

# THE FIRST WORLD WAR NOTES IN THE ORIGINAL JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN CONSTANTIN SĂNĂTESCU (First part)

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**Abstract.** *The article presents the first part from the war journal of captain Sănătescu. There are presented issues during the battles waged in Dobrogea by Călărași 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 19<sup>th</sup> Division, during 15<sup>th</sup> of August and 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1916.*

**Keywords:** *journal, Constantin Sănătescu, First World War, Dobrogea.*

The Army General Constantin Sănătescu comes from an old boyar family of Gorj County, family which dates from 1717.<sup>1</sup>

His father, Gheorghe Sănătescu (1858-1942), career military, fought as volunteer in the war of 1877 and became lieutenant since 24<sup>th</sup> of April 1885, captain since 1<sup>st</sup> of August 1891, major since 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1898, and becoming general of division, as he took part in the First World War<sup>2</sup>.

Constantin, General Gheorghe Sănătescu's oldest son, was born in Craiova on 13<sup>th</sup> of June 1885. He studied at Javet Institute, then Carol I High School in Craiova, Traian High School in Turnu-Severin and the High School in Iași, then Military School in Bucharest, which he graduated in 1907, as second lieutenant. He was assigned at Roșiori 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Turnu-Severin, and in 1910 he became instructor with lieutenant degree at Cavalry School in Târgoviște. He was an excellent rider, participating in numerous military equestrian competitions or, as jokeu in civil competitions. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1911 he won "The Army Price".

In 1913 he took part in the campaign in Bulgaria. He was promoted to captain, and in 1915 he moved to a regiment in Tulcea<sup>3</sup>. After the war he attended the Superior School of War, which he graduated in 1920.

Career military, Constantin Sănătescu was also a refined intellectual. Relevant in this way it is the analysis that he made to "the limits" of rendering the nature by means of art, literature and music, at the end of the chapter from the journal dedicated to the description of the mission in the north of Dobrogea.

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\* The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

\*\* The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

<sup>1</sup>C. Giurescu, *Material pentru istoria Olteniei supt austrieci*, vol II, Editat de Institutul de Istorie Națională, București, 1944, p. 431.

<sup>2</sup>*Anuarul armatei române pe anul 1900*. București 1900, p. 201; Mihai Sorin Rădulescu, *Ascensiunea unei familii boierești oltene, Sănăteștii*, in the journal „Arhiva Genealogică”, nr.3-4, Iași, 1996, p. 227; About the general Gheorghe Sănătescu, see Constantin Sănătescu, *Jurnal*, with foreword by Simona Ghișescu-Sănătescu, Editura Humanitas, București, 1993, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup>Constantin Sănătescu, *op.cit.*, pp. 5-9.

When he arrived close to the Genoese fortress in Heracleea, next to Enisala, C. Sănătescu wondered: “How I wish I could render this piece of nature, where I am, with the loneliness that masters in the hum night, which comes together with the day that leaves, with colours and light changes, noticed in each moment. Vain is my endeavour, because I see how far I am from the truth. Nature is made of mysteries and it cannot be rendered, and when I think that there are so many who claim that art is above nature; I, on the contrary, found it more inferior. If I come up to this conclusion, it is due to the fact that I didn’t take after one or the other, but because I walked a lot, I saw many things, I read most famous masterpieces of all literatures, I visited famous galleries and I heard divine orchestras. When I saw Louvru, when I saw “Venus in Milo” and “Victoria of Samotrake”, when in “Carré” saloon, Gioconda’s smile squeezed my eyes, and when I read the Luxemburg description in „Les Misérables” by Hugo and “Paradon” garden description in „La faute de L’ abbé Mouret” and when I heard “The Tempest” by Weber, played by the orchestra of Nisa Municipal Casino, I must confess that I fell in ecstasy and I was think long, but back to reality and examining this mood, I realised that, yet art is powerless to nature. I think that great artists felt this inferiority of art to nature and to the completion of the work of art did not have full satisfaction”<sup>4</sup>. He loved literature and wrote, himself, some sketches in 1914, that he published in “Cavalry Journal”. C. Sănătescu easily read in German, that he had learnt, as a child from his Austrian governance, or, later in English.

