



# **PhD THESIS**

## **ABSTRACT**

### **THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MILITARY FIREFIGHTERS FROM GALATI, TO THE MILITARY CONFLICTS FROM 1877 - 1945**

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The history of firefighters has proved quite difficult to reconstruct: I've collected more information from the past rather than from the present and therefore I would like to thank the team from the Central Depository of the Pitești Military Archives for the help in collecting the materials.

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## Introduction

Romanian historiography is not very rich in the area of military firefighters' past, so the participation in the great military conflicts was quite difficult to reconstruct. The study of the period in which Alexandru Ioan Cuza ruled, represents a very important establishment of the first regulatory documents in the field of firefighters, the recognition of the sacrifice made on Spira Hill, through the first military medal (*Pro Virtute Militari*).

The period of Cuza's reign provides the necessary framework for mentioning the first regulations aimed at firefighters, namely the "Firefighters Regulation" of 1861. I analyzed the "Regulation of urban firefighters' orders" from 1874, which provides a coherent, unitary understanding of the evolution of the military organization, the military firefighters.

The image of passive defense in our country (today the civil protection within the County Inspectorates for Emergency Situations) was shown in the specialized press of firefighters, starting with 1929, when the periodical "Bulletin of Military Firefighters" appeared, a publication that resisted over time under various names, today being known as the monthly magazine "Romanian Firefighters".

The motivation to research the proposed topic refers to a couple of aspects, based on the fact that there is no recent historical approach to the past of the firefighters from Galați, and the studies that directly concern them are small. In our country, no study establishes a chronology of the organization, legislation, participation of military firefighters in major armed conflicts, from its foundation to the present. This thesis wants to be a first step in compiling an Encyclopedia of Romanian firefighters from all over the country, based both on existing studies and also continuing them, periodicals available in libraries and local archives, completing studies with data from the Register history of the units as well as the local monographs of the cities where the military fire brigades operated. Another motivation for composing this thesis lies in my job as a military firefighter at ISU Galați, the research being an attempt to highlight the activities of the predecessor. By discovering the history of firefighters, we can shed new light on the present, thus understanding the next step in the future.

The research of the proposed topic has three main objectives: studying the involvement of firefighters in major military conflicts between 1877-1945, studying the organization of firefighters in Galati from the beginning to the end of World War II and analyzing the media communication of firefighters, as shown from the local periodicals of Galați. As the second person in charge of public relations and informing the citizens within the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Galati County, I considered that this chapter is necessary, due to a new light it projects on the difficulties in organizing firefighters and due to the importance of concerns for promoting culture and the tradition of the firearms. Being a work of local history, I enframed the activity of firefighters from Galați in the context of national legislation, with a brief introduction to the past organization of firefighters in major European capitals, to understand the common elements of organizing the fire service in our country.

During the research for the paper, I used several scientific methods in the study of documents: the inductive method, the deductive method, the analogy method and the description method. The analysis of this paper is based on the research of the national

county archives in Galați and Iași. I also consulted the national archives in Bucharest, the National Military Archives in Bucharest and Pitesti, which, together with the archives in the west of the country (Timisoara, Arad, Oradea, Cluj), necessarily completed the picture of the organization of firefighters in Galati.

Unfortunately, an immense fund called „The Military Firefighters Inspectorate” from The Legal Deposit of Archives from Pitești hasn’t been descrittised yet. This impediment will certainly become an opportunity to continue the researches in future.

The 1st chapter consists of 12 subchapters and describes the first regulations in the organization of firefighters in Moldova, in a European context. After showing the organizational origins of the police and firefighters, I analyzed the role of firefighters in Agia. Important is both the chapter that offers documents on the establishment of a fire brigade in Galați in March 1840 and the agreement between the Monastery and firefighters, due to the fact that it locates the first fire station in the tower. The Romanian Pasoptist (1848) Revolution offered firefighters the opportunity to oppose the Ottoman occupation troops when firefighters under the command of Captain Pavel Zăgănescu initiated the moment that generated the armed conflict, the Artillery Regiment and firefighters being decimated by the Ottoman army at the barracks in Spira Hill. The sacrifice given by the firemen is also commemorated today, on September 13, in the form of the National Day of the Firemen of Romania, on this occasion organizing festive activities in all the Inspectorates for Emergency Situations in the country.

The 2nd chapter of the thesis refers to legislative and organizational aspects of military firefighters during the reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza and after, respectively the period of 1859-1874. An important moment in the history of firefighters is the Law for the organization of armed power in Romania in 1864, which divided the national army into permanent army and militia, firefighters along with artillery, cavalry, flotilla and auxiliary troops becoming independent weapons within the permanent army, subordinate to the Ministry of war. Within the military organization, the firefighters had the task of guarding the life and belongings from the scourge of fires.

The 3rd major chapter consists of five subchapters, which describes the organization of military firefighters during the reign of King Carol I, between 1866-1914. The importance of the chapter lies in dealing with some aspects related to the establishment of a Military Fire Brigade, the most important measure being the enlistment of the territorial artillery with firefighters, who received the specialization of artillerymen. Another important moment of this chapter is the participation of firefighters in the War of Independence, where the military stood out through the assault on the Turkish strongholds and received military decorations for Crossing the Danube. Organizational aspects of the fire subunits from Galați and Tecuci during peacetime and war are shown, aspects that make the transition to the state of firefighters at the end of the 19th century, compared to the frequent desertions that took place before the king came to power.

The 4th chapter contains 12 subchapters and begins with the effort to obtain a separate leadership and administration in an Inspectorate of Military Firefighters (1926), followed by the establishment of a Command of Military Firefighters (1929).

Chapter four describes a topical issue in the firearms, namely fire prevention activities, being presented initial organizational aspects from all over the country. The

importance of fire prevention lies in the fact that it is another aspect of firefighting activity, in addition to extinguishing fires and sanitizing unexploded ordnance, which comes to the aid of citizens in both world wars through theoretical recommendations and practical training. Fire prevention becomes increasingly important during the Second World War, when the population constantly receives advice and rules of conduct during aerial bombardment, but also for the arrangement of housing, so as to minimize the destruction of the bombing. The main local realities of 1944 refer to the emptying of the city by local administrations and population, firefighters being without uniforms and cars, lined up by German occupation troops, the few remaining facilities being destroyed or requisitioned by the Russians.

The fourth chapter is also important due to the founding document of the Tecuci Fire Department in August 1928; in this context I showed images of the fire station in Galați - called "September 13" after the glorious moment of the battle in Spira Hill. Chapter 5 marks the beginning of passive defence activities, in which firefighters receive new missions. The Fire Organization Act of 1936 stated that the mission of firefighters, in addition to "preventing and combating accidents" until then, was to comply with the provisions of the Passive Defense Regulation against air attacks. We showed practical aspects and problems of organizing passive defence and the involvement of firefighters in community issues; we put in parallel the past and present legislations in the field of protection of the civilian population, through the multiple aspects of the field: alarm, sanitation of unexploded ordnance, training of the population and decontamination of the land, of the population.

The last chapter, the sixth, completes the archive documents through articles from the local media of the years 1887-1938 regarding the firefighters' missions, the activities being put forward in parallel with the missions performed today by the professional services in the field of emergencies situations.

The conclusions of the thesis show the relevance of the thesis today, first of all by bringing up to date the topic due to the comparative treatment of past and present firefighters, the correspondence of past legislation with specific legislation today in fire prevention, through the phrase "emergency management" and not in lastly, due to the unitary approach of the history of military firefighters in Romania, in the European context of their organization. These two approaches lead to a better understanding of the institutional evolution, the thesis being a good working tool for further scientific research and due to the imagological analysis of firefighters in the media appearances.

# **CHAPTER I**

## **LEGISLATION AND ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY FIREFIGHTERS IN MOLDOVA, IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT (1831-1848)**

### **1.1. Introduction**

This chapter begins with a brief history of firefighters in Italy, due to its roots in ancient Rome for organizing, preventing and extinguishing fires. The chapter also reviews the major fire prevention regulations in Great Britain, France, Russia and the Romanian Principalities. The organizational aspects are subsequently related to how our country took over sequences from the Ottoman, Russian, French and German organization - in the field of passive defence - of firefighters, the French model being the one that lasted over time and printed the most many features of the realities of our country, including today through the SMURD model.

Moldova's "administrative manual" is important because it refers to the obligations of the recruit, but especially for measures to punish arsonists, the main rules of conduct in the city and for households to avoid fires.

I mentioned the establishment of the County Councils, according to the Organic Regulation, due to the direct connection with the activity of the firemen. The city council had to buy water waggons and pumps for the firefighters, build the fountains, bridges, provide street lighting and maintain the streets.

The legislative context of the establishment of firefighters in Moldova was provided by the foundation of firefighters in the Capital; after that, the second Company was established in Iasi, and its model was taken over throughout Moldova. The development of Galați and the status of free port encouraged the authorities to approve the establishment of an incipient form of firefighting, the militarization of the service taking place only in 1840 when Vasile Beldiman was commissioned to establish a professional fire service in Galați. In the context of organizing the fire prevention system in Galați, the "Holy Archangels" Monastery today was chosen in 1832, for organizing a fire surveillance point in the church bell tower.

September 13th 1848, marks the moment when firefighters under Captain Zăgănescu initiated the conflict with the Ottoman army in Spira Hill, most of them giving their lives there with the troops of the 2nd Infantry Regiment, in the place where today a monument of eternal gratitude for the given sacrifice.

The chapter also deals with some aspects regarding the fire service in the Galați barracks of 1881. In addition to the Regulation approved in 1861, firefighters respected some internal rules of organization, derived from the experience of previous years; there were practical aspects regarding the firefighters who permanently supervised the area in the Observatory, the alarm and surveillance attributions of the event that belonged to the police, as well as the possibility to notify the army in case of a major incident.

### **1.2. The evolution of the organization of firefighting activities in Europe**

The fire differentiated the social categories through access to light and heat, allowing work at night especially in ports. Once cities became permanently active, the night became day, new fire risks began to appear. Ports became dynamic, and maritime trade meant to trade inflammable products such as cotton, sugar and tobacco.

The urban history of fires can't be just a matter of simple periods, a division between two periods: one, in which the buildings were from wood and they were burning constantly, while the modern period meant the control of fire and they were made from stone. Major fire burnt modern towns, due to the urban agglomerations and big building with huge amounts of goods. On the other side, fire was "vital" in the evolution of important towns when electricity appeared.

Fire made the difference among the social categories by access to light and heat, permitting working especially at night time in ports. As the towns became active permanently, night changing into day, new risks of fires began to appear. Ports became dynamic and maritime trade meant an exchange of inflammable products like: cotton, sugar, tobacco.

Stone houses have brought safety to the modern era, and authorities have developed new urban fire prevention strategies. Imposing construction rules, removing industries from the city, banning fireworks was a universal response of cities to the danger of fire.

Faced with growing urban agglomerations, the city has built a long-term vision, investing in high-performance extinguishing technique, which has turned today's extinguishing service into a professional response to the new challenges constantly posed by fire.

It was only when fire prevention and extinguishing became legal, that major changes could be made to protect communities and manage emergencies. The large fires had the role of highlighting the importance of fire prevention measures, determined the transition from voluntary formations to military-trained fire brigades, and led to the modernization of firefighting technology, building cities to prevent the spread of fires. The knowledge obtained from the militarization of the fire service resulted from the transfer of knowledge for fire safety, on multiple levels: from specialists within the Fire Inspectorate - to the population, between cities and inside urban areas. These were then transformed into various government fire prevention or extinguishing strategies, urban plans or technical innovations for firefighters.

### **1.2.1. Italy**

We have the first written sources about fire prevention and extinguishing measures in ancient Rome. In the year 6 AD. Emperor Octavian Augustus (63 BC-14 AD) organized a special corps prepared by night guards, called the Militia Vigilum. The main purpose of this body was to overlook the streets at night and to protect the city from frequent fires, especially due to the predominantly wooden infrastructure, the use of open flames for cooking (especially upstairs) and the spread of arsonists.

Due to the fire in Rome in 64 AD, Emperor Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (37-68 AD) issued the first provisions in the field of urbanism, considered as "regulations on fire prevention". These provisions, although over two thousand years old, are still in force due to their effectiveness:

- a) the prohibition to build houses bigger than 17 meters with common walls;
- b) the importance of mouths, taps (today hydrants);
- c) establishment of public firefighting institutions.

