

# A Short Review over the Evacuation of the Administrative Archives of Caliacra and Durostor Counties Following the Cession of Southern Dobrudja in 1940

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Previous to establish the sense of our investigation, it is necessary to specify that in a first instance we intended to approach the matter of the evacuation of all the categories of documents belonging to the National Archival Fonds that had been created in Caliacra and Durostor counties between 1913 and 1940, meaning in the period when they were part of Romania. Unfortunately, the documentary testimonies identified by now have not allowed us to completely clarify the issue. Henceforth, the present study confines itself to the administrative archives that had been evacuated from the two counties in the second half of 1940, as a consequence of the cession of Southern Dobrudja towards Bulgaria. However, the precursory moments had taken place in the summer of 1939.

The failure of the British-French-Soviet negotiations<sup>1</sup> on the one side, and the conclusion of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Agreement on August 23, 1939<sup>2</sup> – that shared the domination and influence areas in Eastern Europe – on the other directed towards a new conflict. Only few days after, having the deterioration of the international relationship in the background, the Second World War would outbreak, on September 1, 1939, when Poland was invaded by the Germans<sup>3</sup>.

After the opening of the military operations and the proclaiming of the Romanian neutrality on September 6, 1939, the diminishing of the political-military isolation and the preservation of the territorial integrity of the country became the major objectives for the Romanian diplomats.

It was during the first months of 1940 when, having the divergences of opinions and national interests as background, the co-operation relations inside of the Balkan Agreement deteriorated. The growing process of political isolation of Romania and the more and more intense pressures exerted by nazi Germany – which

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<sup>1</sup> *România în relații internaționale 1699-1939* (coord. by Leonid Boicu, Vasile Cristian, Gheorghe Platon), Iași, 1980, p. 517; Ioan Talpeș, *Diplomație și apărare. Coordonate ale politicii externe românești 1933-1939*, Bucharest, 1988, p. 307; Viorica Moisuc, *Premisele izolării politice a României (1919-1940)*, Bucharest, 1991, p. 361-362; Eric Hobsbawm, *O istorie a secolului XX. Era extremelor. 1914-1991* (transl. by Liliana Ionescu), Bucharest, 1999, p. 165-166.

<sup>2</sup> In this sense, see generally Em. Bold, I. Ciupercă, *Europa în derivă (1918-1940). Din istoria relațiilor internaționale*, Iași, 2001, p. 221-257; Gh. Buzatu, *România și Marile Puteri (1939-1947)*, Bucharest, 2003, p. 41-52.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 55; V. Moisuc, *op. cit.*, p. 362-366; I. Talpeș, *op. cit.*, p. 329.

needed the Romanian grains and oil in order to maintain a far-reaching conflict – on the one side, along with the Allies' failures on the Western front and King Charles II's wish to preserve his throne, would represent the main causes of the new direction of the Romanian policy towards the Axis powers. Thus, on May 28, 1940, the renunciation to the traditional foreign policy of Romania and the approaching to Germany were discussed and recommended in a broadened assembly ordered by the Romanian king and assisted by the main members of the Council of Ministers<sup>4</sup>.

The new political-diplomatic direction proved to be unrealistic for the Romanian political circles, since Germany was not interested in preserving the *statu quo* of Romania and neither was willing to take any pledge in this sense. Therefore, consequent to the ultimati on June 26-27, 1940 directed to Bucharest, the Soviets occupied Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and the county of Herța. Naturally, the revisionist approaches of Bulgaria and Hungary were amplified.

On July 4, 1940, King Charles II encharged Ion Gigurtu to form the government, the portofolio of the Foreign Affairs being entrusted to Mihail Manoilescu<sup>5</sup>. Confronted with all possible pressures, the two statemen visited Berlin and Rome on July 26-27, 1940, discussing with Hitler, Ribbentrop, Mussolini and Ciano, the conclusion being that the Romanian state should peacefully satisfy the Hungarian and Bulgarian territorial claims. The Treaty of Vienna on August 30, 1940, by virtue of which Hungary annexed Northeastern Transylvania, would be followed by the Treaty of Craiova. Practically, Romania was forced to cede Southern Dobrudja to Bulgaria, that is Caliacra and Durostor counties<sup>6</sup>.

