

## **ROMANIAN CAMPAIGNS, 1916-1918**

### A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

#### **CONTENTS**

Overview.....p.1

General Sources.....p.2

#### **OVERVIEW**

Romania's role in the wartime alliance system mirrored that of Italy. Both were allied with Austria-Hungary, but the treaties stipulated that they were obligated to go to war only if Austria-Hungary was attacked. Like Italy, Romania argued that their neighbor to the north-west had started the war. Romania began the war as a neutral nation but by 1916, following the Brusilov Offensive, joined the Allies. The 17 Aug 1916 alliance included, among other demands, Romanian rights over Transylvania, where Romanians were an ethnic majority. Ten days later, a declaration of war was followed by three Romanian armies attacking the southern Carpathians and Transylvania. Russia provided some troops under General Zaionchkovsky, but no logistical support to face four Austro-Hungarian divisions which moved to reinforce the lines of Central Powers troops.

The German response to the Romanian attack was a dual assault, General von Falkenhayn (recently relieved as German Army Chief of Staff, moved along an inland route and General von Mackensen with Bulgarian, Ottoman and German troops from Bulgaria along the coast. Romanians under General Averescu retreated into the mountains and the offensive ended by early October. After battles at Turtucaia (6 Sep), Hațeg (18 Sep), Hermannstadt/Sibiu (26 Sep) and Flămânda (1-2 Oct).

Bulgarian troops captured Turnu Roșu Pass, a Romanian attack at Kronstact/Brașov on 4 October was halted, and by 26 Oct, Romania was back within its pre-war borders. On the coast, Mackensen launched a new offensive, forcing a combined Romanian-Russian army under Zaionchkovsky to withdraw from Constanța on 22 Oct. So successful was Mackensen's advance that he pulled half of his force back to Bulgaria to prepare for a move across the Danube.

German offensive operations dominated the autumn of 1916. Falkenhayn probed the mountain passes, then moved the elite Alpen Korps into Vulcan Pass (10 Nov), which began to push the Romanian Army through the mountains and onto the Hungarian Plain. Mackensen then crossed the Danube at Sistova on 23 Nov and launched an all-out assault toward Bucharest.

Ground down by repeated Central Power offensives, and poorly supplied with winter approaching, new Fourth Romanian Army commander, General Constantine Prezan sought Russian assistance, which did not come. He assaulted anyway and by 6 Dec Falkenhayn's cavalry captured Bucharest, forcing Russia to commit troops to defend its unstable southern border. By Mid-1917, most of Romania was in Russian hands, although the north remained independent. In May, Romanian troops supported the disastrous Kerensky Offensive; Mackensen's counterattack led to the Battle of Mărășești, which Romania did win. Unoccupied lands and the capital, Iași, were free but in occupied lands, Germany began to repair oil fields (Ploiești) and requisition grain and other supplies from the population. When the Russian Revolution led to the Treaty of Brest Litovsk, Germany surrounded Romania, forcing the separate Treaty of Bucharest, which surrendered coastal lands to Bulgaria and the mouth of the Danube to the Central Powers.

### **GENERAL SOURCES**

- Bayne, Joseph B. Bugs and Bullets. NY: R.R. Smith, 1944. 256 p. D629.R7.B3.  
Maryland doctor who volunteered, served as a surgeon with the British and remained behind when his hospital in Bucharest was evacuated before German capture.
- Bujac, Jean L.É. Campagnes de l'Armée Roumaine, 1916-1919. Paris: Charles-Lavauzelle, 1933. 254 p. D565.A2.B8.
- Clark, Charles U. United Roumania. NY: Arno, 1971 printing of update of author's 1932 Greater Rumania. 418 p. DR205.C532.
- Compton, T.E. "The Rumanian Campaign, 1916-17." Royal United Service Institute Journal (RUSI) (Aug 1918): pp. 418-37. Per.
- Davis, Edward. "The German Cavalry in the Roumanian Campaign-1916." Cavalry Journal (Nov/Dec 1933): pp. 5-13. Per.  
Kronstadt; Wallachia (Nov/Dec 1916).
- "Descriptive Record of Work Done by 85<sup>th</sup> Field Company, R.E. During Reconnaissance in Force Across the Struma in September 1916." Royal Engineers Journal (Jun 1920): pp. 334-35. Per.
- von Falkenhayn, Erich. "The Campaign of the 9<sup>th</sup> German Army Against the Rumanians and Russians, 1916-1917." [Translation of Feldzug der 9. Armee Gegen de Rumänen und Russen, 1916/17 by P.B. Harm] 2 vols. Typescript, 192-? D550.F3513.  
Pt. 1 "The Triumphal Progress Through Transylvania" Pt 2 "The Combats and Victories in Rumania.
- Frerk, Friedrich W. Der Siegeszug durch Rumänien. Siegan: Montanus, 1917. 159 p. D565.A2.F7.
- Great Britain. War Office. Armies of the Balkan States, 1914-1918: The Military Forces of Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, Rumania, and Servia. Nashville, TN: Battery, 1996 reprint of 1915 ed. UA822.A75.