These provisions, like those of the next two thousand years, paved the way for firefighting by an autonomous fire organization. In modern history, in all major urban agglomerations and especially in the capitals, army units were organized to perform the fire service or fire brigades were set up equipped with military uniforms and subject to the regulations of infantry troops.

In 1739, the governor of Rome drafted a document that today marks the first provision for the organization of staff with firefighting duties and trained to deal with emergencies.

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In Italy, the first Fire Brigade was established in Naples by Giuseppe Bonaparte by a Decree of 28 February 1806, which organized the Police and established that a Commissioner General of the City of Naples “..will be responsible for taking measures to prevent and firefighting; in this sense, the firemen will be set up, among whom he will hold the leadership”.

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### **1.2.2. France**

The history of French firefighters began in the Middle Age when fires were difficult to control and the organization of extinction encountered difficulties. In the cities, the citizens organized night security tours.

After François du Périer Dumouriez introduced the use of water pumps in Paris in 1699, the year 1716 marked the establishment of the "Pump Guard", a public and free extinguishing service. A royal ordinance of 1733 extended the free fire service throughout the kingdom.

By the Imperial Decree of September 18, 1811, the firefighters (sapeurs-pompiers) were the ones who took over the task of extinguishing the fires in Paris. The revolution of 1789 also meant the abolition of the civilian organization for the efficiency and military professionalism, the firefighters being placed under the orders of the police prefect.

The proclamation of the Third French Republic also represents the beginning of modern inventions and the endowment of firefighters. The decree of 1875 is the one that fixed the main responsibilities of the firemen: a) the definition of the main mission: fire fighting; b) attachment to the Ministry of Interior; c) maintenance by municipalities; d) eliminating the differences between the volunteers from the National Guard (who intervened in the fires in the garrison cities) and the firemen from the cities; e) uniform; f) the appointment of an Inspector of the Department, by the Prefect of Police.

### **1.2.3. Great Britain**

Although most buildings in London were built of stone after the 1800s, they burned due to the numerous wooden outbuildings. The fire service in Great Britain was taken over by the municipality at the beginning of the 19th century, is considered the stage of professionalization of firefighters. In the history of English firefighters, Geoffrey Blackstone showed the transition from fire protection provided by volunteer corps and insurance companies that offered firefighting services to customers for a sum of money, to the establishment of a network organized by fire brigades, funded and led locally.

The Great War forced the imposition of a common standard on all firefighting services, forcing firefighters to join forces to demand adequate pay and adequate working conditions. Between 1941 and '47, a National Fire Service aimed to protect the country from air raids and incendiary bombs dropped on London

#### **1.2.4. Russia**

The importance of the history of the Russian fire service lies in the fact that the beginnings of the operation of the firefighters from Moldova and Wallachia are based on the Russian extinguishing technique and organization. Secondly, the adoption of the Organic Regulation strengthened the exchange of knowledge and the acquisition of jackets and pumps in Russia. The Russian model overlapped with the organizational base taken from the Ottoman Empire, constituting a second stage of the evolution of firefighters, which we can place between 1831 and 1840 and we can call the stage of Organic Regulations.

The most important measures in the prevention of fires were developed under the leadership of Ivan the Great (1462-1505) who, after participating in the efforts to extinguish a large fire in Moscow, promulgated in 1472 a series of rules prohibiting the use of stoves, candles, torches in everyday use, along with special instructions for blacksmiths and glassmakers, to work as far away as possible from gunpowder depots. The Code of Laws of Ivan the Great (1497) provided for the death penalty for arsonists, and in 1504 a fireguard was established in Moscow.

In 1853 there were already 460 extinguishing services throughout Russia, so that in 1857 a Fire Regulation was already printed, a document that summed up all the regulations issued to protect and prevent fires in Russia. Between 1918 and 2002, the Russian fire service was part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. After this date, it became the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia.

### **1.3. Organizational origins of the Police and firefighters**

#### **1.3.1. The medieval military institution of Agia**

In the first half of the 18th century, especially after the reforms of Constantin Mavrocordat between 1741-1743, Agia's attributions became police, to the detriment of military responsibilities. The extinguishing services were introduced in Wallachia on a Phanariot chain and adapted to the realities of the Romanian countries, except for Transylvania.

With the second half of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth century, to the legal and police responsibilities of Agia, were added obligations to the municipality, regarding the control of economic exchanges, the supply of the city with products of strict necessity, guild control, taxation and urban planning.

#### **1.3.2. The first forms of organization of Romanian firefighters**

In 1832, General Pavel Kiseleff ordered the repair and completion of pumps from Bucharest firefighters, imposing the provisions of the Royal Office throughout the Principality, as follows: buying horses, pumps and repairing pumps from firefighters, organizing citizens on neighbourhoods large fires (under the coordination of the police). The organization of a

company of military firefighters in Bucharest ended between 1841-1842, under the reign of Gheorghe Bibescu.

The militarization of the fire service in Moldova took place on January 3, 1835, when the "Fire Company" of the city of Iasi was established. Also in 1835, the uniform of military firefighters was established. This process overlapped with the application of the provisions imposed by the Russian occupation, in the form of an "Organic Regulation".

The organization of firefighters in Transylvania was adapted to the regulations and practice of fire brigades in the Kingdom of Austria-Hungary, where there were much earlier training schools, extinguishing tools and legislation. The militarization of the fire service makes the disappearance of most volunteer fire brigades after the Great Union, to be replaced by the military. The civilian fire brigades that have survived to this day show us the picture of groups deeply attached to the culture of the area, to the community in which they live, along with a culture of belonging that proves a treasure rich in meanings, to which the military tradition of firefighters feels tempted to give up.

### **1.3.3. Tasks of firefighters in the "Organic Regulation"**

After the administration of General Pavel Kiseleff was established in the Principality in 1829 to prepare the way for future annexation, the situation became favourable for Russia. The "Organic Regulations" are part of the general framework dictated by the need to carry out the political project of the modern Romanian state.

During the Russian occupation of 1828-1834, measures were taken to prevent, report and extinguish fires in cities. The "Organic Regulation", implemented in Moldavia from January 1, 1832, also includes some provisions on the protection of cities against fires. The fireguard fell into the care of the Municipal Council, a new institution that would deal in the future with the good administration and management of the cities, replacing the old Police Vornicie established in Iasi in 1813.

In the study of the Organic Regulation, the article that states that "the militia is governed by military regulations" indicates that the police, gendarmes and firefighters had a military organization at the time of establishment, within the Ministry of Interior. From their establishment until the end of the Second World War, firefighters go through a complete cycle: from the Ministry of Internal Affairs they go through the military organization of the Ministry of War, then they are permanently detached being re-incorporated into the Ministry of Internal Affairs once with 1945 and the end of the war. The needs imposed by the period of armed conflicts proved the usefulness of their presence on the fronts of the War of Independence. The Great Union finds firefighters organized in a Military Fire Inspectorate, under the coordination of the General Artillery Inspectorate.

### **Responsibilities of the Ministry of the Interior. Establishment of County Councils**

The establishment of "Municipal councils" aimed a better organization of the community. One of City Council's tasks was the duty to obtain "tools for measles (fire), ... for cleaning, ... for water sources, for bridges, for lighting, for keeping wooden streets in good condition". Another organizational aspect was the division of the city into neighbourhoods, wearing the colours red, blue, yellow and green, while the streets and houses were to receive names and numbers. This division was also observed by the firefighter in the fire tower, who used the flags in the area colour to point in the fire direction. The organic regulations show the usefulness of observation points at height, by fixing "two pickets" for "fire protection".

One of the important measures of the Regulation referred to the obligation of those who built on the main roads and in the squares, to erect stone or brick constructions. In addition, any plank construction was to be demolished after six months, and the shops of the city's merchants, made of combustible materials, had to be destroyed within three years of the announcement.

Another provision of the Organic Regulation required the creation of a "fire brigade" under the leadership of an officer, equipped with jackets and carts with the technique necessary to extinguish fires: "buckets, axes, rods, ladders and other useful tools". Agia had to make sure that some houses also had some of these features. The regulation shows that Agia was responsible for the actions of the thugs, but also the fire prevention measures. The same article fixes regular visits of the chimneys to each house to clean the chimneys. In Transylvania, the chimneys reported to the police the persons who refused to periodically clean the chimneys, and the institution imposed fines.

The third important measure that Agia had to watch out for was the limitation of the quantities of combustible materials, hay, timber or fuel oil that entered the city. The responsibility of the police chief "to come immediately to any fire" appeared in Bucharest in 1810. The word "guild" refers to a "professional association" specific to the Middle Ages. The phrase "fire brigade" used by the Regulation shows that firefighters were considered a separate entity, with its management, specialized training and specific missions. The phrase that referred to firefighters had in mind the reunion of craftsmen in guild organizations, the intention of the ruler being to professionalize those who were to enlist in this service.

#### **1.3.4. Duties of the Police according to the "Organic Regulation"**

As for the administration, the Organic Regulation "was a factor of progress, a true Constitution, which laid the foundations of the institutions of modern Romania." The modernization of administrative institutions can be correlated with the political maturation of the Romanian Principalities. Among the factors of evolution, we mention the increase of the population, which required the reorganization of the old police (Agia) with the increase of the staff. Another factor was the continuous expansion of the urban space, from a territorial point of view. Against the background of the great traditional diversity of police tasks, which dealt with everything related to the police, a specialization of the police and a division of its tasks was reached.

„Agia” became a police officer between 1806-1812 and in 1848, under the reign of Gheorghe Bibescu, the name of aga was transformed into “ chief of police ”, a title that in 1859 was transformed into “ prefect of police ”.

In addition to the Regulation, the Department of Internal Affairs developed the "Improved Settlement" (1832) which shows the collaboration between Agie and Eforie.

In the selection of officers for the Police service and implicitly for the fire service, we witness the first professional selection criteria. The activities of the fire service are also detached from the tasks of the police. As surveillance of public spaces became increasingly important to the police, the fire was reported to firefighters more quickly, reducing damage. In the context of the demographic and territorial growth of the cities of Iași, Galați, the police and firefighters have adapted their services to the new urban realities.

As the fire service is subordinated to the police, we can consider that the task of preventing and extinguishing fires also required the help of the police. The gravity of some fires, the dramatic consequences produced by their spread made the institutions collaborate in order

to extinguish them, the negative events being followed by the elaboration of some internal norms or regulations.

#### **1.4. The military regulations of 1831**

After the defeat of the Revolution of 1821 and the restoration of the earthly lords in Wallachia and Moldavia, General Pavel Kiseleff submitted a project for the organization of the earthly armies and the formation of a commission for this. On March 5, 1831, the Military Regulations for the Land Militia of the Principality of Wallachia appeared, being approved on April 11, 1831.

In Moldova, firefighters were organized in Iasi in a company by the Military Regulations of 1831. The uniforms and armament were similar to those of the Moldavian militia, unlike Wallachia which established a partially militarized civilian corps and staffed with fire extinguishers and fish. 100 firefighters. Firefighters depended on the capital's police chief (aga) for the fire service, and for military training, organization, weapons and backpacks.

#### **1.5. Fire-fighting measures, during the reign of Grigorie Mihail Sturza**

The "City Commission" necessary for the administration of the port and municipal measures showed special care for fire protection. The community of Galați decided in August 1830 that "every merchant should have prepared a vessel with water, an axe, a ladder and a rope tied to the top of the shops and houses".

In Moldova, the ruler Mihail Sturza (1834-1849) was the one who dealt with the reorganization of fire services. In the city of Iasi, the service was to be performed by a military unit and the Administrative Council drew up a project for the establishment of a military unit in charge of extinguishing fires, called Company.

The militarization of the fire service in Moldova took place on January 3, 1835, when the "Fire Company" of the city of Iasi was founded. Also in 1835, the uniform of the firemen from Iași was established, at the same time as the application of the provisions imposed by the Russian occupation, through the "Organic Regulation".

Until the organization of the Military Fire Brigade in Iași, the fireguard service attached to Agie remained the main fire fighting organization in Moldova, while Transylvania already had volunteer fire brigades operating according to its Statutes.

