff was conducted having the mentioned organisation, in good conditions, taking into account a relative stability of the officers. The decisive aspect of the Great General Staff good activity was the preservation as chief of the structure of Army Corps General Constantin Cristescu who was very experienced in fulfilling the duties that were specific to such a position. The Great General Staff operated having the mentioned structure up to the spring of 1919, while the Great General Headquarters preserved the organisation established in November 1918 up to 20 March 1920, when it was demobilised. The activity of the two structures, despite some resentments of General Constantin Cristescu at General Constantin Prezan, was characterised by a good cooperation, the Great General Staff timely meeting the Great General Headquarters requirements in terms of providing resources.

Overall, the activity of the two structures in 1918 and 1919 got materialised in solving some complex problems such as: the gradual mobilisation of units and large units, as resources were provided, the development of operations projects for the actions in Bukovina, Bessarabia and Transylvania; the conduct of military operations in accordance with the situations created and the provisions of the government that was permanently in contact with the delegation at the Paris Peace Conference, the Inter-Allied Military Commission in Versailles and the Army of the Orient Command; the analysis of the military evolution in Romania's area of interest, the development of syntheses and suggestions for the government to undertake diplomatic efforts or to agree on expected military actions; the preservation of military and social order throughout the territory; the reinstatement of the military bodies in Dobruja, Muntenia and Oltenia; the introduction of the military administration regime in the Hungarian territory occupied by the Romanian troops; the gradual withdrawal from the territory of Hungary in compliance with the government decisions and the developed plans; the change in the structure of the Great General Staff in line with the new armed forces organisation, and the complex tasks, considering: the new territory of the country, the threats to the security of the country and the needs for immediate



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and prospective defence. The signing of the peace treaties with the states that had been members in the Central Powers alliance and the relaxation of the situation at the border with the Soviet Russia created the conditions for the transition of the Romanian armed forces to the peace establishment.

THE GREAT GENERAL STAFF FUNCTIONALITY

Included in the Government led by Ion I.C. Brătianu (29 November/12 December 1918 – 27 September 1919), General Arthur Văitoianu was aware of the fact that, in a short period of time, the Romanian armed forces and especially the command structures, needed an organisation that met the realities in the aftermath of the First World War. The first world conflagration generated new military services and branches, concepts, ways and procedures to organise and command the military structures in peacetime and at war. It was the reason why the Ministry of War developed the legal framework that was necessary for its organisation, considering that: *“Following the evolution of the various services within the Ministry of War in line with the armed forces current necessities, the former law for the ministry organisation has to be supplemented and partially modified. It is a need for some new services to be established, as well as for the reorganisation of the sections and bureaus in line with the new responsibilities”*⁸. Following the report of the Minister of War presented to King Ferdinand I, on 18 April 1919, the sovereign of Romania signed the *“Decree-Law to update and supplement the current law on the organisation of the Ministry of War”*, stipulating the services and directorates established not only for the armed forces but also for certain services and branches. Within the *“General services for the needs of the armed forces”*, it was also established the *“General Staff Service”*, alongside the geographical, personnel, control, accounting and pensions, litigation, quartermaster, central establishments and remount services. The effort made by the Minister of War in order to transform the structure he was leading also included *“Report no. 1929”*, in which he submitted a request to King Ferdinand I to approve *“some changes in the regulation of the law of organisation of the Ministry of War, establishing the number of sections*

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⁸ *Monitorul Oficial*, no. 9 on 27 April 1919, p. 431.

and bureaus for different services and directorates, as well as each of them special responsibilities”⁹. The mentioned report also included *Table no. 2*, presenting the organisation of the Great General Staff. The position of Chief of Staff could be filled by an Army Corps or Division General, appointed by the King following the proposal of the Minister of War. Compared to the previous organisational structure, the level of the organisation was higher, as the bureaus were transformed, in most cases, into sections.

“*Division I, Personnel and Army Preparation for War*” could be led by a general or colonel, who also served as deputy chief of staff. Viewed and analysed in all its complexity and diversity, Division I had as main responsibility the structures planning for peace and war as well as the force generation for the units and the large units that were established or supplemented following mobilisation. “*Adjutant Section*”, with the personnel and chancellery bureaus, had responsibilities related to the troops inventory in terms of education and staff appointment for all echelons. Within it, “*Bureau II Personnel*” had as main responsibilities: the inventory of the personnel within the Great General Staff, the control of the staff officers and of the graduates of the Superior War School, who could be called up to fill staff positions at different echelons; the planning and monitoring of the probation fulfilment by the staff officers; the inventory of the order of battle of the commands staff service, in peacetime and at war; the inventory of the officers sent to study abroad and of the Superior War School personnel; the preparation and development of the papers necessary for the Staff Consultative Committee¹⁰. The Chancellery was in charge of receiving, distributing and sending the correspondence, of orders of the day records, as well as of keeping the collections of laws and of the *Monitorul Oficial (Official Gazette)* and *Monitorul Oastei (Armed Forces Gazette)* publications.