Thus, it resulted the Romanian-Bulgarian Conference in Craiova, which proceedings took place between August 19 and September 7. It had to settle the technical matters of the treaty's form, territorial matters, exchange of population<sup>7</sup> and last but not least the indemnifications. It is no less true that since August 8 the government of Marea Country summoned the prefects of Caliacra, Constanța, Durostor and Ialomița counties, in order to settle some decisions regarding the evacuation of the Romanian inhabitants in Southern Dobrudja (Cadrilater). Six days later, the Royal Governor of Marea Country, Traian E. Grigorescu, submitted *Studiul asupra evacuării județelor Durostor și Caliacra* [*Study upon the evacuation of Durostor and Caliacra counties*] to the superior authorities involved in the settlement of this dispute. The study enumerated the basic principles that were to be implemented during the process<sup>8</sup>. Moreover, between August 15 and 20, the Office

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<sup>4</sup> Academia Română, *Istoria Românilor*, VIII: *România întregită 1918-1940* (coord. by Ioan Scurtu), Bucharest, 2003, p. 546.

<sup>5</sup> Stelian Neagoe, *Istoria Guvernelor României de la începuturi – 1859 până în zilele noastre – 1995*, Bucharest, 1995, p. 135.

<sup>6</sup> Adrian Rădulescu, Ion Bitoleanu, *Istoria Dobrogei*, second revised edition, Constanța, 1998, p. 438.

<sup>7</sup> Virgil Coman, *Mișcări de populație în ținutul dintre Dunăre și Marea Neagră. Meglenoromâni între 1940-1948*, in *Dobrogea – model de conviețuire multietnică și multiculturală* (coord. by Virgil Coman), Constanța, 2008, p. 299-337.

<sup>8</sup> Valentin Ciorbea, *Evoluția Dobrogei între anii 1918-1944. Contribuții la cunoașterea problemelor geopolitice, economice, demografice, sociale și ale vieții politice și militare*,

of Evacuation was established in Marcea Country and on August 20 it issued *Instrucțiuni în vederea evacuării Dobrogei de Sud (Cadrilaterul)* [*Instructions regarding the evacuation of Southern Dobruđja (Cadrilater)*]. They brought a series of completions and changes to the document issued on August 14 by the Royal Governor Traian E. Grigorescu<sup>9</sup>.

The evacuation of the archives<sup>10</sup> was stipulated in *Capitolul XII – Diverse* [*Chapter XII – Miscellanea*]:

*“Autoritățile vor pregăti din timp arhivele ce trebuie luate procurându-se lăzile necesare. Pentru actele de stare civilă se va proceda astfel: pentru nașteri și morți, pentru anii trecuți începând de la 1913, urmează să se ia registrele de stare civilă de la tribunal; pentru anul în curs, comunele urmează să ridice toate dosarele privind pe locuitorii ce se evacuează; asemenea actele de naționalitate. Comunele locuite numai de români vor ridica întreaga arhivă, iar acele comune care nu au depus registrele la tribunal sau nu le au la curent pe cele în curs pentru tribunal, le vor ridica pe cele originale, urmând ca ulterior să se înapoieze, după ce vor fi copiate.*

*Domnii prefecti vor da ordine precise, controlând executarea acestei prescripții.*

*Se vor ridica toate cazierile funcționarilor care se evacuează. De asemenea actele fondului pentru concentrați, soldul comunelor, sinistrați etc.*

The authorities will prepare the archives that should be taken in time, by providing the necessary chests. For the acts of civil status one should proceed this way: for births and deceases in the past years since 1913, the registers of civil status should be taken from the court; for the present year, the communes should collect all files that regard the inhabitants that are to be evacuated. The same is for the acts regarding nationality. The communes inhabited exclusively by Romanians will collect the whole archive, while those communes that had not hand the registers in the court or have not those [acts] that are current in order for the court will collect the originals, and following their copy they [the acts, emphasis mine] would be returned.