##### **Organization of firefighters in the "Administrative Manual" of Moldova**

*The Administrative Manual* of the Principality of Moldavia was printed in two volumes, between 1855-1856 and had special importance in the development of the administrative system.

One of the aspects provided in the Administrative Manual refers to the "Rights and privileges of the ranks of the fire company". Firefighters appear to be appointed from the militia, with rights similar to those of the gendarmes, the lower ranks.

The manual also specifies the time of setting up the fire company in Iasi, showing the existence of old pumps, probably bought by the community, as well as new pumps brought from Russia, along with the necessary accessories for the fire station: water waggons, carts and harnesses, buckets, axes, strings, short, uniform swords and horses.

Several provisions of the Manual refer to the behaviour of the population concerning the danger presented by the fire. The deliberate burning of houses and fields was seen as a "criminal act", considering the public safety of citizens to be affected.

Citizens were ordered to take care of fires in windy weather; the boyars had to take care of the servants in the house, instructing them not to cause fires due to negligence, lighted candles or cigarettes thrown into stables or bridges; also to have for the extinguishing of fires, baths full of water, ladder and spears.

### **1.6. The legislative context of the establishment of firefighters in Moldova**

In Moldova, the ruler Mihail Sturza (1834-1849) was the one who dealt with the reorganization of fire services. In the city of Iasi, the service was to be performed by a military unit and the Administrative Council drew up a project for the establishment of a military unit for firefighting, called "Pojarnici Wheel" (Company).

In Iasi, the Administrative Council drew up a project for the establishment of a military unit in the city, called "Firefighters Wheel" - a fact put into practice on January 3, 1835.

The community of the townspeople from Galați was the first to be concerned with the problem of equipping communal firefighters. On August 12, 1830, the merchants proposed to the city council the cleaning of the garbage thrown at random, the demolition of the unsanitary buildings and each merchant to have a reserve of water and the minimum tools necessary to stop the fires. The community of Galați decides to build fire extinguishing instruments: in 1832, two pumps were bought from Brașov, in addition to the one already used and a cart for transporting fire tools. Firefighters were organized in the bell tower of the Church of the Holy Dukes-Metoc. In May 1833, Al. Ioan Cuza drew up a project to guard the city of fire.

After 1840, a fire brigade with a military organization was set up in Galați, whose barracks was said in a report from 1842 that it was not a well-kept and organized place.

### **1.7. Establishment of a fire command in 1840 in Galați**

In this chapter we analyzed the information available in the documents of the national archives from Bucharest, Galați and Iași. To create the necessary context for the organization of firefighters, we showed the historical context, legislation and socio-economic aspects of the city. It was necessary to analyze the Rules of 1861 and the Firemen's Regulations of 1871 to show the regulations according to which the firemen carried out their activity, as well as the indifference of the local authorities towards the fire station. The result of the analysis is the understanding of the transformations that took place in 10 years, as well as the conditions and qualification with which the firefighters entered the War of Independence.

The aspects of daily life of the fire station in Galați were located in a legislative context. In this way, the contribution of firefighters to the main military conflicts in the modern history of the Romanian people is framed by the situation of the barracks in Galați, the involvement of firefighters in the needs of the Lower Danube community and commanders who stand out for their devotion to the weapon.

The beginnings of the firefighters' activity are shown through the prism of an agreement with the Metocul of the "Holy Archangels" Monastery in 1832, then some documents showing the establishment of a fire brigade order in Galați on military bases eight years later and later (1843) in Tecuci. Geographically, Galați was part of the land of Covurlui, then of the Lower Danube Region. Tecuci was part of the two regions, from beginning to end, so we considered that the Tecuci Fire Department is part of the unit located in Galati.

The establishment of the fire company from Galați is attested in the county archives from Iași for the year 1841. The steps aimed at finding a headquarters of the barracks, the tulum brought from Russia and Vienna, the project for making 12 sleighs and polobos, at the expense of

Eforia. As well as the expenses of the soldiers' clothing, the list of soldiers who went from the police troops to the fire brigade.

### **Document of the establishment of a Fire Company in Galați**

The first documents about the existence of fire service of the city of Galați against fires are dated 1832 and show that the first form of organization of firefighters was in 1830.

From the content of the document establishing a Fire Company in Galati, we understand that Iasi already had a Fire Company, and the Lord of Moldova had approved by an anaphora in Galati to compile a fire brigade model after the Wheel in the capital of Moldova. The foreman Vasile Beldiman had the duty to appoint from the personnel with military rank under his subordination, people capable of extinguishing fires.

The command of the firefighters from Galați was to be framed according to the model of the one from Iași, with an officer in charge. The amount necessary for the establishment was to be taken from the budget of City Council Galați, but the fact that the requested amount was not available, the bedfellow Beldiman was in charge of coveting the citizens of the city to raise the necessary money. This was done by showing the importance of an extinguishing service, which would help the whole community, protecting the property, heritage and life of the population.

### **1.8. One year since the establishment of the Galați fire brigade**

The barracks was initially endowed with the old instruments found at Eforie. Local officials still did not understand the importance of measures to prevent and equip firefighters. An inspection from 1842 made at the firemen from Galați found that the barracks staff was not cared for, they were ill and lived in miserable conditions at the barracks.

When drums were beaten in public squares, fire announcements were made for firefighters, but no one wanted to take on the fire service. Following the evolution of the institution in terms of human resources, we can characterize it as follows: people with different occupations, who could not find their place in society due to a physical problem or vice, enlisted in the fire department.

The year 1842 has a special significance through the connection that is made between the watchtower of the firemen and the Monastery of St. Archangels. The church "Holy Archangels" also had an important social role, in the context of organizing the fire prevention system in Galati, the monastery was chosen in 1832, to organize a fire surveillance point in the church bell tower, overlooking the port area. The agreement document between the abbot of the monastery and the town council of Galați showed that City Council was directing funds to build a door from the north of the church, following that on the doorway a staircase would lead to the bell tower, where a firefighter was standing guard.

The monastery imposes the condition that the access to the bell tower is made from outside, and not through the church, in order not to interrupt the organization of the monks.

In 1844 it seems that there was already an internal regulation of the Fire Company, as well as an internal account of the expenses incurred. At that time there were almost 45 firefighters in the barracks, their number varying according to the health of the military.

### **1.9. The revolutionary year 1848. The importance of September 13th**

When the Ottoman troops entered Bucharest, the Bucharest firefighters were ordered, along with the other troops, to receive the Ottoman troops of Kerim Pasha with military honours.

The fire company was under the command of Captain Pavel Zăgănescu and had an order that, when the Turks appeared, they should go to Spira Hill to join the infantry in order to follow the previously established protocol. Although they were asked to get to the barracks sooner, the delay of the firefighters was due to the enthusiasm united with that of the citizens, who were convinced of the imminence of a conflict and wanted to be present, which shows the climate of dissatisfaction reflected in the state the army.

Before reaching the barracks gate, a riot led to a gunshot fired by fire officer Dincă Bălșan, in response to the blow received by a Turkish officer.

By order of Kerim Pasha, Romanian troops were then attacked with cannons and rifles by the Ottomans. Understanding that they have no chance in front of the cannons, the firemen managed to capture them and turned them against the Ottoman army for a short time, but it was necessary to retreat to the barracks, along with the rest of the troops.

After returning the cannons with which they were attacked against the Turks, firefighters and part of the troops under the command of Captain I. Devos did not stop fighting until Kerim Pasha promised them "free exit from the barracks" - a commitment that was not kept, but led to another massacre of those who chose to leave the barracks.

The moment of the revolution of 1848 is not specifically recorded in the local press in Galati. The city meetings were meant to look for suitable places for the encampment of the Ottoman army, which did not leave time for the needs of the firemen.

The defeat of the 1848 revolution in the Romanian Lands - through the intervention of the tsarist, Habsburg and Ottoman armies - imposed the reformulation of the national emancipation and modernization program, of the strategy and tactics of improving the police institution, in whose task was the Fire Company falls.

As a result, September 13th was celebrated as Romanian Firefighters' Day; the holiday was legally formalized after the war, then by Law no. 121 of 1996 on the organization and functioning of the Military Fire Brigade, but also by H.G.R. no. 1490 of 2004, for the approval of the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

As a tribute to the sacrifice of the firefighters, in the Spire Hill was erected the Monument of the Fire Heroes, a monument discovered on September 13, 1901. On the pedestal of the tomb is written in capital letters: On the opposite side is fixed another bronze plaque, on which it is written: "In memory of the fight sustained in this place by the Bucharest firemen, commanded by Captain Zăgănescu, and by the 2nd Battalion from Reg. 2 lines under the command of col. Radu Golescu against a Turkish army division commanded by Kerim Pasha".

All the Inspectorates for Emergency Situations in the country organize, on the occasion of September 13, events such as "Open Doors", symposia, firefighting demonstrations and first aid, invitational contests, religious and military ceremonies, followed by advancement in the next rank of the most deserving military.

The celebration of the day is then followed by another important day, namely the celebration of the spiritual patron of the firemen of St. Joseph the New from Partoș.

### **1.10. Aspects of the organization of the firemen from Galați in the context of the development of the city**

At the beginning of the operation of the Pojamice Order from Galați, there was no sewerage network in the city, so the sackers of the municipality were required to transport water from the Danube.

The instruments used for the intervention consist of pumps for absorbing and discharging water through hoses with metal nozzles at the end), axes, rods, jackets, shovels and ladders. Other necessary tools were forks, iron coins, hooks, ropes, lanterns. After 1860, carriages called "Omnibus" were built to move soldiers and instruments on fire, following the Russian model brought from Petersburg.

#### **Rules regarding the service of Danube fire service**

The first organizational regulations of 1861 remained in force until 1874, under the title of Rules regarding the fire service. The instructions made practical references to observers watching from the permanent observatory, the duties of alarming and supervising the event that belonged to the police, as well as the possibility to notify the army in case of a special event. Regarding the operations of the fire command, it was specified that each pump is led by a non-commissioned officer, and the orders were given by the commander through the trumpet so as not to overlap with the noise made by the scared population. As for the actions of the axes, they did not tear down the doors or walls except when necessary and had to justify their actions. After the large fires were extinguished, some of the jackets remained at the scene for another three hours. However, these provisions were specific to the capital, in the province, they had not acquired an official or practical character. The firefighter's manual, made in 1866 according to French regulations, was adapted to the precariousness of fire materials and the poor discipline of the city's Fire Company, whose troops consisted of civilians. The most important chapter in the textbook was how the servants were to act, their role and other duties after the fire was extinguished.

### **1.11. Conclusions**

The takeover and adaptation of the institutions to the needs of the Principalities took place since the vassalship of the Romanian Lands. At the end of the 17th century, the ruler was considered a high Ottoman ruler, so that the adaptation of the Ottoman institutions led to the creation of incipient forms of police and firefighting services in Wallachia and Moldova. These needs were not neglected in Transylvania either, the source of inspiration being the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In 1726, the fire service, divided into neighbourhoods, appeared in Istanbul. The fire signal was coming from the pavilions. Through the Phanariot chain, this form of organization also reached Wallachia and Moldova, as were the fire flags in Bucharest. Even the Phanariots, the foremen and the captains of the fortresses of the two principalities, together with the guards and guards, were responsible for extinguishing the fires. The same type of organization by areas can be found in Moldova, each neighbourhood receiving the colour that appeared on the flags of the pavilion that signalled the appearance of fires, but also in the directions of the police.

The employment with firefighters in the Agia institution also had the role of militarizing a service in which desertions were very frequent. Gradually, more and more skills were required to intervene as the cities developed, which meant a continuous development of the capabilities

of the firefighter, whose activity began to represent the image of the institution by its reflection in the press.

The "Organic Regulations" continued the organization of the police and firefighters with the Russian model. The military organization of these institutions located in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Ministry of Interior) was completed by public funds directed by the municipality. The most important provision of the Regulations was the establishment of a "plumbing guild", set up in professional fire service.

An incipient form of firefighting had already penetrated the Romanian Lands since the period of vassal towards the Ottoman Empire, the name of "fireman" being a reminiscence of this presence. In Transylvania, the first form of organizing firefighting consisted of volunteer fire brigades, with operating statutes according to the Hungarian model.