“*Section I, Recruitment, Organisation, War Materials*” was led by a staff officer, having the rank of colonel or lieutenant colonel. The personnel that filled the positions within “*Bureau 1 Recruitment*” had responsibilities related to the development of the papers



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⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 435.

¹⁰ AMNR, *Collection M.St.M.*, file no. 1041, p. 281.



“Section 2, Mobilisation – Requisitions” was in charge of generating forces in the event of war, by general or partial mobilisation. It consisted of three bureaus – armed forces mobilisation, immediate mobilisation and requisitions –, having clear, well-defined responsibilities, in compliance with the understanding of the planning and execution of the three important activities in the transition from the peace to war establishment.

in the following areas: recruitment, repartition of annual contingents, conscription, transfer of the troops from a military specialty to another; development and hierarchical transmission of the orders and instructions related to recruitment in compliance with laws and regulations. *“Bureau Organisation”* was in charge of all the problems and aspects related to: the armed forces organisation; the inventory of troops in peacetime; the order of battle and deployment of units in peacetime; the budget planning and execution in peacetime; the development of statistical situations regarding the personnel, in terms of contingents, military ranks, positions for officers and non-commissioned officers. *“Bureau War Materials”* was in charge of complex tasks related to: the equipment and assets that were necessary for all the services, branches, military schools and training centres, in peacetime and at war; the reserve to supplement the equipment and assets following mobilisation; the military installations and facilities that were necessary to meet the requirements in peacetime and at war.

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“Section 3, Training, Regulations and History”, had responsibilities mainly for the activities in peacetime. It had a complex organisation, compared to the previously mentioned sections¹¹. *“Bureau 1”* was in charge of the organisational aspects regarding: corps education

¹¹ *Ibidem*, p. 283.

and training, in specialised schools and training centres (annual programmes, training concentrations, reserve officers training, manoeuvre, inspections); education within the Superior War School; staff study and training trips; publications and papers in the armed forces; acquisition of necessary foreign military journals; library; conferences and studies in which the officers within the Great General Staff participated. The activity of the sub-bureaus within the *“Bureau Regulations”* was formulated clearly and simply – development of regulations for the three basic branches within the land troops as well as for the special troops and services. *“Bureau 3 Historical”* was in charge of complex tasks such as: gathering, classifying and coordinating the historical operational data and documents from all the large units in the armed forces; developing the historical inventory of the 1916-1919 campaign; developing the monographies and collecting the lessons learned from the campaign in terms of organisation, training and command; monitoring particular studies having a historical character; studying the Romanian army previous campaigns; historical monuments, prisoners treatment and related activities; developing and keeping the historical archive. The mentioned bureau was a new structure within the Great General Staff, having complex tasks that entailed executing broad activities, which required numerous personnel having appropriate education and experience.

“Division II”, having four sections, represented the *“operational”* component of the Great General Staff, the operations, intelligence, transportation, communications and cantonment sections having clear and concrete responsibilities directly related to the use of armed forces in war. *“Section 4 Operations”* had a complex structure and tasks related to planning the military actions for war, in different variants and hypotheses¹². *“Bureau 1 Operations”* was considered the basic structure in the Great General Staff, its sub-bureaus having clear responsibilities for peacetime situation: war operations, hypotheses, concentration plans, service to cover the borders of the country; organisation of gathering areas, reconnaissance and studies on the ground and in bureaus relative to the mentioned areas; plans for the defence of the country, system of fortifications; royal manoeuvres,



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One of the complex structures, which was closely connected to the geopolitical and geostrategic realities of 1919 as well as to the ones predicted in the short term, was "Section 5 Intelligence", having bureaus and sub-bureaus in its organisation, most of them having responsibilities and tasks according to certain geographical areas.

studying the measures to preserve order in the future, for different hypotheses; functioning of the subsistence system for different hypotheses. "Bureau 2 Navy" was a structure exclusively destined to plan the joint operations of the land troops and the Danube Flotilla and the Sea Flotilla, to defend the Romanian littoral of the Black Sea, to study the areas of gathering and debarkation related to the fleet operations, to plan and prepare joint manoeuvres. "Bureau 3 Cypher" was the specialised structure of the Operations Section, responsible for tasks related to: crypted correspondence; crypted dictionaries; instructions for using crypted correspondence methods; study of the crypted methods used by other armed forces.