The prefects will issue precise orders, controlling this regulation's putting into practice.

All the evacuated functionaries' records will be collected. The same is for the acts of the fonds for those reservists, the communes' balance, the victims of disasters, etc.”<sup>11</sup>.

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Constanța, 2005, p. 260; see also Ion Giurcă and Ion Crînguș, *Cedarea și evacuarea Cadrilaterului în anul 1940, în Dobrogea 1878-2008. Orizonturi deschise de mandatul european* (coord. by Valentin Ciorbea), Constanța, 2008, p. 463.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 463-464.

<sup>10</sup> For this topic, see also V. Coman, *Unele considerații privind evacuarea arhivelor din Dobrogea de Sud ca urmare a aplicării prevederilor Tratatului de la Craiova din 7 septembrie 1940*, “Arma Pontica”, no 3 (12), October 2012, p. 10-12.

<sup>11</sup> Florica Dobre, Vasilica Manea, Lenuța Nicolescu, *Anul 1940. Armata română de la ultimatum la dictat. Documente*, III, București, 2000, p. 103-104.

The evacuations began as far back as in August 17 august. By August 20, only the cattles, especially the ships, were transported. Beginning with this date the inhabitants began also to be evacuated, so that by September 3 the number of families was 5,249, meaning 17,933 inhabitants, who were transported with around 15,000 carts in established settlements<sup>12</sup>.

On September 6, 1940, King Charles II abdicated and in the same day his successor Michael was sworn as king. At the same time, the political regime in Romania came into a new stage of evolution, in which the prevailing figure would be Ion Antonescu<sup>13</sup>. Taking advantage of increased powers conferred to him by the decree signed by the new king, the new prime-minister would assume the mission of the state surveillance since the very first day of his office, under the new circumstances of the territorial losses in the summer of 1940<sup>14</sup>. The treaty of Craiova would be signed on the very next day by Alexandru Cretzianu and Henri G. Meitani from the Romanian side and by Svetoslav Pomenov and T. Papazoff in the name of the Bulgarian delegation<sup>15</sup>. It had seven articles, subsequently followed by a “*Protocol la articolul I al Tratatului semnat la Craiova la 7 septembrie 1940 (Anexa A)* [Protocol to Article 1 of the Treaty concluded at Craiova on September 7, 1940]”, and then by “*Acord privitor la modalitățile de evacuare și de transferare a*

<sup>12</sup> Virgil Coman and Nicoleta Grigore, *Schimbul de populație româno-bulgar. Implicațiile asupra românilor evacuați. Documente (1940-1948)*, Constanța, 2010, p. 133-136.

<sup>13</sup> Academia Română, *Istoria românilor* cit., VIII, p. 598.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 565-598. For the matter of the Romanian-Bulgarian population exchange and its implications over the evacuation of the Romanians as they were debated in the assemblies of the Council of Ministers during Ion Antonescu government, see generally Arhivele Naționale ale României, *Stenogramele ședințelor Consiliului de Miniștri. Guvernarea Ion Antonescu, I-XI: Septembrie 1940-august 1944*, Bucharest, 1997-2008.