At first, in Galați, firefighters were recruited by beating drums in public squares; due to the heavy nature of the work and the low pay, few people enlisted, who then deserted. The fire station, consisting of a room and an observation pavilion, was located in the courtyard of the "Holy Archangels" Monastery on Egalitatii Street today. Prince Alexandru I. Cuza, then King Carol I imposed conditions of admissibility on firefighters, and with the establishment of an Inspectorate of Arms, a school was established that made it mandatory to train military personnel employed by firefighters, depending on the conditions of peace or war.

The activity of the firemen under the *Agia* institution proved its usefulness through the collaboration between the police and the firemen, starting from the alarm until the intervention, when the police forces supervised the goods saved from the fire and helped the firemen to handle the pumps. After extinguishing the fire, police and firefighters worked together to determine the cause of the fire and expose the arsonists if necessary.

The orders of the Lord of the country were transmitted to the chief of police (*aga*), who kept in touch with the fire officer on the problems of the barracks. This indirect address to the leadership continued after the Great Union and led to the neglect of the needs of firefighters. Probably this is also the reason why the detachment of firefighters in their Inspectorate was made first at the level of the administration (1926) and then of the management, before the promulgation of the Law on the organization of ministries in 1929.

Until the organization of the Fire Brigade in Iași and Bucharest, the fire service attached to *Agie* was the only organization. After the organization of the Wheel (Company) in 1835, the model of Iași is reproduced in the cities of Moldavia. Before this military organization, in Galați there was a fire brigade founded in 1830 and equipped in 1832 with pumps and tools bought by the city's merchants. The agreement between the abbot of Metoc monastery and City Council of Galați is important both by the fact that it provides details about the fire observation tower and by showing the lack of involvement of the municipality regarding the maintenance of facilities and living conditions of firefighters. In March 1840, Vasile Beldiman was responsible for setting up a military fire brigade in Galați.

For the sacrifice made in Dealul Spirei, the firefighters received September 13 as an anniversary day, celebrated every year at the headquarters of the Inspectorates for Emergency Situations in the country. In the same context, September 15 was added as a day dedicated to the spiritual protector of firefighters - St. Joseph the New from Parthos.

I have noticed that many of the regulations of the twentieth century are found in current laws, especially those related to working with fire in open spaces to avoid the spread of fires, so we have established short links between the past and current legislation.

## CHAPTER II

# LEGISLATION AND ORGANIZATION OF FIREFIGHTERS DURING CUZA'S REIGN

### 2.1. Introduction

The chapter is important due to the details about the fire alarm system and the technical equipment, but especially due to the analysis of the legislative provisions regarding firefighters, both during Cuza's time and the Constitution of 1866.

Cuza's main military achievement remained the Law on the Organization of the Army on November 27 / December 9, 1864. In force until July 17/29, 1868, the Royal Decree issued by Cuza was the core of the first defence system of Romania after the Union of 1859, which provided that the army should have permanent troops with reserves that could be enlisted in exceptional situations.

### 2.2. The organization of the administration by Alexandru I. Cuza

After his resign from the army, the presence of Alexandru Ioan Cuza in a public position is attested at the beginning of 1842, within the Covurlui court. In October 1849 he was appointed President of the Court, and in February 1851 he was appointed Director of the Department of the Interior (Ministry of Internal Affairs).

Alexandru Cuza received a high position in Covurlui, on June 7, 1856. Cuza's election as regnant of the Romanian Principalities took place on January 5 and 24, 1859. In February 1851, Alexandru I. Cuza was appointed director of the Department of Affairs from the inside. One of the measures taken from this position is the manufacture of tools necessary for firefighters in Galati and the inspection of firefighters throughout Moldova.

On May 24, 1860, Al. Ioan Cuza promulgated the Law for rewarding the soldiers participating in the battle of Spira Hill, who received the Patent and the medal "Pro Virtute Militari". This was the first military medal awarded in the Romanian army. The Bucharest Fire Battalion was the first to receive the battle flag from Cuza.

#### 2.2.1. Reforms during the reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza

Under the provisions of the Paris Convention, after the double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza in Iasi and Bucharest, a Ministry of the Interior functioned. After the completion of the Union and the establishment of the Romanian unitary government led by Barbu Catargiu on January 22, 1862, the unification of the two ministries into one based in Bucharest was achieved. During the reign of Al. Ioan Cuza, the former Department of the Interior, occupied a particularly important place in the governments that were formed, being a hold of the ruler in carrying out socio-economic and political reforms.

The reorganization of the Galati City Police, in 1858, provides us with information on the division of the city according to the Russian system, into five districts and delimited by coloured flags. Firefighters were stationed "on the vacant spot near the church of Archangels Metoc" in the time of Michael Sturdza, along with the police. Next to it was a tower for observing the fires in the city and the valley, apart from the observatory in today's "December 30 Square". There were fire stations and police custody.

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*Legislation and organization of firefighters during Cuza's Reign*

In 1860, the regnant decided that "the firemen of the districts of Moldavia, who by their very constitution and military hierarchy, will henceforth be subject to the law of the army, as are the border guards from Wallachia." In the same year, the uniform of firefighters was to be established in both Principalities; it was navy blue with metal epauletts in the shape of scales, a metal helmet with an egret, the distinctive sign of the weapon being two red crossed axes.

### **2.2.2. Fire Regulations of 1861**

The "Rules for the Fire Service" of 1861 show some organizational aspects of the military. It regulated the activity of firefighters in the fire observatory, the police measures required during major fires and the measures of the officers in charge of the unit.

The policeman was investigating the cause of the fire together with the fire chief, and the investigation could be followed by the punishment of the guilty.

### **2.2.3. Regulation of urban fire companies**

The 1871 Regulation is an elaborate form of the 1861 Rules, by gathering information on the uniform of firefighters, the maintenance of fire stations by the municipality and the training of the military. The Journal of the Council of Ministers (21.09.1870) established that the firemen of the cities of Bucharest and Iași should be administered in the future by the Ministry of War, the town halls paying the legal subsidies according to the communal law.

The importance of the "Regulation on the orders of urban firefighters", published on October 1, 1871, was to establish the main mission of firefighters: "defence of fire buildings." The regulations also established the organization of the barracks, placed under the military authority of the garrison artillery regiment. The city municipality was responsible for the maintenance of the fire department, the building and the extinguishing technique.

## **2.3. Amendments to the Law for the organization of the armed power in Romania**

In order to go through the legislative evolution, we aimed at coagulating a legal entity bearing the names of the firefighters, with their own management and specific organization. Evolution has followed a difficult path, created following lessons learned from the urban space when it is affected by fires and major disasters. If regulations are initially used and not laws, the importance of fire prevention and extinguishing measures turns into legislative measures and tends to shorten the decision route, in order to facilitate the activity.

I chose to treat the Law on the Organization of the Armed Forces separately, in order to provide a better understanding of the evolution of the firearms within it, during the changes that were made in March 1872, then March and June 1874, until May 1913.

The year 1868 is relevant in the fact that King Carol I promulgated the "Law for the organization of the armed power in Romania". The law sought to organize weapons according to new principles, removing gendarmes and firefighters from the administration of the Ministry of Interior and reporting them directly to the Ministry of War, as a component element of the standing army.

The country's territory was divided into "four military territorial divisions", with a divisional command in Bucharest, Iasi, Craiova and Galati. The commander of the army was the regnant, he could delegate the command according to the military hierarchy.

Firefighters such as those in Bucharest and Iasi were subordinated to "military authority in terms of organization and military discipline." The size of the fire brigade was given by the "needs and means of the respective commune". The High Decree no. 1188 of July 22, 1868, provided for the uniform of firefighters, which was similar to the line infantry, except for the collar, red cloth.

Another set of legislative amendments to the Law on the Organization of Armed Power in 1872 explained that "the territorial army is the active army of each territorial division."

Another stage of legislative changes regarding this law took place in May 1874. Under the Ministry of War, firefighters were organized into divisions, batteries and sections, depending on the importance of the city.

The next amendment to the legislative provisions of the Law on the Organization of the Armed Forces is dated June 1, 1874. As for the firefighters, they are part of the "permanent army with its reserve".

Firefighters remain subordinate to the Ministry of War, their organization depending on the size of the city (divisions, batteries, sections).

With the first decade of the twentieth century, the Law on the Organization of the Army was amended in 1908. The component parts of the army were named: a) the active army with its reserve, b) the militias, c) the territorial army. Firefighters were included in the artillery troops (art. 18), in addition to field and mountain artillery, cavalry artillery, fortress and siege artillery. Another set of legislative changes took place in 1913, 1924, 1930 and 1932. The form of the 1932 law remained valid until 1936, when the Law for the organization of firefighters appeared, the most important legal provision in the history of firefighters, due to the context of passive defence during aerial bombardment.

The form of the Law on the Organization of the Army of 1913, divides the army into three: the active army (infantry, cavalry, artillery and navy), the active army reserve and the militias. The period of activity for the artillery troops (and firefighters) was three years under arms and four years in addition. Interesting for this form of law is that it manages to make the notion of "firefighters" disappear: we do not find it either in the artillery chapter (art. 18) or in "various troops and services".

The division of the territory was kept "in regions of the army corps, and this one in regions of divisions" (art. 30). In addition to the updated repeal of the 1868 Act, the 1882 Command Law was repealed.

### **Amendments to the Law on the Organization of the Armed Forces of 1924 and 1929**

The constitution adopted in 1923 includes a chapter called "On Armed Power", which provided the fundamental concept of the Romanian state in the field of defence, the general structure of the armed forces, the rights and military obligations of citizens. This legislative framework allowed the development of the functioning of the Romanian military body in the interwar period.

On August 2, 1929, the "Law for the organization of ministries" was promulgated, another important legislative act for the evolution of military firefighters in the interwar period. The Ministry of the Army was organized with "senior management, command and training" - the Superior Council of the Army, the General Staff and the General Inspectorates of the Army, but also with "technical and administrative bodies", including General Inspectorates of Arms and Inspectorates subordinated to the General Secretariat and called "Technical and Administrative Bodies". Article 107 provides further clarifications on the attributions: "The general inspectorates

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of arms have in their attribution the organization, training and instruction of the respective units and services, which do not fall within the order of the divisions or corps of the army”, the elaboration of regulations specific to weapons and the specific technique being also attributions of the Fire Command.

The law established the general lines of operation of these ministries, while within the General Artillery Inspectorate, a Fire Command was organized.

Also, the Laws for the Organization of Armed Forces of 1924 and 1929 must be corroborated with the Law for Administrative Unification of 1924, July 1925 and the Law for the Organization of Local Public Administration of August 3, 1929, to see how the number of military fire units in the country increased.

The Military Fire Brigade had 30 military fire brigades throughout the country. In 1936, when the Command left the Ministry of War and was transferred to the organization of the Ministry of Interior, there were military firefighters in 48 cities, along with professional firefighters in Transylvania, Banat and Bucovina, firefighters employed for the month in five cities in the Old Kingdom and volunteer fire brigades maintained by the municipal administration.

The law amending the Law on the Organization of the Army of 1932, continued the legislative effort aimed at improving the organization of the armed forces, including firefighters. Meanwhile, the firefighters formed a Command of Military Firefighters and were led by a capable man: Colonel Gheorghe Pohrib. The law of 1932 has a different, more detailed structure, showing the objectives of the country's military organization (art. 2) and its composition: the land army, the aeronautics and the royal navy.

The content of the law provides details about the composition of the army. The organization in time of peace and war, the organization of the territory, the composition of the commands and troops of the land army. In this last chapter, the firemen are also included, as auxiliary troops to the combatants.

### **2.3.1. Stages of the legislative provisions regarding firefighters**

On April 6, 1877, with the mobilization of the Romanian army, by High Decree no. 491, the General Headquarters was established, with attributions in the management of military operations. As a result of the experience gained during the War of Independence, the Law of July 10, 1878, created a "Superior Council of the Army", which also included a Chief of Staff of the Army.