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The First World War demonstrated the military action expansion in space, in land, air and maritime environment, the troops movement being determined by winning victory or being defeated. It is the reason why “Section 6 Transportation” experienced such a development in terms of structure¹³. Each of the four bureaus and sub-bureaus had clear responsibilities, considering the complexity of the situation in terms of transport infrastructure, generated by the accomplishment of Greater Romania.

“Bureau 1 Movement, Exploitation, Transportation” was in charge of: developing the schedule and train tables as well as the plans of transportation for mobilisation and concentration considering different hypotheses; ensuring the liaison with the CFR general directorate, related to the personnel and equipment that were necessary for transportation, embarkation and disembarkation; ensuring the movement, mobilisation and concentration of the military personnel from railway commands and railway stations. “Bureau 2” had to conduct an intense activity in terms of documentation, statistics, and even operations, for which it was about to develop or update the album containing the plans of railway stations and the files with the installations in railway stations, the railways map, as well as to execute reconnaissance missions for embarkation; to establish and plan the destruction works necessary for war, to assess the situation of railway material inventory, locomotive and wagons that were available any moment. “Bureau Private Railways” was established considering that, at that time, there was an important network of railways owned by natural and legal persons in Romania. Such a situation required their study and use for operations, including provisions to upgrade them to be used for military purposes, to ensure the railway material, the operating personnel, as well as to establish security or destruction measures in case of force majeure. Romania’s position as a country crossed by the Danube and a Black Sea littoral country required special attention to be paid to water transportation, therefore the bureau established for that purpose had to know the situation and to exercise control over the means of water transport belonging to the state



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¹³ *Ibidem*, pp. 285-286.



The positions in the Great General Staff were partially filled on 15 June, when the "Ministry of War Order of Battle" was published in Monitorul Oficial (Official Gazette). Following a High Decree-Law to update the Law of the Ministry of War Organisation, through the "Order of the Day no. 51" on 14 May 1919, it was established the Great General Staff Order of Battle, Army Corps General Constantin Cristescu being re-appointed as Chief of Staff.

and to natural persons, to plan their use for transportation and operations.

Last but not least, "Section 7 Communications and Cantonments" was a heterogenous structure, having two bureaus with different responsibilities. "Bureau 1 Communications" was in charge of organising and managing the situation of wired and wireless telegraphy, optical telegraphy and telephony, and their use for the war; organising the issues related to the mobilisation of the telegraphy-postal services, the personnel belonging to the post and telegraph general directorate, as well as to the development of the instructions necessary for communications. Simultaneously with monitoring the aspects of novelty in the field in other armed forces, within the section it was also studied and analysed the way in which the air-station, aviation, roads and bridges were used for military operations. "Bureau 2 Cantonments" was mainly in charge of establishing the cantonment formations and their operations related to war; studying the cantonment regulations and cantonment instructions; developing cantonment maps of Romania and neighbouring countries. The structure within the Great General Staff, established at the end of April, was completed up to the summer of 1919, when generals, officers, non-commissioned officers, civilian personnel and troops were appointed to the sections and bureaus.

THE GREAT GENERAL STAFF ORDER OF BATTLE

The positions in the Great General Staff were partially filled on 15 June, when the "Ministry of War Order of Battle" was published in *Monitorul Oficial (Official Gazette)*. Following a High Decree-Law to update the Law of the Ministry of War Organisation, through the "Order of the Day no. 51" on 14 May 1919, it was established the Great General Staff Order of Battle, Army Corps General Constantin Cristescu being re-appointed as Chief of Staff. In the mentioned document it was presented the Division I, with the personnel and subordinate structures, including the Superior War School. The other positions were filled as follows: 2 brigadier generals or colonels, deputy chiefs of staff; 8 colonels or lieutenant colonels, chiefs of sections; 13 majors or lieutenant colonels, chiefs of bureaus; one lieutenant colonel (N), chief of bureau; one major, chief of office; 15 majors, chiefs or deputy

chiefs of bureaus; 36 captains, chiefs or deputy chiefs of bureaus; 2 administrators, lieutenants, chief registering clerks. The 79 officers, alongside non-commissioned officers and civilian personnel, to whom the Great General Staff Troops Squadron was added, had to solve the complex tasks in the armed forces in a difficult period, when a part of the military body was mobilised and engaged in operations, battles or order keeping missions in Hungary, Bessarabia and Bukovina, and another part was deployed or re-deployed on the territory under the jurisdiction of the Romanian state, considering that the integration of the territories united with the country was in an incipient phase.