<sup>15</sup> For the Treaty of Craiova on September 7, 1940 and its implications, see also Ministerul Regal al Afacerilor Străine, *Tratat între România și Bulgaria semnat la Craiova, 7 septembrie 1940*, Bucharest, 1940, p. 4-18; Dimitrie Gherasim, *Schimbul de populații între state*, Bucharest, 1943, p. 88-115; V. Ciorbea, *op. cit.*, p. 449-480; Idem, *Tratatul de la Craiova (7 septembrie 1940)*, “România de la Mare” 3 (1994), 3-4, p. 55; Adrian Năstase, *Drepturile persoanelor aparținând minorităților naționale – Reglementări în dreptul românesc – 1918-1989*, III (ed. by Roxana Frailich), Bucharest, 1998, p. 245-255; Ion Giurcă, *Anul 1940. Drama României Mari*, Bucharest, 2000, p. 148-181; Dorel Baneș, *Social și național în politica guvernului Antonescu*, Bucharest, 2005, *passim*; Gheorghe Zbucnea, *Tratatul de la Craiova – parte integrantă a Dictatului de la Viena*, “Document. Buletinul Arhivelor Militare Române” 3 (2000), 2 (10), 2000, p. 25-32; Corneliu Mihail Lungu, Ioana Alexandra Negreanu, *România în jocul Marilor Puteri 1939-1940* (second edition, with an introd. by Dinu C. Giurescu), Bucharest, 2003, *passim*; Aurel Preda-Mătășaru, *Tratatul între România și Bulgaria semnat la Craiova la 7 septembrie 1940. Trecut și prezent*, Bucharest, 2004, *passim*; Constantin Tudor, *Administrația românească în Cadrilater, (1913-1940)*, Călărași, 2005, p. 300-309; George Ungureanu, *Chestiunea Cadrilaterului. Interese românești și revizionism bulgar (1938-1940)*, Bucharest, 2005, p. 111-129; Idem, *Problema Cadrilaterului în contextul relațiilor româno-bulgare (1919-1940)*, Brăila, 2009, p. 355-359; Cătălin Negoită, *Țara uitată. Cadrilaterul în timpul administrației românești 1913-1940*, Craiova, 2008, p. 460-518; I. Crînguș & I. Giurcă, *Cedarea și evacuarea Cadrilaterului în anul 1940*, Râmnicu Vâlcea, 2010, p. 9-410; Fl. Dobre & V. Manea & L. Nicolescu, *op. cit.*, p. 1-392; V. Coman & N. Grigore, *op. cit.*, p. 7-422.

teritoriului (Anexa B) [Agreement regarding the methods of evacuation and transfer of the territory (Appendix B)]”, “*Declarațiune* [Statement]”, “*Acordul privitor la schimbul de populație română și bulgară (Anexa C)* [Agreement regarding the exchange of Romanian and Bulgarian population (Appendix C)]” and “*Acord financiar (Anexa D)* [Financial Agreement (Appendix D)]”<sup>16</sup>.

The situation of the archives was stipulated on point 2 in Appendix B, as follows:

*“Arhivele comunelor și județelor, ca și arhivele tribunalelor și celorlalte autorități publice de stat existând în teritoriul transferat Bulgariei, vor fi remise autorităților bulgare. De asemenea, li se vor remite planurile cadastrale care sunt depuse în teritoriul transferat. În ceea ce privește planurile și registrele cadastrale depuse la București și alte documente, se vor remite guvernului bulgar copii certificate.*”

The archives of the communes and counties, along with those of the courts and other state public authorities on the territory transferred to Bulgaria, will be delivered to the Bulgarian authorities. The cadastral plans in the transferred territory will be also delivered. As for the cadastral plans and registers deposited in Bucharest and other documents, copies will be remitted to the Bulgarian government.”<sup>17</sup>

The responsibility over the evacuation and transport of the inhabitants subject to the compulsory exchange of population devolved upon the Romanian-Bulgarian Mixed Committee, in co-operation with the General Commissariat for Population Exchange and with the Romanian and Bulgarian military and administrative authorities<sup>18</sup>.

The setting up of the General Plan for Evacuation devolved upon the General Commissariat, in agreement to the Mixed Commission. As the head of this organism a general commissary was appointed, whose office would be legally fulfilled by the Royal Governor of Marea Country, under the instructions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Nevertheless, the General Commissariat did not practically take the part invested with, especially after the abolition of the royal governments, the structure most highly involved in the operation of the population exchange being therefore the Romanian-Bulgarian Mixed Commission<sup>19</sup>.