If during the validity of the Organic Regulation the firemen were under the police administration and had military organization according to the "Military Regulation", with the Union of the Principalities the firemen remain with the same organization but they passed from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of War. Here, they were assimilated to artillery and this is how they go through the War of Independence and the Great War. Stages of the legislative provisions regarding firefighters. The responsibility for the fire station in Galați remained, according to the bill published in 1864, "on behalf of the municipality as well as under their obedience and in terms of the use of military service". Organization and discipline were military, more precisely associated with artillery.

## 2.4. Conclusions

Chapter two is important due to the exposition of the first forms of alert brought by Al's reign. I. Cuza, the technical endowments of the pumps and the first Regulation of the urban firemen, in 1861. After the appointment in 1859, Al. I. Cuza initiated a series of major changes in the administrative organization of the country, and in the army, he introduced western aspects taken further by King Carol I. The reign of Al. I. Cuza also marks the establishment of the General Staff Corps of the United Principalities in November 1859, the forerunner of the General Staff.

I showed the administrative changes brought to the territory of the Covurlui region. Only the city had a fire brigade, the rural areas organizing their own endowment with materials and extinguishing fires. We considered important the association between the military and the administrative organization of the territory: The law of the communal organization of 1864 provided a fire brigade for urban communes, and in the interwar period the administrative and military organization can be corroborated to understand the coverage of fire units. competence corresponded to the administrative division of the territory). After the administrative unification of the Principalities, the two Ministries of Interior of Moldova and Wallachia unite, being a support of the regnant for the accomplishment of the proposed reforms.

The "Rules for the Fire Service" of 1861 show some organizational aspects of the military. The Regulation has three chapters, which describe the activity of firefighters in the fire observatory, the necessary police measures during major fires and the measures of the officers in charge of the unit. In the same context, I chose to present the "Regulation of urban firefighters' company" developed in 1871 under King Carol I, to provide a complete understanding of the evolution of firefighters in interventions and barracks, their uniform and the duties of the command of officers.

The two Regulations are followed by the analysis of the transformations of the Law for the organization of the armed power in the period 1868-1913. In the contents of the laws, we followed where the firefighters were placed, depending on the social needs or those given by the war, the requirements of the industrialization of the urban space and the western model adapted to the realities of our country. Some important aspects are related to the recruitment of young people and the division of the country's territory into "four military territorial divisions", then the similarities in the uniform of firefighters with that of infantry, only the collar being of red cloth.

In the context of the legislative transformations of 1913, 1924 and 1932, the weapon "firefighters" disappears being associated with "various troops and accessories" (1932); pointedly appears only in the *Law on the organization of ministries* (1929), within the General Inspectorate of Artillery. The chapter on the stages of legislative provisions in the field of firefighters, uses the context already created, to show the importance of the establishment of the General Staff of the Army during Cuza's time. The importance of the General Staff lies in the elaboration of the general conception on the role, contributions and attributions of each weapon, in the defense of the country's territory. When they had responsibilities for the protection of life and human property - so in the field of public order and safety, firefighters were part of the Ministry of Interior, and when their mission extended to protect the country's borders, they became part of the Army Ministry.

## CHAPTER III

# MILITARY FIREFIGHTERS DURING THE REIGN OF KING CAROL I (1866-1914)

### 3.1. Introduction

The year 1866 is a good time to understand the legislative evolution of the first decades of the eighteenth century. After the Union of Principalities and independence, the new state had the tools to fulfil its responsibilities: a strong executive, a diverse parliament, political parties and modern codes of law to ensure social stability and uninterrupted economic progress.

When King Carol I came to the country in 1866, there were two fire units: the Bucharest Battalion and the Iași Fire Company, constituting the artillery of the territorial army. Starting with April 1, 1874, the firemen of the cities of Galați and Brăila passed under the authority of the Ministry of War; In 1875, cities that did not pass under the administration of the Ministry of War also received the right to wear the uniform.

The new law on the organization of the army of 1872 made a series of clarifications about the numbering of divisions and their headquarters, as a means to correspond to the needs of defence. Territorial-military division 3, for example, included nine counties (Brăila, Covurlui, Ismail, Belgrad, Tecuci, Tutova, Putna, Râmnicu-Sărat and Cahul) based in Galați.

The year 1874 is particularly important for the history of military firefighters, in that King Carol I sanctioned on March 18, 1874, the amendment of the law of 1868 and 1872, firefighters acquiring military character and organizational structure specific to the army. From the same year, firefighters from Bucharest, Iasi and 15 other county seat cities are trained as Artillery troops, and the training was divided into two: artillery and firefighting.

According to the High Decree no. 702 of 1874, the firemen from the cities were organized on bodies. In Bucharest, there was a Fire Department, in Iași a Fire Department with a Fire Department in Botoșani, a Fire Department in Galați and Brăila, which together formed a Fire Department with the General Staff in Galați. In 1879, Ministerial Decision No. 8 decided that certain fire departments be grouped in Batteries.

After the war, in 1891 the fire brigades returned to the regiments to which they belonged, being detached in their place the Bucharest and Iasi Fire Companies, along with the nine fire departments, considered units of the regiments. By the Ministerial Decision of 1891, the firefighters were attached to the artillery regiments, the Galati and Brăila Sections belonging to the 3rd Artillery Regiment.

The High Decree no. 1588 of 1874, according to which Colonel Dunca was appointed to lead the First Territorial Division, which had the right to inspect all fire brigades in the country. We thus understand the Decree as a first attempt to appoint a fire inspector in the country, an attempt that materialized only in 1912, by appointing Constantin Urlățeanu as Inspector of military firefighters. Equally important is the Ministerial Decision of 1875, according to which each fire department and battery had to send two soldiers to the Bucharest Fire Division to attend courses.

We presented new aspects of the contribution of firefighters to the War of Independence, in which firefighters accompanied the ammunition carts, given their skill in preventing and extinguishing fires that could have occurred in case of bombing or while travelling. The firefighters had the specialization of artillerymen, being assigned to regiments such as the Independence Battery-cannons.

The archive correspondence also contains details about the equipment worn by firefighters in the Galați barracks, along with the extinguishing technique from 1877, the

technical capabilities of the pumps, about the observation pavilion and details about the organization of Tecuci firefighters, along with the names of firefighters. These aspects are important because the safety of the city in the face of fires depended on them: if the firemen were poorly dressed or had a defective extinguishing technique, this was reflected in the time of intervention and the size of the damage. These aspects are still important today, so they are a permanent concern for the command of fire brigades.

### **3.2. The situation of firefighters in the context of organizing the city of Galati**

Under the Ministry of War, firefighters had a dual specialization in artillery and firefighting. Much of the financial support for the survival and fulfilment of specific missions for firefighters (accommodation, food, personal protective equipment and maintenance of facilities) came from the city municipality. Documents show that this support was lacking throughout the existence of firefighters from Galați and Tecuci. The lack of what was necessary made the military feel entitled to secretly flee the barracks, with the equipment and armament provided.

The law on the organization of the Armed Commandes placed the barracks of firefighters and dorobants in charge of communes and counties. In the absence of such constructions, they were built in the commune according to plans approved by the Ministry of War.

In the autumn of 1864, the "Law for the Organization of Armed Power in Romania" was promulgated, a law that divided the national army into a permanent army and a militia composed of dorobants, border guards and their reserves. It provided that firefighters (with a special staff and companies) along with artillery, cavalry, flotilla and auxiliary troops be independent weapons. Within the organization of the army, the military firefighters had the task of guarding the material goods against the scourge of fires, but at the same time, as an integral part of the army, they were prepared to intervene in the defence of the country.

In 1868, the bodies of communal firefighters, such as the one from Galați, were transferred to the administration of the Ministry of War. The file prepared by the commander of the fire command shows the composition of the troop, namely: two sergeants, 45 soldiers and the officer in command. Regarding the intervention technique, the fires were extinguished with 16 pumps, but 4 were completely damaged.

The efforts of the fire commander to create conditions for the troops and fire materials, bring at the end of 1868 a consistent debt to the mayor's office, caused by frequent repairs to pumps and water waggons.

### **3.3. The Foundation of a Military Fire Brigade**

The chapter shows the organizational conditions and the preparation with which the firemen entered the War for obtaining state independence. After this subchapter, we showed a short history of the formation of the first artillery regiment, to then deduce the formation of the III Artillery Regiment, to which the firefighters from Galați belong.

The year 1874 is particularly important for the history of military firefighters, by the fact that King Carol I sanctioned on March 18, 1874, the amendment of the Law on the organization of the army of 1868 and 1872, firefighters acquiring military character and organizational structure specific to the army. It is the year when firefighters are trained as artillery troops, and the training was divided into two: artillery and firefighting.

According to the Law of March 18, 1874, the firefighters came under the authority of the Ministry of War. It is also the first time a "Military Fire Brigade" has been set up, consisting of 15 independent units, professionally controlled by a fire inspector, artillery officer and fire

companies with officers appointed from among the artillery and genius officers. Thus, the firemen were constituted as units and subunits in the composition of the territorial artillery from the Ministry of War, having also the characteristic endowment of this type of weapon.

By the Law on the organization of the Romanian army, the Fire Brigade from the city of Galati became part of the Galati Territorial Artillery. From a financial point of view, firefighters were included in the budget of the Ministry of War, the city contributing a third of the amount.

A document relevant to the firefighters' past mentions the High Royal Decree no. 1588 of 1874 according to which Colonel Dunca Iuliu was the first inspecting officer appointed to "inspect all the fire batteries in the country" as well as at the First Territorial Division of Bucharest. This unique type of command is the first attempt to appoint a commander of all firefighters in Romania as a premise for leadership and central coordination.

The double specialization was meant to save money, but local authorities were dissatisfied with the position of firefighters by this law, because they contributed money from the commune budget for military maintenance, to serve as fire protection units. The city of Galați, for example, was the third-largest in terms of contribution to the Ministry of Finance, after Bucharest and Iasi - along with Craiova, Ploiesti, Braila, Botosani, Barlad, Bacau, Roman, Focsani, Pitesti, Severin, Giurgiu and Buzau. Equally dissatisfied were the people in the fire command, who had to give all their time to the specific training of the artillery. The military, therefore, had to do two jobs: gunner and firefighter.

By the High Decree no. 702 of 1874 regarding the organization of firefighters on the Corps and their fixation, a Fire Department was designated in Galați and one in Brăila, "which formed a Battery, with the staff in Galați". Among the other Sections, it was designated "one section in Focsani and one in Bârlad, which formed a battery with the General Staff in Focsani". In the summer of 1875, the Minister of Interior Lascăr Catargi addressed the prefect of Galați, requesting the improvement of the condition in which the firefighters from Galați live.

### **3.3.1. Territorial artillery Enlistment with firefighters**

The history of Romanian artillery is inextricably linked to the names of rulers Gheorghe Bibescu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza and Prince Carol I. The term "artillery" comes from the archaic French verb "artiller", which refers to the art of building and handling, during battles, different war machines"

After the Union, Russia returned the abusively taken cannons to the Principalities in 1854 and three artillery batteries were set up: the infantry one in Moldavia was commanded by Captain Henrich Herkt. The two batteries from Wallachia were formed on October 11, 1859, in the first artillery division of the Romanian Army.

As a modern, distinct structural entity, the Romanian artillery appeared 170 years ago, on November 10, 1843. After 17 years, in December 1860, the first artillery regiment appeared due to the report of General Emanoil Florescu to Cuza. The general's report referred to the need to unify artillery batteries in Moldova with those in Wallachia to form the first artillery regiment with two divisions. Major Tobias Gherghely was appointed to lead the Regiment, and Captain Herkt was proposed to Division 1, whose name we will meet in 1877 under the command of the 3rd Artillery Regiment, to which the Galati and Brăila firefighters belong.

An important moment in the history of artillery is the end of 1860, when the Law on the organization of the armed power was published, according to which the Artillery Corps was formed within the Romanian Army, composed of the staff and artillery units.

The evolution of the artillery structures, until the beginning of the War of Independence, was a rapid one, marked by the establishment of two other regiments and nine territorial artillery

batteries, staffed with firefighters, with sections in the localities: Craiova, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Pitești, Giurgiu, Ploiești, Buzău, Galați, Brăila, Focșani, Bârlad, Iași, Roman, Bacău and Botoșani. During the War, the 3rd Artillery Regiment fought heroically in the War of Independence, especially the 3rd Battery in the battle for the conquest of the Grivița redoubt. In the "Monitorul Oastei" from 1881, details appear regarding the need to set up the 5th artillery regiment with the Garrison in Tulcea, meant for the 5th Territorial Division.