As an officer in command of the regiment in Tulcea in 1915, Constantin Sănătescu was around the First World War in direct contact with social and economic realities in Dobrogea. During the First World War, he first took part in the battles in Dobrogea, Muntenia and Moldova, and then in Basarabia, advancing in the squadron he commended up to Tighina. Courtesy to Mrs. Simona Ghițescu–Sănătescu, I had the possibility to consult the journal made by her father Constantin Sănătescu, beginning with 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1915 till 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1918, extracting for this article, the information referred to the battles in Dobrogea.

**On 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1916<sup>5</sup>** . Mobilization; 1,2,3 pickets attack.

**On 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1916**. 4,5,6 pickets attack.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibidem*, pp. 19-20.

<sup>5</sup>On 14/27<sup>th</sup> of August 1916 Romania declares war to Austro-Hungary. On 16/28<sup>th</sup> of August, the Romanian Army crossed the Carpathians in Transilvania, starting the military operations. On 17/30<sup>th</sup> of August, Germany declares war to Romania. The Danube and the Dobrogea frontier were defended by the third Army, commanded by M. Aslan General: at Turtucaia was the 17<sup>th</sup> Division, at Silistra the 9<sup>th</sup> Division and at Balcic the 19<sup>th</sup> Division, totally 72.000 people. The Russian crossed the Danube – the cavalry to Isaccea, and the infantry to Cernavodă – and submitted for Cobadin, south of the Medcidia. Total Romanian-Russian forces in Dobrogea were: 83 infantry battalions, 40 mobile batteries and 34 cavalry squadrons. Constantin Kirițescu, *Istoria războiului pentru întregirea României*, vol.I, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, 1989, p. 315).

**On 17<sup>th</sup> of August.** The attack of my sector; Ali Oman withdrawal where I found the regiment.

**On 18<sup>th</sup> of August<sup>6</sup>.** Baluga occupation; the first horse shot.

**On 19<sup>th</sup> of August.** Attack against Vama and Cuiungiuc; rejected with losses; the withdrawal towards Bazargic; the brigade arrival; Baloga bombardment; the arrival to Bazargic at night.

**On 21<sup>st</sup> of August.** Battles over Corvac, Corvac-Cuiundjuc and Cocimar.; the recognition to Hodjolar; Cocimar counterattack; disaster; the withdrawal at night through Demecler, Golemo Ceamurli, Karavaclar; the panic of regimented train.

**On 22<sup>nd</sup> of August.** Karavaclar we found the first Russian troops. March to Cocardja, then in the evening to Musa Bei.

**On 23<sup>rd</sup> of August.** Musu Bei, Darbilii, Kalfa Alialife, Kara Suian march with the intention to go to Maleo Ceamurlii. The brigade receives the order to withdraw and I to go to the cavalry brigade to Ciairlighiol. I cross through pillaged and fired villages; people left homeless, cattle running on the field and troops withdrawing in a big mess; robbery and fire. I cannot find the regimented train in Eli Bei, because it has run; I hear that the cavalry brigade were withdrawing from Ciairlighiol to Caraomer. I go there. At Karaagaci we found a part of the regimented train that do not know about the other carts or regiment. Riders on fields are searching for the Regiment or the regimented train. In the evening I arrive at Arman Cuius. Great joy for all to I see me, they thought I was lost in the disaster from Cocimar.

**On 24<sup>th</sup> of August.<sup>7</sup>** General attack over Bazargic by 16<sup>th</sup> Russian Division and 19<sup>th</sup> Romanian; the Russian cavalry on the right, the brigade towards Hanlâc on the left; big fights. The Bulgarians are rejected, but we are forced to withdraw because we heard that Turtucaia felt; a fantastic ride, at night, on the battle field.