The situation of the personal properties and buildings was also regulated, so that the Bulgarians that were subject to the population exchange were to lose their initial citizenship and the rural real goods of the inhabitants transferred were considered “abandoned goods” and became part of the state. As for the urban real goods, they remained in the possessions of the keepers, getting under the jurisdiction of the country on which territory they were. Meanwhile, the persons that were

<sup>16</sup> “Monitorul Oficial”, part I, no 212 in September 12, 1940, p. 5351-5365.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 5355.

<sup>18</sup> D. Gherasim, *op. cit.*, p. 100.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 102.

subject of population exchange had the right to keep the personal properties, cattles, agricultural implements, etc. The rural goods in Caliacra and Durostor counties that belonged to the Romanian population that was not subject to the transfer could be liquidated in a term of 18 months after the remission of the ratification instruments, after which date they being able to be expropriated by indemnification by the Bulgarian state.

The evacuation of the Romanian authorities from Southern Dobrudja and the settlement of the Bulgarian ones was supposed to take place in the period between September 20 and October 1, 1940, every day and hour being specified so that the convoys of the countries do not come into contact<sup>20</sup>. However, on September 9, 1940, the leadership of the Direction of the State Administration in the Ministry of Interior transmitted Telegram no 14.074 A to the Royal Governor of Marea Country, in which he mentions the general and particular instructions regarding the decisions to be taken in order that the Romanian-Bulgarian population exchange take place in optimal circumstances. This goal would have been finalised by December 15, 1940<sup>21</sup>.

On its turn, the leadership of the government of Marea Country, through the agency of the Evacuation Office set up and submitted several instructiuns in the territory, according to which it described in detail the instructions that were to be fulfilled by the organisms involved in the evacuation process. According to them, the authorities had the obligation to fulfill tasks such as: the extremely detailed preparation of the evacuation; the settlement of those evacuated and of the resources inside Marea Country, where their definitive residence was to be established; the evacuation and placing depending on the *plase*, led by persons that were to prepare and coordinate the entire operation; the locations settled for those evacuated, and so on.

In order to develop the evacuation process under the best circumstances, the Government of Marea Country-Office of Evacuation also issued Instructions No 4554 on September 3, 1940, which stipulated that the fulfillment of this goal would be put into practice after the negotiations in Craiova. Afterwards, they detailed the manner of evacuation for the authorities and their obligations, the limits of the new boundary and the control of the evacuation activity, the proceedings of the transfer of the public real goods, how the ceded territory would be evacuated, the situation of the abandoned harvests, and so on<sup>22</sup>. On September 9, the same authorities completed the above instructions with supplementary data, consequent to the conclusion of the Treaty of Craiova on September 7<sup>23</sup>. Regarding the situation of the archives, the instructions contained the same proceedings as Appendix B of this treaty.

Actually, the Romanian authorities applied the proceedings of the instructions in August 20, the archives of the Caliacra and Durostor prefect's offices being temporarily evacuated, along with those of preturac of *plasă*, townhouses and

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<sup>20</sup> Ministerul Regal al Afacerilor Străine, *Tratat între România și Bulgaria*, p. 4-18.

<sup>21</sup> V. Coman & N. Grigore, *op. cit.*, p. 142-144.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 136-142.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 144-149.

other institutions. They were moved to Constanța and Ialomița counties and delivered to the prefect's offices, preturæ and townhouses in these two counties, where the refugees were initially settled<sup>24</sup>.

According to the documents in the administration of Constanța County Office of the National Archives, it was on September 30, 1940 when the delivery-receiving minutes were signed for the archive of Durostor Technical Office to the prefect's office of Ialomița county, and on November 1 the one of Durostor prefect's office<sup>25</sup>. As for the archive of Caliacra Technical Office, it was delivered to the prefect's office of Constanța county on the basis of the minutes on October 3, 1940, and on October 23 for the Caliacra prefect's office was deposited in 131 chests<sup>26</sup>.