Between 1878 and 1916, a new artillery organization took place, using lessons learned from the war. The new requirements of the battlefield led to the division of artillery into distinct categories: field artillery, mountain artillery, fortress artillery, and from 1916 anti-aircraft artillery, with the establishment of the Anti-Aircraft Corps, under the command of Captain Gheorghe Ciurea.

### **3.4. Preliminaries of the War of Independence**

The diplomatic and military policy pursued by the governments of Bucharest, overwhelmingly influenced by princes, were aimed at creating the necessary conditions for obtaining Romania's independence. The military policy pursued by the Romanian governments between 1862-1875 was dominated by the actions that sought to create a solid permanent army that, in a given situation, could represent a point of support in obtaining independence.

This war was the first major conflict in which the Romanian army was involved, after the reorganization of the army on a modern basis in 1830. A French military mission contributed to the creation of the new army, supporting the efforts in the fields of organization, endowment and army training. Observing the shortcomings of the French army grafted on a young and inexperienced army, Carol I initiated a real program of reforming, retraining and resizing the Romanian military body, based on collaboration with German instructors.

The regulation of 1871 established the organizational structure of the fire brigades that were part of the Territorial Army. Decree no. 702 of March 1874 showed that there were nine territorial artillery batteries, grouped within the four territorial divisions into which Romania was divided. At the 3rd Territorial Division in Galați, the Galati Territorial Batteries (with a section in Brăila) and Focșani (with a section in Bârlad) were established. Major Alexandru Fălcoianu (2nd Artillery Regiment) was appointed to command the artillery of this Division.

### **3.5. Firefighters in the War of Independence (1877-1878)**

The mobilization of the army on April 6/18, 1877, surprised the Romanian artillery in a sustained reorganization process. The artillery regiments, in the peace garrisons, began to replenish their troops with artillery, flotilla, fire and cavalry reservists.

On April 26 / May 8, 1877, the Romanian army entered the battle, by firing Batteries 1, 2 and 6 of the 1st Artillery Regiment at Vidin. The mobilization of the army on April 6/18, 1877, surprised the Romanian artillery in a sustained reorganization process. The artillery regiments, located in the peace garrisons, began to replenish their troops with artillery, flotilla, fire and cavalry reservists.

The artillery firefighters from Galați fought in the War of Independence from 1877-1878, in the 32nd Battery of the 3rd Artillery Regiment, under the command of Captain Gheorghe Lupașcu (father of the Buzau fire commander, Colonel Neron Lupașcu) and with firefighters from the Giurgiu, Ploiești sections. Unrelated to a particular artillery regiment or city, we find in the archives of the Ministry of War a list of 91 firefighters non-commissioned officers and soldiers registered by the General Headquarters to receive medals.

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In the fight for the fall of Plevna, Rahova and Vidin, the firefighters-artillerymen successfully contributed to the strategic coverage executed by the units of the Observation Corps. After the creation of the 3rd and 4th Artillery Regiments in March 1877, the 3rd Battery (commander - captain Gheorghe Lupașcu) of the 3rd Artillery Regiment employed 44 firefighters from the Giurgiu, Ploiești and Brăila Sections, along with the 43 gunners, 50 reservists, two volunteers and 16 sailors, their commander being decorated with the "Military Virtue" medal.

After the war, in October 1878, as a sign of respect for the devotion and courage of military firefighters on the fronts of the War of Independence, firefighters marched with cannons captured from Ottoman troops.

The testimonies recorded in the magazine "Military Virtue" from 1910, in the obituary dedicated to Captain Alexandru Zăgănescu and his activity in the War of Independence, are a tribute to both him and the fight of military firefighters in ammunition columns, as well as artillery batteries of military firefighters.

With the beginning of 1878, the problem of the double specialization of artillery firefighters reappears, having to spend time between two training places, the military complaining that they go exhausted to firefighting missions.

For the merits of the military in the War of Independence, the medal "Cross of the Danube Crossing" was established, which we find awarded to firefighters in Galați, by the "Regulation of the Cross of the Danube Crossing of March 24, 1878", "for military service... in the campaign of 1877-1878 in Bulgaria".

### **3.5.1. Galați and Tecuci firefighters during the War of Independence**

Galați firefighters suffered a lot in terms of organization, equipment and maintenance. For the ease of administration, it was decided, by Ministerial Decision no. 8 of 1879, that the different fire departments of the cities be grouped on batteries starting with April 1, 1879. The order was that the Brăila, Focșani and Bârlad Sections form a single Battery, together with the Galați Fire Department, under the name of Galați Battery.

#### **Tecuci firefighters during the War for the country's Independence**

A series of archive documents talk about the organization of the Tecuci firefighters in the context of the War of Independence. From them, we learn about the daily problems of the barracks, its management and collaboration with the municipality.

In Tecuci, being communal firefighters, the mayor received proposals from commanders for firefighters, which were then validated according to the Ministry of War. The leadership was elected or dismissed, depending on the officer's organizational skills.

The inventory of the Fire Command on June 27, 1876, included some objects that help us to get an idea of the place where the Tecuci firefighters took their life, the clothes they wore and the tools they worked with on the fire, but also the ones necessary to collect food for the horses. The words "degraded" and "old" are often observed, evidence of poor equipment with extinguishing technique. In the thesis, as in the published scientific materials, we followed a series of coordinates of firefighters: working technique, uniforms and conditions of the barracks are aspects that have always influenced the activity of firefighters and continue to do so today.

Due to an address sent by the famous Major Fălcoianu - who distinguished himself in the battles of the War for Independence, to the city of Tecuci on July 13, 1876, and where he reminded the mayor that firefighters are in the care of the Ministry of War, we learn about some aspects of Tecuci firefighters the threshold of the War of Independence.

A report dated December 15 shows the existence of a city observation tower in which a firefighter was constantly on the lookout to be able to announce the fire station in time.

In February 1885, the Council of Tecuci Commune was interested in making a series of constructions, headquarters for some institutions, the City Hall building, the Police headquarters "and even the relocation of the Fire Department from where it is".

An inventory of the fire station in Tecuci, dated March 2, 1885, and signed by the commander of the Section - D. Constantinescu, mentions the presence of 12 horses, a French pump with its accessories, a transportable French pump, a manual pump Prussian system, used especially when extinguishing fires in the chimney, but degraded; then a tool cart, along with a manual fire pump, water buckets and eight pumps.

The staff being insufficient and unmotivated, the fire chief made a series of addresses to reward those who stood out in various fires, or at least the settlement of the equipment burned during the intervention. In one of his addresses, the officer wrote to the municipality about the "insufficiency of the people in the Company" and asked for 5 more soldiers and 2 corporals because many were engaged in organizational activities and could not be used for interventions.

One of the problems that arose at the end of 1891 was generated by the need to purchase an Omnibus for the transport of people and tools to the fire. Old tool carts were very often repaired and just as often damaged, with a manufacturing system.

From the analysis of the archives regarding the Tecuciul of the end of the 19th century, it emerges the heraldry used on the correspondence and administrative documents (where the coat of arms of the Kingdom appears) of the firemen. In time, the heraldry from the stamp of the Tecuci fire subunit followed the one specific to the City Hall, namely the grapevine under which it was written, in exergue: "Kingdom of Romania \* Tecuci Fire Brigade Command".

### **3.6. The organization of the Galați firefighters at the end of the 19th century**

The city of Galați was economically developed at that time, it had expanded a lot, and from a civilizational perspective, the presence of a fire station was imperative. In 1881, Galați was also the third city in terms of the amounts transferred to the state for the maintenance of firefighters, after Bucharest and Iasi, with 58 thousand lei.

In the same year, General Slăniceanu proposed by Decree no. 1000 of 1881, the formation of a 5th Artillery Regiment, consisting of a battery from the four regiments. As a result, the territorial artillery is organized in 14 batteries, each bearing the name of the city where it is located; among them were the batteries of Brăila, Focșani, Galați, Bârlad.

A big problem with the city of Galati was the water supply of the services. Although it is surrounded by running water, the water supply of firefighters was a constant problem even in the interwar period. The commanders had to personally look for solutions to protect the power outlets during the winter, to shorten the duration of the interventions and implicitly the amount of damage caused by the fire.

As a result of the complaints addressed to the Police Headquarters, the archive documents show the consequences of a fire and the procedure followed by the institutions involved in an emergency such as the fire. When the sergeant in charge of a certain area of the city saw the fire, he gave the fire signal to the other sergeants, who were sent as follows: "a

rider to the Fire Department, a person to the Water Company to release the water." Subsequent complaints show that this procedure was inappropriate because the sergeants spread the word from person to person to the police and from there to the fire department.

Meanwhile, the people affected by the fire and their neighbors were mobilized, and those who refused to help at the urging of the police were complained of and fined. We find the same practice in Transylvania, where fines and rewards were applied for those who refused help, as well as for citizens who came to the aid of those affected by the fire or injured.

An important proposal in the field of fire prevention comes from the Commander of the 3rd Army Corps (Market Command) to rebuild the pavilion affected by the earthquake and demolished, while presenting aspects of the late fire alarm in May 1888.

The City Hall resolution referred to the postponement by a budget proposal for the following year. On June 27, the Market Command returns with the request to the commander of the 3rd Army Corps, recalling the proposal to build a fire announcement pavilion, a tower to announce by a phone or bell, the fire station. This proposal mentions the specifics of fire alarm, as well as the fact that firefighters arrived relatively late to some fires. In this address, the Market Command adds, to the need for a fire tower, the fact that in bad weather the street sergeants do not patrol but are gathered in one place, further delaying the alarm. The answer of the City Hall on October 9, 1888 was that no funds could be provided at that time for such a project in Galați.

### **3.6.1. The year 1891 and the first practical organizational measures**

After a series of organizations and reorganizations of firefighters after 1874, but also in the period preceding the War of Independence, on 09.07.1891 was issued Order no. 3149 which decided the abolition of the artillery fire batteries and the establishment in the respective cities of the Fire Departments and Companies.

The measure adopted in July 1891 brought a slight improvement but did not change the old system with its problems. Important was the abolition of the Division and the Joint Batteries of fire-artillerymen, with the return to the name of Fire Departments.

By the High Decree no. 2754 of 24.10.1891, the firemen's uniform was modified: the clothing remained specific to the artillery, having on the back of the mantle epaulettes, two crossed axes, under the number of the regiment to which they are attached. Keep the fire outfit short and the specific fire belt.

The outfit did not prove practical "because of the cut that does not allow enough freedom of movement of the arms", so it was modified by General Averescu in 1907. Local mayors everywhere expressed their dissatisfaction with the service of the fire. In this sense, the correspondence between the Ministry of War, the Ministry of Interior and the town halls is recorded.

### **Repairs of the Galați Fire Station**

In November 1895, a circular from the Ministry of War referred to the transfer of firefighters under the administration of the army, under that of the Communes. This organization did not give the expected results because the communes did not meet the financial requirements for the maintenance of firefighters, the needs exceeding the available budget. Galați commune handed over to the fire commander an old building and started a correspondence with the Ministry of War to improve the conditions in this barracks. Ministerial decision no. 240 of 19.11.1893 brought some corrections to some previous laws, establishing what endowment a company had to have as well as the staff, as well as the fire departments.

By Ministerial Decision no. 299 of 1895 decided the regiments to which the Military Fire Departments belonged. Starting with April 1, 1895, Braila and Galați belonged to the 3rd Artillery Regiment, and the commander of the firemen in Galați was named Lieutenant Alexandru Dobrescu.

In the period 1895-1987, while he was commander Lieutenant Ciuntu N., the archive documents show an intense correspondence between the town hall - the Ministry of War and the fire command. Among these is the answer to the question of whether firefighters remain under the tutelage of the Ministry of War or not. In the same year, 1895 - numerous repair and maintenance works are recorded, probably as a result of complaints made by the commander.

By Ministerial Decision no. 299 of 1895, the regiments to which the Fire Departments were attached were decided, together since April: the 3rd Artillery Regiment was made up of the Brăila and Galați sections.