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<sup>6</sup>On 18/31<sup>th</sup> of August – 19<sup>th</sup> of August/1<sup>st</sup> of September the Bulgarian troops had attacked the Romanian military items before Dobrogea. On 19<sup>th</sup> of August/1<sup>st</sup> of September 1916 Bulgaria and Turkey declare war to Romania. On 15<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> of August, Feld marshal von Mackensen was appointed commander in chief of German –Bulgarian- Turkish army in north-west of Bulgaria. Just few days after Romania entered war, Lloyd George, the Britain prime minister expressed, in the House meeting, his concern that the new ally not to have the fate of Serbia. “I have just taken notice, the Britain prime minister declares, of the telegrams that announced the war declaration of Bulgaria against Romania that we had announced as being possible shortly on Saturday in Balkans. Then I expressed fear that Hindenburg, who has a big influence in the state and who has always opposed to the tactic of concentration of German forces in the West, won’t make all the efforts to destroy Romania, and in the case of an attack from the south, our duty is to think seriously of Romania, of a effective support for it. We cannot repeat the Serbian tragedy. I hope that we won’t accept that for lack of a provision a similar catastrophe to depart on Romania... I think that the Romanian military equipment cannot long withstand an Austro-German-Bulgarian attack sustained by hundreds of good cannons and equipped with heavy artillery. The Romanians have few cannons and I doubt that their ammunition supply be sufficient in order to allow them to fight back in a few weeks continuously fire” so that was true. Constantin I. Năvârlie, *Cronica celor 100 de zile de război în Munții Cernei*, vol.I, Volume cared for by Phd. Luchian Deaconu, prof.Otilia Gherghe, Editura Sitech Craiova 2009, pp. 67-67).

<sup>7</sup>Between 19<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> of August /1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> of September took place the battle in Turtucaia, the Romanian army being defeated and forced to surrender, having important losses: thousands of dead, 480 officers and 28.000 soldiers were made prisoners; 100 cannons, 62 guns and a huge prey were the enemy’s trophies. (Constantin Kirîțescu, *op. cit.*, p. 336).

**On 25<sup>th</sup> of August.** The protection of the troops that were withdrawing from Bazargic. We left to Sartighiol.

**On 26<sup>th</sup> of August.** In the evening we go to Cerchezchioi through Caraomer. We walk all the night till 3 a.m. We sleep 2 hours and at 5 a.m. 2 squadrons go to south in searching for the enemy.

**On 28<sup>th</sup> of August<sup>8</sup>.** At 2 p.m. I go with the squadron to Karaagaci as discovery squadron. I stay at night in an oatmeal field.

**On 29<sup>th</sup> of August.** We occupy the high areas of Karaagaci; recognitions; the Turkish population. In the evening we are attacked by a squadron and guns; one horse shot; I withdraw in Hasarlâc.

**On 30<sup>th</sup> of August.** We occupy again Karaagaci and we deal with the enemy recognition and prepare food, with difficulty; the withdrawal to Hasarlâc.

**On 31<sup>st</sup> of August.** We receive order to come back to Cerchezchioi, where in rain we receive the food from the regiment. Immediately we receive the order to go closer to Hasarlâc.

In the afternoon, the Bulgarians are closely at east and west. We receive as a help a Cossacks squadron. At the right, the cannon roar tremendously. We cannot stay in the village and we withdraw in the north. The night is slowly coming, with red sun at the sunset. I stay in a thresher and I search with the binocular the field. We sleep in straw, always bothered by the Bulgarian patrols. The Russian officers come for information, we give them tobacco and tea.

**On 1<sup>st</sup> of September<sup>9</sup>.** I receive the order to find the brigade in Caraomer. I gather the patrols and I leave, but I do not find it, a clutter instead of coaches and artillery that go towards the trenches. Aeroplanes threaten us. I look at the occupied trenches and in front of them wire networks. I send the riders to search the brigade, while I receive the division's order to go to Alibechioi and cover Caraomer – Cerchezchioi area. In leave in hurry, although the people's food has arrived; we take it with us. In trenches fierce fight can be seen after the cannons roar.

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.** The troops withdraw. I am alone; a Cassocks squadron. I leave to Ginaculi; the Bulgarians are there; I go to Cavaclar. It is raining; tobacco deposit; carts with injured people; Russians in trenches, I don't know where our people are.

**On 3<sup>rd</sup> of September<sup>10</sup>.** We ask about them at Medgidia station. The Division is at Topraisar. We leave. The commander sends us to Amzana. The enemy is in front of us. We are bombed by our own artillery; in Amzana; the brigade's arrival in the evening at Topraisar.

<sup>8</sup>On 26<sup>th</sup> of August /8<sup>th</sup> of September, Bazargic was assigned and Silistra was evacuated.