The data centralised at the level of the prefect's office of Constanța county demonstrate that the process of delivery-receiving of the archives evacuated from Caliacra county took place between October 1, 1940 and March 15, 1941<sup>27</sup>. Henceforth, the praetura of the *plasa* Mangalia took over the archives of the praeturae of the *plasa* Balcic, the praetura of the *plasa* Constanța the one of the praeturae of the *plasa* Șabla, and the praetura of the *plasa* Negru Vodă the one of the praetura of the *plasa* Casim. On its turn, the townhouse of Constanța took over the archive of the townhouse of the city of Bazargic, the townhouse of the city of Mangalia the one of the townhouse of the city of Balcic, the townhouse of the city of Medgidia the one of the townhouse of the city of Cavarna, and the townhouse of the communes of Viroaga, Movila Verde, Agigea, Schitu, Cumpăna, Chirnogeni, Valu lui Traian, Bărăganu, Biruința, Darabani, Măgura, Cotu Văii, Osmancea, Albești, Tătaru, Techirghiol, Viișoara, Vâlcele, Tuzla, and Lipnița the archives of the communes of Arman, Carali, Ceairlighiol, Dropia, Duranlar, Chirnogeni, I. Gh. Duca, Gargalâc, Ghiaur-Suiuciu Șabla, Regina Maria, Preselenți, Prisăcani, Rogojina, Rasoviceni, Albești, Șerpeni, Spasova, Teche, Unirea, Vasilieva, Vulturești, and Chiose <Aidin?>/<Abdi?> respectively<sup>28</sup>.

According to *Tabloul de arhivele administrațiilor locale din Cadrilater lăsate în păstrare în județul Ialomița* [Table of the archives of the local administrations in Cadrilater preserved in Ialomița county], the townhall of the city of Călărași had already taken the archives of the townhalls of the cities of Silistra and Turtucaia under its administration, while the townhalls of the communes Pietroiu, Cocargeaua (nowadays Borcea), Gâldău, Șocariciu (nowadays Unirea), Perișoru, Gârbovi, Valea Măcrișului, Bărcănești, Manasia, Coșereni, Eliza Stoienești (nowadays Pelinu), Grindași, Amara, Bora, Ghimbășani, Grivița, Ion Ghica, Miloșești, Pribegi, Traian, Cacomeanca (nowadays Grădiștea), Carol I (nowadays Nicolae Bălcescu), Dichiseni (partly), Găunoși (nowadays Gălățui), Mircea Vodă, Ulmu, Zimbru, Roseți, Ciocănești, Rasa, Cocora, Balaciu, Andrășești, Căzănești, Ciochina, Sf. Gheorghe, Dragalina, Mihai Viteazu, Ștefănești, Lehliu, Dor Mărunt,

<sup>24</sup> SJAN Constanța, fond Prefectura județului Constanța, file 69/1940, p. 158.

<sup>25</sup> Idem, fond Rezidența Ținutului Marea, file 20/1940 p. 59-59v, 96.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 2, 9-10, 12, 19, 24-27.

<sup>27</sup> Idem, fond Prefectura județului Constanța, file 69/1940, p. 171.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibidem*.

Răzvani, Radu Vodă, and Rași had taken those of Sahinlar, Beibunar, Pândâcli, Ghiulerchioi, Avdula, Curt-Bunar, Căzâlgicli, Cainargeaua Mare, Asfatchioi, Covangilar, Uzulchioi, Vischioi, Rahman-Așiclar, Denizler, Cusuul din Vale, Ezibei, Hardali, Ghelengic, Cămilaru, General Stan Poetaș, Hasi-Kioseler, Ceamurlia, Srebârna, Bazarghian, Haschioi, Arabagi, Golebina, Calipetrova, Garvăn Cioara, Bosna, Aidemir, Vetrina, Popina, Doimușlar, Kilikadi, Bazaurt, Stejaru, Florica, Echiscea, Bairam-Bunar, Aiorman, Caraorman, Balabanlar, Acadânlar, Doccelar, Sungurlar, Ciler, and Baharchioi respectively<sup>29</sup>.