The order of battle of Division II was not mentioned in any order issued in the spring of 1919, which was natural, considering all the positions in the structure were filled on 1/13 November 1918, when the Great General Headquarters was remobilised.

From the spring of 1919 up to the demobilisation of the Romanian Great General Headquarters, on 31 March 1920, the Great General Staff had only Division I available, which made the political and military decision-makers assign the structure the main task of: *“coordinating the action to liberate Transylvania, the offensive in Budapest and then the preliminary activities for the Peace Treaty of Trianon”*¹⁴. The structure of the Great General Staff in the spring of 1919 had some aspects of novelty compared to the period that was previous to the First World War, which was natural, considering the geopolitical and geostrategic characteristics of the time. However, mention should be made that the new organisation was one of transition, having a somehow temporary character. The structure meant to function in peacetime had to work in the context in which the armed forces were in a state of war, when the force generation and the various resources necessary for the mobilised troops as well as for the peace establishment fell under the sections and bureaus within Division I.

The Great General Headquarters demobilisation was conducted in compliance with the provisions of the *“High Decree no. 1162”* on 18 March 1920 and the *“Great General Staff Instructions relative to the Armed Forces Demobilisation”*. For that purpose, on behalf



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¹⁴ *Ibidem*, f. 289.



The Great General Headquarters demobilisation was conducted in compliance with the provisions of the "High Decree no. 1162" on 18 March 1920 and the "Great General Staff Instructions relative to the Armed Forces Demobilisation". For that purpose, on behalf of the chief of that structure, General Henri Cihoski, as Deputy Chief of the General Staff, issued the "Order of the Day no. 10" on 25 March 1920, stipulating the way in which activities had to be executed.

of the chief of that structure, General Henri Cihoski, as Deputy Chief of the General Staff, issued the *"Order of the Day no. 10"* on 25 March 1920, stipulating the way in which activities had to be executed¹⁵: the staff sections and bureaus belonging to the Great General Headquarters had to merge with those of the Great General Staff; the services belonging to the Great General Headquarters had to merge with the similar directorates within the Ministry of War; the personnel issues had to fall under the Ministry of War, the entire archive being transferred there; the archive of the other sections, staff bureaus and services had to be transferred to the similar structures within the Great General Staff and the Ministry of War; the personnel had to be distributed to the sections, bureaus and services within the Great General Staff and the Ministry of War; the combatant reserve officers had to be demobilised until 31 March 1920, and the other officers in compliance with the Great General Staff instructions. *"Order of the Day no. 10"* practically marked the cessation of the activity at war of a command structure of the armed forces, which was operational up to the moment it was considered that the international situation allowed for it to happen as the external threats to the country disappeared, the possible arising problems being responded by the peace establishment.

CONCLUSIONS

In the context of the geopolitical and geostrategic developments in 1920 as well as of the rules that became customary in the Romanian armed forces, on 1 November 1920 it was established the complete order of battle of the Great General Staff, which also stipulated the appointment of the personnel in Division II as well as of the military attaches in some of the capitals in the world.

Therefore, the autumn of 1920 marked the Great General Staff fully organisation in compliance with the normative framework in the spring of 1919 and the beginning of specific activities conducted in peacetime, although some mobilised divisions continued to act in Bessarabia.

¹⁵ AMNR, *Collection MCG*, file no. 2261, pp. 32-33.