<sup>9</sup>On 1<sup>st</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> of September in Bazargic, there was the 17<sup>th</sup> Brigade – 9<sup>th</sup> Hunters Regiment and 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry; the 5<sup>th</sup> mixt Brigade in Ghelengic, north to Bazargic, and 6<sup>th</sup> mixt Brigade in Caraomer. On 1<sup>st</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> of September, the Russian – Romanian troops from Dobrogea star the withdrawl to Rasova-Cobadin-Tuzla.

<sup>10</sup>Between 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> of September there is the Rasova-Cobadin-Topraisar-Tusla line battle. A strong German-Bulgarian-Turkish offensive led by von Makensen was rejected by the Romanian-Russian troops.

**On 5<sup>th</sup> of September.** An aeroplane recognizes us. At 12 o'clock there is a bombardment. We leave. We go to the east. We arrive at Techirghiol Lake. We see Movila hotel; memories; in the evening we enter in Musurat. At night we receive food; I was dreaming a beautiful dance when I am awakened.

**On 6<sup>th</sup> of September.** We get up early and go to Techirghiol Lake in order to recognize the territory we are going to defend; we stay in a vineyard, behind the trenches, where we stay till 2 p.m. The action starts to Cobadin, where we receive order to stop; beautiful unnatural sunset on a picture; good result for us; the Bulgarians are destroyed; at Cobadin the Russians bomb; we enter in Osmanjaca in a big yard; under a shed, we sweep, make the fire and put straw; we sleep well because it was warm in the shed.

**On 7<sup>th</sup> of September.** At 6:30 we go to the field; silence, because the Bulgarians withdrew; the 3<sup>rd</sup> squadron comes; the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment leaves in search and we enter in Ebechiol; the watered is impossible because the water is dirty; the owner's house is devastated, great mourning, the bookcase is down, everything is destroyed by us; the warehouses full of grain are abandoned; we bake corn, the only food; in the evening we go to Osmanfaca, again, where we eat and sleep.

**On 8<sup>th</sup> of September.** Saint Mary. I receive the order to go in search to the sea; I leave; I arrive at Mursurat, where I find the 1<sup>st</sup> squadron; the ordered is changed; general offensive at Carlichioi; the fight on the ground; the brigade arrives; Pervelia; the owner's house is devastated; Ghelengic; the enemy's rejection; in the evening on the field; big fight in the right; wandering to find Caraghioi; we cannot water; the water is poisoned; at 7 o'clock nothing to eat; officers, people, horses.

**On 9<sup>th</sup> of September.** At 4 a.m. we get up; withdrawal order; we protect the withdrawal; the leaving for Musurat, then back to Muratan, then to Propaizar, where we eat in rain and go to occupy Amzacea; it is still raining, the infantry enter in Amzacea, we stay in the field with the artillery; we sleep, we are wet, the next day horses and people are dead, because of the rain and cold and hungry.

**On 10<sup>th</sup> of September.** In the rain we enter in Amzacea; at the canton we drink tea at the 9<sup>th</sup> C Regiment; Costică leaves, we are sorry, the mandate; after the lunch we leave for Carachioi and in the evening we are attacked by the enemy's artillery; we withdraw to Amzecea, make fire, and we sleep covered with straw; there were no houses because the Bulgarians fired them.

**On 11<sup>th</sup> of September.** In the morning it seems to be silence; we eat, take off our shoes to dry them; the rain stopped, but the wind did not; at 10 o'clock we ride our horses because we are attacked; we cover the left part; the troops withdraw to Topraisar; we dismount with the squadron in an orchard and open fire against a squadron; the enemy's artillery have noticed and shots over us and our horses; my sword scabbard is hit and also Lucia's left back leg is hit; the other horses escape and run;

I finish the munitions, but I cannot leave from the corn, because the artillery is still shooting; we had to stay in the corn till the artillery stopped the shooting; we had to gather the horses; in the evening we enter in Topraisar, where we eat and sleep in the straw; it was cold, the sky was clear with stars.

**On 12<sup>th</sup> of September.** We withdraw behind the trenches; I find the 8<sup>th</sup> Buzău Regiment and I find that my father is in Transilvania; a German aeroplane throws 5 bombs, without any result; in the evening we stay in Topraisar.