Towards the end of 1940 and during the first months of the next year, the Direction of Local Administration inside of the Ministry of Interior asked repeatedly to the Prefect's Office of Constanța county for situations regarding the state of the operations of delivery-receiving of the archives evacuated from Southern Dobrudja.

On March 11, 1941, address no. 005388 of the Ministry of Interior – Direction of the State Administration remitted to the Prefect's Office of Constanța county specified among others that:

*“Întrucât între timp, Comisariatul Populațiunii evacuate și al recolonizării din Dobrogea a dispus în parte așezarea multor coloniști, trimițându-i pe comune întregi și în județul Tulcea, Ministerul Afacerilor Interne nu mai cunoaște locul unde se află arhivele fostelor primării din Cadrilater, dacă au rămas tot la primăriile din județele Constanța și Ialomița sau au fost duse în județul Tulcea. Față de această situațiune, vă rugăm să binevoiți a da dispozițiuni organelor din subordine să cerceteze la primăriile din județul dvs. dacă au în păstrare arhivele în cauză. Rezultatul centralizat, vă rugăm a-l trimite ministerului, într-un timp cât mai scurt.*

Since in the meantime the Commissariat of the evacuated population and for the recolonisation in Dobrudja disposed partly the settlement of many colonists by sending them in many communes and in Tulcea county, the Ministry of Interior was not able to know anymore where the archives of the former townhalls from Cadrilater were, whether they still remained at the townhalls in Constanța and Ialomița counties or were taken to Tulcea county. Confronted by such a situation, we ask you to be willing to give orders to the subordinate organisms to make a research in the townhalls in your county in order to find out whether they preserve the abovementioned archives. We ask you to send the centralised result to the ministry as soon as possible.”<sup>30</sup>

The situation of the archives evacuated from Southern Dobrudja was unclear even for the General Commissariat of Dobrudja in Constanța, as it results from address no. 12772 on April 24, 1941:

*“Avem onoarea a vă înainta în original un tablou de comunele evacuate din județele Durostor și Caliacra, cu arătarea comunelor din județele Tulcea și*

<sup>29</sup> SJAN Ialomița, fond Prefectura județului Ialomița, file 283/1941, p. 63-68.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 167-167v.



*Constanța unde au fost repartizate. Totodată, vă aducem la cunoștință că repartizarea s-a făcut în mod provizoriu, iar ultima rubrică referitoare la arhive nu a putut fi completată din lipsă de date.*

We are honoured to forward the original of a table of the communes evacuated from Durostor and Caliacra counties, specifying the communes in Tulcea and Constanța counties where they were allocated. Meanwhile, we inform you that the allocation was done temporarily, while the last heading referring to the archives could not be completed because of the lack of data."<sup>31</sup>

Unfortunately, the evacuation of the archives from Caliacra and Durostor counties took place in haste and the personnel involved in this activity did not respect completely the provisions of the evacuation plan. Thus, on January 21, 1941, the Prefect's office of Tulcea county informed the Prefect's office of Ialomița county that the archive of the townhall of Trupcilar was already in the possession of the former mayor, Manea A. Leu, settled in the commune of Turda, Tulcea county. At the same time, it requested to be ordered to the subordinated authorities to take this archive in order to be delivered to the townhall of Muntenii-Buzău, since the former councillor had had no possibility to transfer it there<sup>32</sup>. On January 29, 1941, the notary of the townhall of Carol I in Ialomița county delivered a report to the prefect's office in which he presented the case of the archive of the townhall of Frașari, temporarily evacuated to the townhall of Roseți. He also requested to be ordered to the secretary Ion Pană, who administered it, to finalise the proceedings of delivery-receiving<sup>33</sup>. Another example is the one of the archive of the townhall of Carasular that should be taken by the townhall of Bordușelu, Ialomița county, but had been delivered by the former mayor Gheorghe Voicu, originated in Chirnoieni, Constanța county, on January 30, 1941, to the townhall there<sup>34</sup>.