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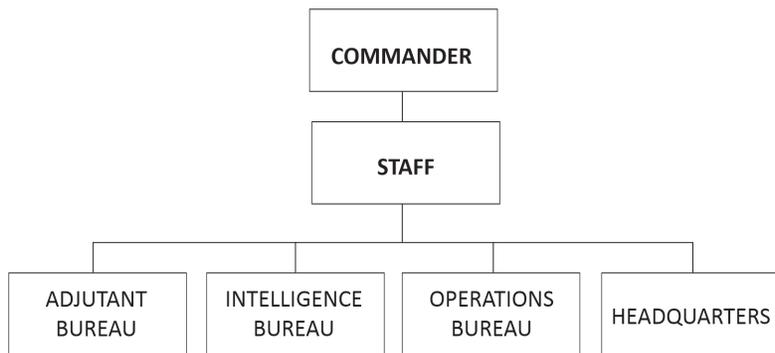
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ROMANIAN
MILITARY
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Annex no. 2

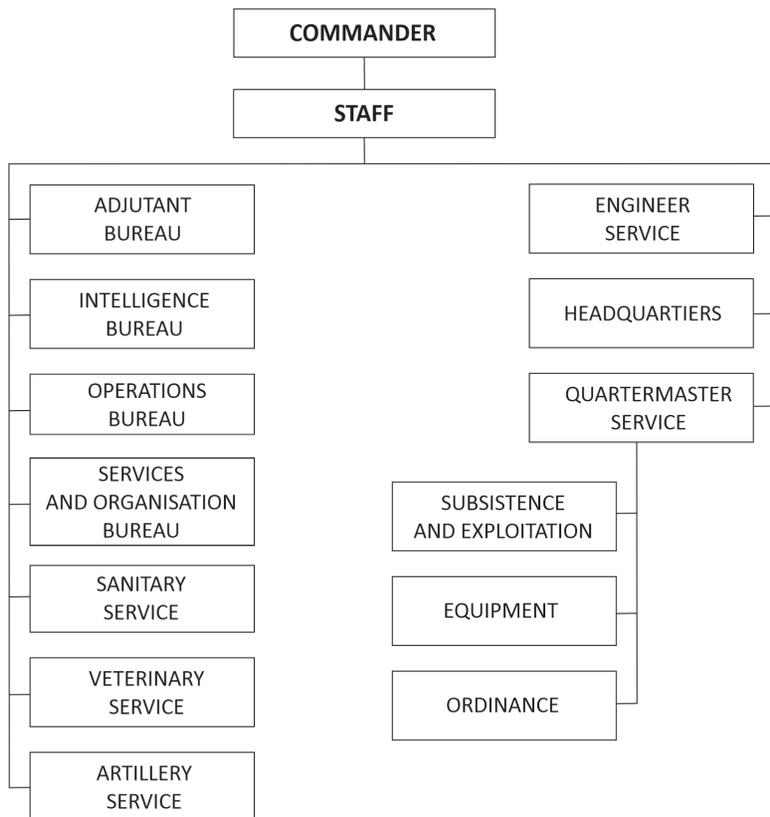
ORGANISATION OF COMMAND OF TROOPS IN TRANSYLVANIA
ON 11/24 DECEMBER 1918



(AMNR, Collection Microfilme, roll P II 12166, c. 406)