**On 13<sup>th</sup> of September.** We in the place of the reserved; a man is shoot; in the evening we go to Musurat.

**On 14<sup>th</sup> of September.** We leave to Unichioi; we water, we find oatmeal, we clean; I get hair dressed in the middle of the field; in front of us the Russian cannons roar.

**On 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> of September.** Break, a visit to the aeroplanes; the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> squadrons come; the installation in the only house; backgammon; Pripelnița.

**On 18<sup>th</sup> of September<sup>11</sup>.** At 9 a.m. we go to Ebechioi where the general Pavlov comes. We put the horses in the stables and we stay in the warehouse.

**On 19<sup>th</sup> of September.** It is raining heavily. We stay still; injured people arrive; the fight is in front of us; the cannon have roared all night and all day.

**On 20<sup>th</sup> of September.** We hear the Averescu's army crossing over the Danube; great joy; the rain stopped; we make tea and coffee; we play backgammon.

**On 21<sup>st</sup> of September.** At 3 o'clock in the morning we receive the order to go to Tusla and then the offensive goes to south to destroy the Bulgarian cavalry. The whole cavalry is gathered in south to Tusla. The Regiment is in recognition. The officers from Hasarlâc are waiting for me; they give me chop with mashed and Russian cigarettes; a very sympathetic lieutenant; Tatlageacul Mare was occupied; the artillery opens fire. The 2 battalions go and the Regiment goes, too; roaring cannon; we are in the middle of the field; it is still raining; the soldiers find a company and a squadron, they attack them, and catch many of them, a lieutenant was murdered. The Bulgarian company raise the hands as if they surrender, and when the Russians come close to them, they give grenades. I see a lieutenant on a stretcher with the head broken. I am terrible impressed; this fighter that come from somewhere and who knows how many regrets he left behind. The Bulgarian prisoners are bet by the Russians. In the evening we enter in Mangea Punar. The rain has stopped, but it is wet and mud in the field.

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<sup>11</sup>On 18<sup>th</sup> of September/1<sup>st</sup> of October – 22<sup>nd</sup> of September/5<sup>th</sup> of October, there was the Romanian counteroffensive try in Dobrogea led by the General Al. Averescu. After an initial success, the action is stopped, and the troops moved on the front from Carpathians, where the German-Austro-Hungarian offensive had become threatening. *Istoria României in date*, Editura Enciclopedică Română, București, 1972, p. 301).

**On 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.** We enter in Mangea Punar. It is situated on the sea shore, with a beautiful beach and a rich plantation. It is a German village, but abandoned now with the war. We stay still, because our front couldn't go forward, so we cannot venture. A Russian ship on the sea, bombs towards Perculi, which cannot be taken by us.

**On 24<sup>th</sup> of September.** At 2 o'clock a.m. we get up, at 3 a.m. we ride our horses to go in the trenches in order to rest the infantry. We ride to Tatlageacul Mare, where we leave the horses and then we walk; at 4:30 we enter in the trenches. The change is made only by night. Hardly have we entered, that a stream of weapons starts. Hardly have I mastered the people not to shoot, because it can't be seen anything and the munitions is consumed in vain. To start fire is something infectious; some begin to shoot and immediately the whole unit start to shoot without order and without seeing anything. The Bulgarian trenches are at 800 m in front; as far as someone raises his head, you hear the gun snapping. Life in trenches is running hard. We deepen the trenches. I dig together with the soldiers. The Bulgarian cannon projectiles pass over us to the Russian one. It is a big noise. Sometimes the Bulgarian cannon hit the trenches searching the ground. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron has a dead sergeant and an injured corporal. In the right, there is a Russian Regiment, then 9<sup>th</sup> Călărași and a Cossacks Regiment. So 4 cavalry regiments keep the left flank: that because the infantry miss. This thing disappoints us, because we see that there are few forces and such important front. In the evening 5 Russian ships come and bomb Tatlageacul Mic and the Bulgarian trenches, without any result. At night we see the moon, and we are lucky because it is full moon and the field can be perfectly seen in front of us. As the night has come, we dare to stand up from the ditches and come back to eat and get munitions. So the Bulgarians do, as we see their shadow behind their ditches. We do not shoot because they do not shoot either, as if it was a common decision to stand still, after a day of tension. I sleep in the trenches covered only with the mantle and I watch the moon, and my head is travelled by thousands of thoughts. I think of my family, left alone, my eyes fill with tears, I put my handkerchief to wipe tears over them and I make a cross.