### **3.6.2. The floods brought new changes: the year 1897**

The year 1897 is one of the floods in the city valley. On June 17, the rains culminate with the flooding of areas prone to the problem in the future, respectively in the city valley. Until then, the flood situation was managed by the town hall, which sent the water waggons and pumps to the Technical Service. This time the help of firefighters is requested, whose prompt intervention makes them permanently requested to resolve this situation together with the other authorities, as is the case of the floods of 1903, in the same area.

On January 12, 1897, Theodor Altenciu - the commander of the Fire Department - sent a new notification to the mayor regarding the deplorable condition of the fire station. Other estimates, specifications and unfinished proposals follow so that in July the situation reached the Ministry of Interior, which threatens to hand over the fire service to the city if no measures are taken to repair the barracks.

Due to the proposal for firefighters to have two working points to cover the large area of the city, any proposal to repair the building in which they were housed was postponed. Another proposal (Order No. 13036 of 1897) was the construction of shops in the open space from Traian Street so that the needs of firefighters were still under the sign of proposals. The mayor's visit and the report concluded on December 5, 1897, probably signed by the fire commander - Lieutenant Izvoranu, confirm the situation of an unhealthy space where firefighters had to eat and sleep.

In the minutes concluded on December 10/22, the councillors Șt. Stoicovici, C. Ținc and Sava Petroi, in the presence of the fire commander, propose the transfer of the Excise Bureau to the firefighters and the establishment of two other working points. Another need was to increase the number of fire hydrants (hydrants), from 36 to a need of 200. This solved the problem of lack of water, small staff, few horses and missing or damaged water waggons.

Among the proposals made now and constant over time is the location of "telephone stations in various parts of the city, combined with alarm signals" or the need to equip with "a steam fire pump".

In 1899, the III Army Corps made a notification to the engineer from the Technical Service of the Galați City Hall, regarding a series of works carried out at the fire station. From the address, we find out that the headquarters was in a pretty good condition, but unhygienic, so it needs whitewashing, painting, and the blacksmith's shop in the barracks needs render-set.

### **3.7. Conclusions**

At the beginning of the twentieth century, in the context of an increasingly prosperous and modified city due to industry, the fire station was still operating according to outdated laws and without a correspondence in the real needs of communities to prevent and extinguish fires. With the economic progress, the fires can no longer be extinguished only with water, but the chemical processes that take place in factories and manufactures had to be understood, both to raise the respective construction and to prevent the fire. Once the objective is built, firefighters begin various exercises to simulate a fire in industrial objectives, to familiarize the military with the location of the troop on the ground and the organization of the military.

Due to the increase in population, the dangers of fire have increased directly proportionally, the most common causes being the use of wood in construction, the lack of an urban plan that led to the glueing of houses, common walls and bridges, narrow streets, cleaning stoves and lack an organized water supply system. In this context, “the lack of basic prevention measures and at the same time of an organized intervention system, determined the production of devastating fires during the 18th century, in almost all the cities in Wallachia and Moldova, which were soldier with significant material losses and even many lives ”.

I followed the evolution of the legislation in stages, for a coherent understanding of the stages that the firearms went through. The legislation by which the firemen, together with the militia and gendarmes belong to the Department of the Interior, with the firemen then transferred to the Ministry of War (today MApN), was a form of organizing the organization of the military, given the reality of the War of Independence and the Western model. organization. Due to the numerous desertions with which the organization of firefighters in Galați began, militarization proved its usefulness, but it also caused shortcomings for military firefighters, due to the neglect of basic rights and needs. The attachment of the firemen to the police and later to the artillery proved unsuccessful, hindering the evolution of the institution, but it also shows a necessary route, adapted to the social and military realities.

The legislative changes that take place among the fire brigade institution, by setting up its Inspectorate of Military Firefighters at the beginning of the twentieth century, are the result of problems of developing cities and the need to organize their leadership. Before the Great War, the legislation in the field consisted of laws applicable to the entire army, without a specific of firefighters, whose activity was guided in particular by Regulations, legislative tools much easier to change as needed. Their disadvantage was the use of the principles of the old extinguishing technique, while many Fire Departments already had electric extinguishing pumps, and the principles of action and management are outdated, and the recruitment of firefighters was done according to the principle of respecting the needs of the Artillery Regiment. to reach the firefighters the people without skills and the old horses of the regiment.

In the content of the chapter it is observed the use, in parallel, of two working tools: “Official Monitor” and “Army Monitor”. The chapter deals with the organization of military firefighters during the reign of King Carol I, respectively 1866-1914.

In 1874, the Fire Departments from the cities of Galați and Brăila formed a Battery with the General Staff in Galați. In 1879, Focșani and Bârlad became part of the Galați Battery.

I presented a short history of the formation of the III Artillery Regiment to which the firefighters from Galați and Brăila belonged in the War for the Independence of the country. "3rd Artillery Regiment" is also the name of some funds from the military archives in Pitesti and were the subject of the study for this thesis since firefighters fought in the War of Independence under

the flag of this Regiment and bore the mark of the Artillery Inspectorate until 1929, when they formed a Military Fire Command.

During the War of Independence, firefighters were organized on the front under the leadership of Capt. Gheorghe Lupașcu. Firefighters accompanied the ammunition carts, as part of a battery such as Independence-gunners; the 3rd Battery, for example, was made up entirely of firefighters. At the command of the Battery was Captain Constantin Horezeanu, who recommended his subordinate soldiers for decoration following the siege of the redoubts. Several cases of firefighters decorated with the "Crossing the Danube" Cross are known, while the soldier Manole Stăvrache from the Galati Fire Brigade received the right to wear the Military Medal.

After the war, in 1879, the Brăila, Focșani and Galați Fire Departments together formed the Galați Fire Brigade.

In the context of numerous requests for the repair of the fire station in Galați, the mayors of the city discussed the possibility of removing the barracks from the army, because the amount transferred to the Ministry of War did not help at all from their point of view. The closest model was Bârlad, which organized its fire service.

In December 1897 there were already numerous plans and projects for the construction of a new fire station in Galati, but none was implemented. Reports and extensive correspondence between the fire department - City Hall - Ministry of War show that firefighters continued to live in an unsanitary place in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

## CHAPTER IV

# MILITARY FIREFIGHTERS BODY FROM 1900 UNTIL THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1900-1918)

### 4.1. Introduction

At the outbreak of World War I, the concentration of the working class in large enterprises was in full swing, because, according to a 1901-1902 study, more than half of industrial workers were employed in enterprises with at least 100 workers. The process was more advanced in Bucharest and its surroundings, in the Prahova Valley, with its refineries and in the ports of Galați and Brăila, where the food industry and the transport of grain attracted many workers.

I found it necessary to introduce the social and economic situation at the beginning of the twentieth century, due to the indissoluble link between firefighting and the development of society. Due to the growing population and the number of buildings, the fire officer had to be aware of the state of the roads in the city, the main industrial objectives, the inns to establish an intervention strategy and a route. At the same time, the firefighters' work technique was outdated and could no longer cope with the problems posed by factories and manufactures, such as the lack of a hydrant inside the factory or the inefficiency of the water in front of the flammable substances used or stored.

The military conflicts in which the firefighters were involved do not only mean participating in the event, but also the personality of the one who led the military barracks. Therefore, I opted for the analysis of the personality of Major Ioan Nicolau, as it results from the military archives of the Central Archive Depository from Pitești.

### 4.2. The first steps towards the independence of the Fire Brigade

In dealing with the legislative evolution and the organization of the firearms, we looked for a key to interpret the difficult course in detaching the firemen from the Ministry of War. Put in parallel with the industrial explosion and economic progress, we understand that a separate Fire Inspectorate could be possible only when social needs created the context of legislative changes, which Colonel Gheorghe Pohrib used to the advantage of the Inspectorate under his leadership. The institutional evolution also means the maturation of the leaders appointed to the leadership, and the best example is Colonel Gheorghe Pohrib, due to the establishment of an Inspectorate of Military Firefighters.

In the process of analyzing the legislative evolution of the provisions on firefighters, we started from the question: *is there a moment of such a strong load in the history of an institution that some coordinates (legislative, social, economic, municipal) can be established by which can justify this need?* I have concluded that we can speak of a period of incubation of laws in society. When a period of crisis is reached, the laws meant to bring a change, progress in a certain problem, respectively the past of a weapon - "hatches", giving birth to the legislative provisions necessary for the evolution, the transition to a new stage. This type of maturation among firefighters imposed itself after the Great Union, but also through the demands of communities that were threatened by the complexity and novelty of emergencies brought by the Great War.

In the past of firefighters can be seen the transition from extinguishing water exclusively with fire, to the complexity of fires, brought by innovations in the industrial field. The two great world wars brought the novelty of air bombing, which introduced specialization in the protection of the civilian population, with complex tasks for firefighters. In this context, the involvement of leading firefighters became vital: they had to motivate their staff not to desert during the war, to look for food for the military and to look for solutions to the city's problems, which arose during firefighters missions.

Except for the construction of the observation tower, the City Council agreed in particular to improve telephone communication, changing the hours of the "state telephone office" to operate all the time.

In a copy attached to the report to the mayor from January 1904, of the Chief of Staff of the 3rd Army Corps, the commander of the Galati Fire Department (Lieutenant Boboc) mentioned some shortcomings in performing the service:

- a) the numerous damaged hydrants lead to the situation in which the five pumps carry water remotely for two working pumps;
- b) the pumps of the City Hall to be announced at the same time as those of the firemen if necessary;
- c) "the street sergeant from the burning place to have the record to first send a signal to the firefighters by whistling from guard to guard and then to announce the police station".

The shortages of firefighters in 1906 consisted of the small number of water waggons: the same five since 1903, which made it difficult to intervene in case of simultaneous fires. The fact emerges from an address from September 4, 1906, to the Ministry of War, on which occasion the high number of fires from that period was mentioned.

### **4.3. Military Fire Inspectorate**

After the promotion of Major Constantin Urlățeanu and his further appointment at the command of the Bucharest Fire Company in April 1912, he was also appointed inspector of military firefighters. The main reasons for placing the Inspectorate in 1912 are a Ministerial Decree of that year, which made the Fire Inspectorate responsible for "the carriages and fire tools of the fire brigades." The second reason is the order of the Ministry of War no. 603 of 1912 approving the report no. 491 of the Artillery Inspectorate, which mentioned that the Fire Inspectorate inspected the specialized instruction of the fire units and the fighting technique (extinguishing machines) of the firefighters. The result of the inspections was reported to the Artillery Inspectorate, which had to solve the problems with the help of the Ministry. Besides the General Staff approved and ordered in 1912 that young people be recruited and assigned directly to firefighters.

The legislative realities show that only after 1926 the majority of the Fire Departments in the country were established, with the transfer of each Section to the subordination of the Military Fire Inspectorate, considered the Weapons Inspectorate. This is also the case of the Galati Fire Department, which came under the subordination of the Inspectorate on January 1, 1927. In the summer of the following year, the Tecuci Fire Department was established.

The volume "History of Bucharest military firefighters" shows that the detachment of army fire brigades was done administratively. The Fire Inspectorate wanted the Fire Departments to administer themselves, without the intervention of the Regiment to which they belonged; In this way, the needs of firefighters, not just artillery, were met. In December

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1926, a "Ministerial Decision on the Establishment of Cash and Material Management" was issued, beginning in January 1927.

We can conclude that, in the chronology of the firefighters' past, 1926 is a moment of reference by creating a land suitable for the Weapons Inspectorates referred to in the 1929 law, and can be considered the year Artillery. The Law of Ministries of 1929 continued this process of detachment by appointing a form of centralized management of firefighters, in the form of a Command of military firefighters.

### **4.3.1. Transformations in the iconography of military firefighters**

#### **1847-1866 Years**

The research of the Iași historian Sorin Iftimi details one of the works of the painter Niccolo Livaditti. The painting depicts the fire officer Emanoil Constantin Boteanu having under his left arm the characteristic brass helmet, made of brass, with a black mane and is in a private collection. The officer has the rank of major, indicated by two small stars on the fringed epaulettes, unlike the lower grades they had simple epaulettes. She is wearing a navy tunic, with a row of buttons, a collar and a pair of red cuffs.