Annex no. 3

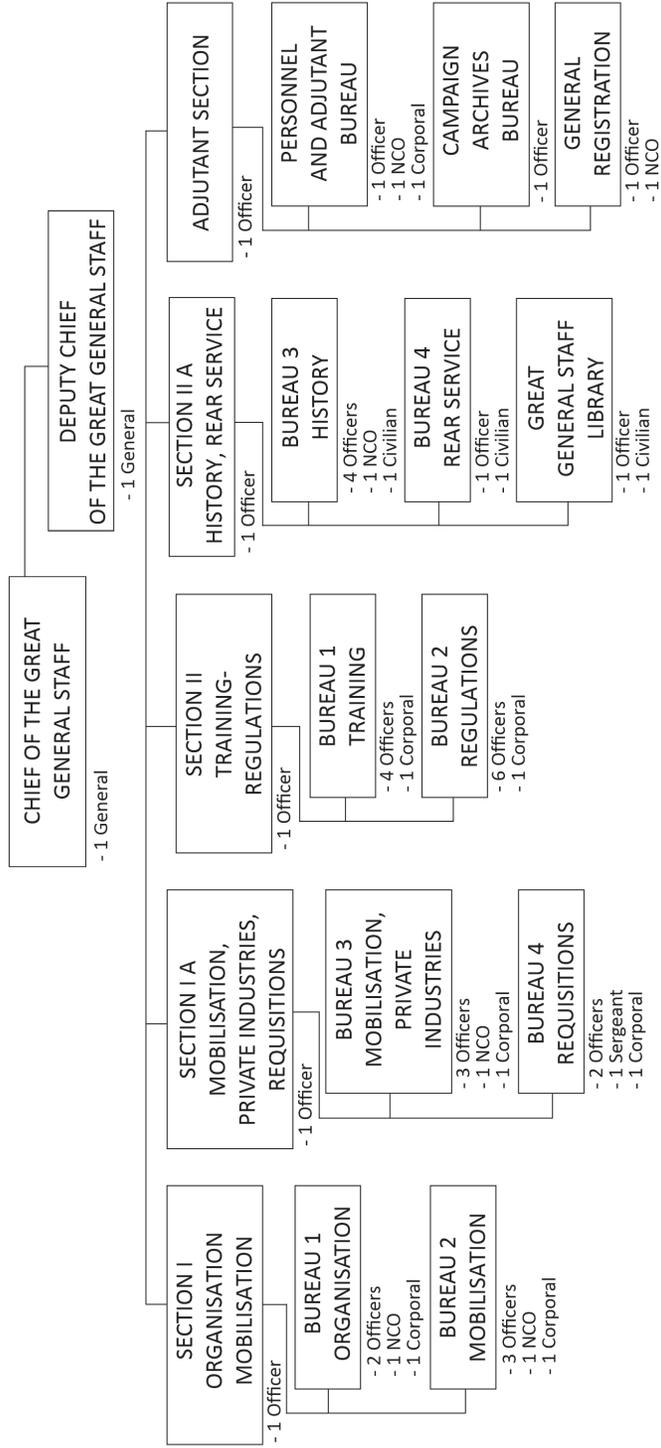
ORGANISATION OF COMMAND OF TROOPS IN TRANSYLVANIA ON 1 APRIL 1919



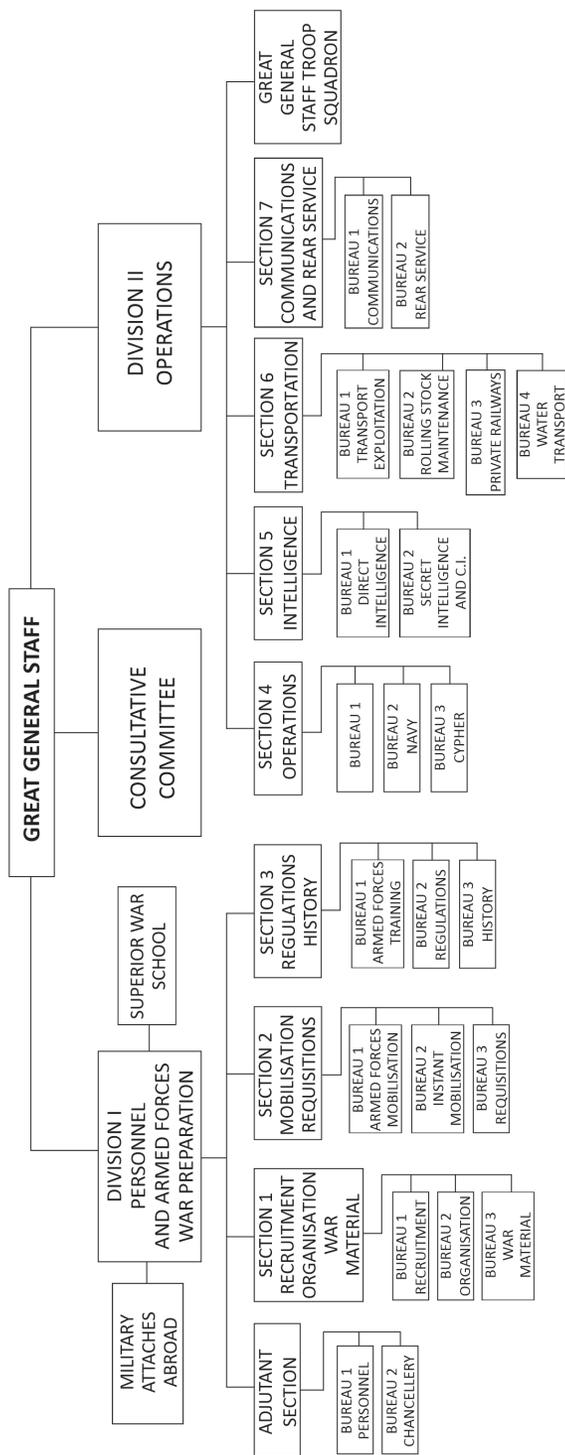
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THE GREAT GENERAL STAFF ORGANISATION IN NOVEMBER 1918



GREAT GENERAL STAFF ORGANISATION IN MAY 1919



(AMR, Collection M.St.M., file no. 1041, pp. 287-289)