- H.C.W. "Cavalry Operations in the Roumanian Campaign." Cavalry Journal [British] (Jul 1929): pp. 414-22. Per.  
Hermannstadt (20-29 Nov 1916); Targujiu (10-17 Nov 1916).
- Harm, P.B. "The Campaign Against Rumania 1916-1917 covering the Operations of the Danube Army of the Central Powers Under General Field Marshal von Mackensen." [Translations of German works] Typescript, AWC, 1931. 29 p. D565.A2.H3.
- Johnson, Douglas W. Topography and Strategy in the War. London: Constable, 1918. 211 p. D521.J62.
- Kiritescu, Constantin. La Roumanie dans la Guerre Mondaile (1916-1919). Paris: Payot, 1934. 496 p. D565.A2.K6.
- Leeper, Alexander W.A. The Justice of Rumania's Cause. NY: Hodder & Stoughton, 1917. 23 p. D520.R8.L44.
- Luyken, Max. Generalfeldmarschall von Mackensen, von Bukerest bis Saloniki, nach Miterlebtem un an Hand von Urkunden. Munich: Lehmann, 1920. 94 p. D565.A2.L8.
- de Monkévit, Nicolas. "The Decline of the Russian Army, 1917-1918: Memoirs of a Russian General." [Translation of Décomposition de l'Armée Russe: Mémoires d'un Général Russe by Lindell T. Bates] Typescript, 1930. 52 p. D565.A2.M6613.
- Mitraney, David. The Land & the Peasant in Rumania; The War and Agrarian Reform (1917-21). New Haven, CT: Yale, 1930. 627 p. HD835.M57.
- Die Niederwerfung Rumäniens: Dargestellt auf Grund der Amtlichen Veröffentlichungen. Berlin: Mittler, 1917. 77 p. D565.A2.N5.
- Perrett, Bryan. Seize and Hold: Master Strokes on the Battlefield. NY: Arms and Armour, 1994. 224 p. U165.P44.  
See Chap. 1.
- Pétin, Victor E.L.G. Le Drame Roumain, 1916-1918. Paris: Payot, 1932. 154 p. D565.A2.P38.
- Petrie, Charles. "The Rumanian Campaign, 1916." Army Quarterly (Jul 1927): pp. 339-46. Per.  
von Mackensen's Nov, 1916 offensive.
- Petrescu-Comnen, Nicolae. Notes sur la Guerre Roumaine (1916-1917) Précédées d'Une Lettre de M. Albert Thomas et d'une Préface de Maurice Muret... Lausanne: Payot, 1917. 255 p. D565.A2.P4.
- Regele, Oskar. "Steam Ferries on the Danube in War." Military Engineer (Jul/Aug 1928): pp. 315-17. Per.
- Reich, Albert. Durch Siebenbürgen und Rumänien: Ein Gedenkwerk für Rumänische Kriegsteilnehmer.... Munich: Lucas-Verlag, 19?? 79 p. D565.A2.R4.

Schroeter, J. The Importance of Land Fortifications in the World War. [Translation by Colonel Samuel G. Shartle] [Schweidnitz, Germany: Schroeter, 1922]. pp. 46-59. D521.S37.

“The Smettow Cavalry Corps in Roumania, 1916-1917.” [Translation of “Das Schmetetow Cavallerie Corps in Roumanien”] Berlin: Office, U.S. Military Attaché, 1923. 50 p. D565.A2.S313.

Snijders, W.G.F. Rumenié in den Wereldoorlog, Augustus 1916-Januari 1917: Een Krijgsgeschiedkundige Studie. Utrecht, Netherlands: Bruna & Zoon's, 1918. 336 p. D565.A2.S65.

Stiénon, Charles. Le Mystère Roumain et la Défection Russe, avec Neuf Cartes. Paris: Plon-Nourrit, 1918. 340 p. D565.A2.S8.

Torrey, Glenn E. The Romanian Battlefield in World War I. Lawrence, KS: U KS, 2011. 422 p. D565.A2.T67.

\_\_\_\_\_. “Romanian Historiography on the First World War.” Military Affairs (Feb 1982): pp. 25-28. Per.

“Two Crossings of the Danube in 1916.” Army Quarterly (Jan 1941): pp. 350-53. Per. Flămânda (1-8 Oct 1916); Sistovo (22-26 Nov 1916).

Wetzell, Georg. “From Falkenhayn to Hindenburg-Ludendorff: The Change Made in the German High Command in the Autumn of 1916 and the Campaign in Rumania.” [Translation of “Von Valkenhayn zu Hindenburg-Ludendorff” by F.W. Merten] Typescript: AWC, 1935. 41 p. D531.W413.

\_\_\_\_\_. Von Falkenhayn zu Hindenburg-Ludendorff: Der Wechsel in der Deutschen Oversten Heeresleitung im Herbst 1916 und der Rumänische Feldzug. Berlin: Mittler, 1921. 32 p. D531.W4.

U.S Military Academy. Department of Civil and Military Engineering. The Roumanian Campaign. West Point, NY: 190? 21 p. D565.A2.R68.