**On 25<sup>th</sup> of September.** At 3 a.m. a stream starts again, in the left; the Russian artillery shoots, too. I calm the people to see till the Bulgarian trenches, where it can't be seen any move. They don't shoot. Hard hours we live, because death is always stalks us; German aeroplanes.

**On 26<sup>th</sup> of September.** It is cold overnight, and I sit on the ground I feel cold. I often cough and I get up, I dig to heat. The night isn't silent, at 2 a.m. the fires begin. During the day, we stand still in the trenches and rarely do we change a gunshot. The Bulgarians don't know it is cavalry, because they would attack for sure; artillery cannonades all day. We perfectly know what cannon shoots after their noise: ours have a long echo, the Russians, runny, rough noise, the Bulgarians have a metallic rattling, and those from the ships have a strong snap as if something crashed. We also

know the guns: ours roar and make a long echo, the Bulgarians make 2 noises. It is difficult life in trenches, you cannot move in that wet area, cannot take off clothes, not wash, be thirsty and hungry is not easy, especially for us, who were used to move. In the evening we receive some letters; I receive one from my wife, other from my grandpa, who only recommends me to take care with the flu, as if this was the biggest danger from here. When I don't receive letters it is better, because, when I receive I start longing for home and my eyes get wet. The man is weak, but if he has will, he goes forward. At night I walk along the trenches. I go in my sector and talk with 2 Russian officers, who know German, I give them cigarettes and they give me brandy.

**On 27<sup>th</sup> of September.** At 12 o'clock at night I am awakened. A soldier announces me that the infantry has come to change us, I get up and order my people to gather the guns and munitions, I speak with the company commander, who replace me and one by one go to Tatlageacul Mare. We eat and then sleep and at 6 o'clock we get up. We must move farther because the Bulgarian artillery is closer. We stay in a valley on the sea shore. The sun is hot; the sea is very calm and the soldiers have a bath as if it had been the biggest silence, although at about 1 Km the Russians shoot the Bulgarian artillery. Although I am cold I have a bath. I remembered the beautiful days from Vii and Mamaia.

14 German aeroplanes go towards Constanța. In the afternoon we watch the bombing of a German aeroplane by a Russian torpedo, without any result.

**On 28<sup>th</sup> of September.** We stand still. On the front it is silence, we cannot believe it. Two torpedoes try to come closer to the coast; an aeroplane throws 4 bombs, but does not hit, because the torpedo runs back. Two squadrons enter in the trenches.

**On 29<sup>th</sup> of September.** The heavy Bulgarian artillery shoots in front of us. In the afternoon, they shoot the torpedoes, without hit them. Pavlov, the commander of the unit, comes.

**On 30<sup>th</sup> of September.** It is a silent day. In the evening we receive the order to go back Horoslar, because the action is reduced to the entrance of the troops in the trenches.

**On 1<sup>st</sup> of October.** At midday the people from the trenches arrive. We prepare to leave, gathering the tents and chests and loading the carts. At 7:30 we leave through Mangea Punar, Carlichioi, Urlichioi, Hași Dului. Here we make a halt. Then we go, we through Palas to Palazul Mare and the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment to Horoslar. We arrive in the evening and we enter the village.

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.** We get better installed. I stay in an owner yard. I walk around the lake; I meet refugees from other villages. Over the lake it can be seen Mamaia. It can be seen Canara and Ovidiu Island; memories from 1907 and 1908.

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**On 5<sup>th</sup> of October.** The colonel is invited to the Cossacks Regiment which celebrates the patron. I go to Constanța. Russians are everywhere, sedentary and administration officers; many hospitals. The Casino is full with injures. In the evening, the colonel says that we can have 4 days of leave.

**On 6<sup>th</sup> of October**<sup>12</sup>. Very early I leave to Constanța by carriage; Romanian train, Russian train, sanitary train, again Russian train, which leaves me in Târgoviște by night at 12; the town is empty, no light.