According to the report of the former notary of the townhall of Dragoș Vodă, dated February 7, 1941, it results that he had transferred the archive to Constanța through the agency of the Police of Bazargic previous to the evacuation of Southern Dobruja, since he had worked as informer at the Romanian-Bulgarian mixed Commission as encharged by the Ministry of Interior. In the moment when this document was created, the archive was in his possession and he was supposed to deliver it to the townhall of Slobozia Nouă<sup>35</sup>. It was neither the townhall of Sărățeni to finalise the documentation for delivery-receiving of the archive of the townhall of, and neither the townhall of Rovine for the archive of the townhall of Enigea, as it results from a report of the praetura of *plasa* of Căzănești submitted to the prefect's office of Ialomița county on February 14, 1941<sup>36</sup>. On his turn, the former mayor of the commune of Belica would make a request to the prefect of Ialomița county so

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<sup>31</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 158.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 22.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 23.

<sup>34</sup> *Idem*, file 282/1941, p. 12.

<sup>35</sup> *Idem*, file 283/1941, p. 33.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 34.

that the archive of this townhall, temporarily deposited at Oltenița, be transferred at the townhall of Moldoveni<sup>37</sup>.

We consider as illustrative the several examples that clearly attest that the plans of evacuation for the archives in Caliacra and Durostor counties were precisely put into practice. Moreover, alongside the final settlement of the refugees from Ialomița county to the counties of Constanța and Tulcea, a part of these archives were the subject of another process of transference, which would not remain without effects. Henceforth, some of them were destroyed during the evacuation, while some others in the following years, because of the negligence of the office workers that were supposed to take care of them<sup>38</sup>, of the disasters during the Second World War and even as a result of some fires. The latter was the case for the archive of the prefect's office of Caliacra county, destroyed in the evening between July 28 and 29, 1948 when the basement of the prefect's office of Constanța county where the documents were deposited broke out in flames. According to the minute set up by the commission nominated to search the causes of fire, it was mentioned that "*în starea în care se găsește această arhivă a Prefecturii jud. Constanța, fostului Ținut Marea precum și fostei Prefecturi Caliacra pe anii 1919-1943 inclusiv, care de asemeni se găsea depozitată în subsolul acestei clădiri, cu greu se mai poate reconstitui vreun act ce eventual s-ar cere de vreo instituție sau particular* [considering the state of this archive at the prefect's office of Constanța county, the former Marea country and the former prefect's office of Caliacra for years 1919-1943, which was also deposited in the basement of this building, it is extremely difficult to restore any act that could be requested by any institution or private person]"<sup>39</sup>.

However, in order to have a clearer image of the complex matter of the archives' evacuation from Caliacra and Durostor counties, it is undoubtedly necessary to endeavour a detailed research of the documents issued by both the administrative authorities and the other institutions where they had been temporarily transferred.

*Translated from Romanian by Șerban V. Marin*

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<sup>37</sup> Idem, file 282/1941, p. 11.

<sup>38</sup> For the archive evacuated in Ialomița county that suffered destructions due to the negligence of the office workers involved in its care, see also Nicolae Țiripan, *Arhivele Naționale - 50 de ani de activitate. În anii '50 istoria se păstra în pod*, "Pământul" 8 (632), February 28-March 6 2002, p. 3. Actually, we should thank for our better knowledge of the topic to the goodwill of our colleague Nicolae Țiripan, who identified several documents regarding this matter in Călărași branch of the National Archives and sent us a series of copies. For this reason we express our gratitude. See for instance BJAN Călărași, file 1/1952, p. 10-11, 40-41v; file 1/1953, p. 12-13, 16, 150-151v.

<sup>39</sup> SJAN Constanța, fond Inspectoratul General Administrativ Constanța, file 5/1948, p. 62.