**On 7<sup>th</sup> of October.** I stay with mine. My girl hardly comes close to me, because of the beard. I tell them what I have seen.

**On 8<sup>th</sup> of October**<sup>13</sup>. I receive telegram to come back. I suppose that terrible things have happened. I leave in the evening, get in Bucharest at 11 o'clock and I sleep in the waiting room.

**On 9<sup>th</sup> of October.** In the morning at 7, I continue to go, we arrive at Medgidia, we cannot go farther, we sleep in the train.

**On 10<sup>th</sup> of October.** We cannot go farther. The district ran to Hârșova and no one can give any information. In the afternoon Medgidia is bombed and we walk to Tartoman. The field is full with soldiers and carriages. It is heard that Constanța is occupied. We arrive in Tartoman late, we enter in the first house and we beg the Russians to give us some food.

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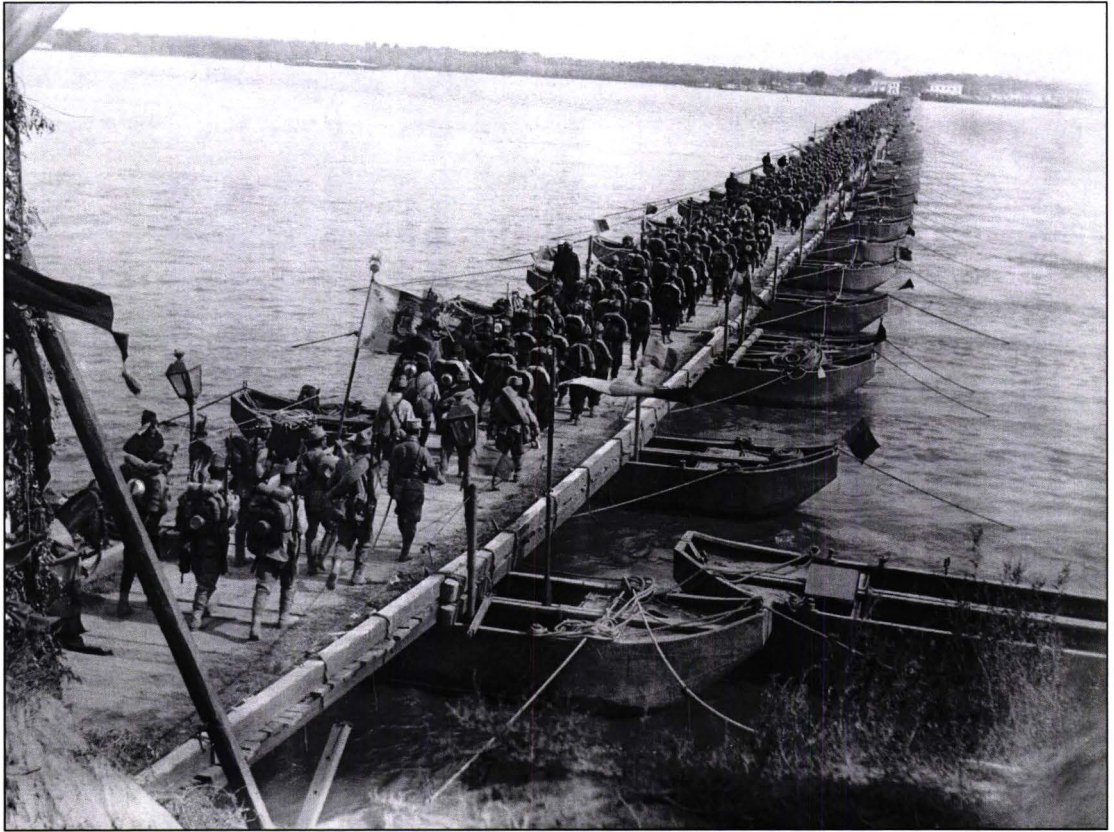
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<sup>12</sup>At 6<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> of October – 8<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> of October a strong German – Bulgarian offensive takes place in Dobrogea. The Romanian-Russian front is destroyed.

<sup>13</sup>At 9<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> of October the German – Bulgarian troops occupy Constanța.



1916 - Aspects during the battles from Dobrogea.