The uniforms of the firemen from Wallachia in 1851 were made of navy blue cloth. "The jacket, short in front, up to the waist, ends at the back in a swallow's tail, with straight lids placed horizontally ... The uniform is washed in front, at the lap, at the lids and on the edges of the swallow's tail. The collar is high, made of red cloth, the cuffs are circular, red and have simple, red petals. The trousers were provided with red facings, as in the infantry, and also the cartridge with a diagonal".

The reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza (1859-1866) represented a significant period from this point of view. In the first years of his reign, the process of uniforming uniforms took place.

Since their establishment, in 1830, the armies of the two Romanian principalities had had similar outfits, their evolution following the same line. In 1860, the Uniformity Brochure appeared, which introduced several common elements of uniform, meant to create a sense of unity in the army of the United Principalities. As common national insignia, the tricolour cockade (red-yellow-blue) for the army helmet and the tricolour scarf for belts were introduced. A novelty was the introduction of garlands in the form of a garland ("Hungarian knot"), sewn on the sleeves, to indicate military ranks.

The cut of the uniforms changed in 1860, according to the French model: the Russian turn-out was given up, very tight at the waist, for tunics with a more natural line, which gave more freedom of movement to the body; the trousers introduced then were particularly wide.

In 1864, the four military outfits were regulated by High Agenda: 1. robes of state; 2. great service attire; 3. undress; 4. the little everyday undress.

In the capital of Moldova, there was a fire company that had a military organization but was subordinated to the Ministry of Interior. In 1847, Moldovan firefighters wore an infantry-like uniform, but with blue passports. "The shako that protected the head had the shape of a helmet with a top on it; in front was fixed the semi-elliptical emblem, with in the middle the ox of Moldavia flanked by the two dolphins, introduced in December 1854.

The special-shaped brass firefighter's helmet had a ridge in the middle, a visor, and a nape protector. On the front of the helmet was a brass plate, decorated with rays, with the insignia of the weapon on it: two crossed fire axes and the inscription "Firefighters' Corps".

The jugulars, which fixed the helmet under the chin, were made of scales-shaped brass plates. On the left side of the helmet was attached a specific red plumage of painted raven feathers. The officer in the image shown by the author, depicted on horseback, has on his chest the ribbon of leather woven in yellow metal wire. The fringed metal epaulettes are after the new French model. The soldier is equipped in a full suit, campaign, with a backpack on his back. It has metallic epaulettes with red fringes, after the cavalry model. It is heated with a leather belt, with two "harness" straps on the chest (parallel in the front and crossed at the back); a bayonet is caught on the left side of the strap.

#### **4.3.2. The uniforms of the Romanian army in the period 1866-1916**

If during the Paris Convention, the military were equipped with Russian-type uniforms, between 1859-1861 the uniforming of the regimentals of the Moldavian and Muntenian armies began. Prince Carol I wanted the army to give up lavish uniforms and adopt a more sober and less expensive outfit.

The first major changes took place after the vote on the Law on the Organization of the Armed Forces of 1868. The new organizational changes were found in the "Regulation of Uniforms", published on July 22 / August 3, 1868. The soldiers in the artillery regiments were equipped with brown tunics and grey pants. The infantry had a navy cap, navy tunic, grey cloth trousers (white summer pants), boots, a grey cloth cloak with a hood.

The description of the uniform of firefighters during the War of Independence appears in the Monitor of 1877. The details refer to the "chapels of artillery regiments", which are similar to those of "line infantry", 50 millimetres ". While the gunners had cut the number of the regiment in the middle of the grenade, the chapel of the artillery firefighters had, instead of the number intended for the body, "two crossed axes cut in red cloth measuring 40 millimetres each".

The process of transforming the outfits, with important changes, continued with the entry into force of the Law on the Organization of the Army of 1872 and the "Regulation of Uniforms" of 9/21 June 1873, which kept the main elements of the outfits of 1868.

One feature was the extension of the navy blue colour to most of the outfits of the permanent army units, as well as to the territorial ones. Firefighters, who since 1874 also received the role of territorial artillery in case of war, had a brass helmet, with a white metal crest and red feather, navy blue tunic, grey pants, grey coat, the rest of the equipment is similar to that of ground troops.

By the regulation of 1873, four outfits were instituted: the great outfit, the service outfit, the campaign outfit and the day outfit, the differences between these outfits were made mainly by the accessories worn on helmets, and in the case of officers, epaulettes.

Another change in the uniform of firefighters occurs in the early twentieth century. By the High Decree from 1907, "the tunic of the firemen will be drawn up as of the mountain battery, having on the epaulette the distinctive signs of the firemen: two crossed axes".

#### **4.4. Galati firefighters on the eve of the Great War**

At the organizational level, the new twentieth century found Romania unprepared in terms of equipment with modern extinguishing equipment. All sectors of economic and industrial life were developing, but at the same time creating new potential sources of fire. In 1913 an "Ordinance was issued for making fire hydrants near factories, industrial workshops, wood depots and other industries".

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Although Galați is surrounded by water, water was always lacking in fires due to the low transport capacity of the tanks, both with low pressure or difficult access to hydrants and the lack of a place to supply fire extinguishers. Sewerage was not systematized at all or was often lacking.

Correspondence between firefighters in the country shows the situation of the fire service at the beginning of the twentieth century, namely the fact that another 40-year-old regulation was used, which was no longer in force once the Instruction Regulations of 1893 appeared, but useful yet. The outdated technique made them resort to the Regulation that corresponded to the fire material used.

Another discontentment of the fire officer was the long duration of the fire announcement, due to the lack of telephones in the city, especially at public institutions and private companies.

"The rapid or late location of the fires depends on: the fire announcement (from sergeant to sergeant, then phone to the Department and only then to the fire department), the people who make up this fire brigade, how they are trained, the horses that are harnessed to the carriages, fire material".

"Fires" - said the commander of the Fire Department, "has become a business ... to the encouragement of which contribute a lot of insurance companies, which collect huge amounts daily, without them contributing .. with an amount in the budget of these bodies". This analysis is confirmed by some complaints about the delay of firefighters, such as the fire of August 19, 1910, where firefighters arrive late, and fire materials and used pumps prove ineffective in the face of the dynamics of the fire.

#### **4.4.1. Major Ioan Nicolau (1911 - 1930)**

Lieutenant I. Nicolau came to command the barracks in Galați in 1911 and overturned all the prejudices of businessmen and mayors about firefighters. In the 20 years, while he was a commander, Major Nicolau determined the officials to give up indifference towards firefighters, enlivening the military often affected by the death of colleagues or lack of equipment.

In the context of the new wave of technical equipment of the firefighters in the country, Major Nicolau showed special perseverance towards the Romanian officials to obtain the cars necessary for the proper development of the Galați Fire Station. The appreciation he won in numerous battles in the wars abroad and the war for the country's independence, all imposed him as a commander in the Golden Book of the Galați firefighters.

The Directorate of Statistics of the Ministry of War notified the Ministry of Interior that each Fire Department came to have a different material of fire and different instruction, which made it difficult to find spare parts for cars.

In the winter of 1914-15, the commander of the Fire Department notified the City Hall that most of the winter fires were due to uncleaned chimneys, so Mayor G.N. Gămulea issued an ordinance requiring that "all landlords and tenants will take care of soot cleaning and keeping the harnesses in good condition", and the offenders will be fined according to the municipal law.

#### **4.4.2. A school for Galați firefighters and welcome facilities**

For several years, the section commanders managed to set up a classroom for the training of the fire brigade. The study was differentiated into categories: those who did not know Romanian studied the alphabet, and the others were taught about the technique of extinguishing fires in different situations, for each servant, researching the practical cases of various fires in which they participated.

The first reference about a literacy school for firefighters and called "Galați Adult School attached to the Fire Department", we find on January 22, 1914: the band of the Fire Department was to begin theoretical training, so it asks the City Hall "4 school benches ". The article in the newspaper "Action" talks about the moment of establishment of that school for firefighters and the tenth anniversary of its existence, is called "Ten years since the establishment of the Adult School at the Galați Fire Department", by Major Ioan Nicolau.

#### **4.5. Romania's entry into the war. Defense of Galați**

The subchapter shows the participation of firefighters in the event known as the "Defense of Galați" or the Battle of Galați on January 7-9, 1918, when firefighters managed to avoid the burning of the city by retreating Russian troops.

#### **4.6. The activity of the firemen from Galați during the Great War**

Organizationally, the administration of the fire command is seen as a separate body, and the communal councils include in their budgets salaries and amounts necessary to buy pumps, horses, spears, axes, ladders, belts, helmets for soldiers and other objects necessary for this institution as well as their maintenance. For everything regarding discipline, instruction, manoeuvring the fire service, urban fire companies are subordinated to the military authority - the Ministry of War. For all their maintenance, premises and instruments, it is up to the military authority, but the internal administration of the order belonged only to its direct head.

On October 24, the Fire Inspectorate received the Magirus escalator and the "800 litre motor pump per minute" destined for Galați, and the municipality sends a mechanic to be trained in the Capital. The Magirus motor pump of 800 litres / minute flow and 22.5 hp engine was superior to the intervention pumps until then. It was equipped with lanterns for night lighting, "hand torches, with oil, with an incandescent wick of asbestos, of brass and wooden tail, ... asbestos suit, complete, composed of coat, trousers, boots and gloves; "Kofnig" life jacket, consisting of helmet, air hose, water hose, telephone with hose; carbine escape ropes; life belt, flexible spray pipe with American beak and fittings ".

The year 1926 also marks the establishment of the Fire Training Center, with the aim of "training and training of firefighters". It was inaugurated only in 1934, and a fire station was designed.

#### **4.7. The occurrence of fire prevention activities in our country**

The fire prevention activity received this name which did not exist until the interwar period, although there were concerns in this regard. Colonel Gheorghe Pohrib decided to set up the first specialized publication of firefighters, to make known among citizens the

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legislation in the field of fire protection, why it is necessary to prevent fires and to analyze the causes of their occurrence.

Analyzing the articles published in the "Bulletin of Romanian Firefighters", the second year (1930) has a theme-oriented to three main directions: fire prevention, innovations in the field of means of intervention and extinguishing substances and fire interventions ... By how oriented to the theme of the magazine, I noticed that it also overlaps with the history of the Military Fire Command".

The Fire Inspectorate ordered the commanders of the military fire units to inspect the public institutions, performance halls, factories, workshops in the city to make the necessary recommendations to remove the causes that could cause fires.

Many firefighters from Galați were involved in the life of the community, through solutions offered for fire prevention in house construction, factory activity and aspects of daily life, in addition to obtaining decent living conditions in the barracks.

In the early days of firefighters, the responsibility for community safety in fires was not centralized and the message about prevention rules did not reach the population, nor did the problems of building construction. This lack of communication made the urban space an area poorly off vision in terms of protection against fires caused by attacks or negligence. The high tower of the churches or the town hall, meant to observe the fires in time, had to be completed with high-performance extinguishing equipment.

#### **4.8. The first mentions of the activity of the Tecuci Fire Company**

In Tecuci, the "small fire brigade" was established in 1843, when the necessary rooms were made and the necessary tools were received from the County Council. From the repair estimate, we can see that at that time the firemen from Tecuci had a big and a small pump, four water waggons, 15 cages, 15 axes.

In 1928, firefighters were put under the administration of the Ministry of the Army, renouncing civilian status.

The construction of the Tecuci fire station and the Police headquarters were completed by the Bucharest entrepreneur N. Schwalbach, in 1894. At that time, the city was illuminated by over 200 gas lamps, and the streets were well divided due to a plan drawn up by architects Mornand and Brandel in 1858.

#### **4.9. Establishment of the Tecuci Fire Department**

The archive documents available in the local and military county archives contain important details about the establishment of the Tecuci Fire Department, on August 1, 1928, as a result of the requests made by the City Hall. The correspondence is relevant because it shows practical aspects of the barracks life from the interwar period: the intervention technique, the division of tasks within the Section; the passages about the fire and military duty in the service of the Tecuci community are equally important.

The military archives show that, in 1912, the Tecuci firefighters were maintained by the municipality, as a result, they had a civil organization.

In the address of the Inspectorate to the Tecuci City Hall, there is the Order for the establishment of the Section and the measures that had to be taken by the local authorities.

The newly established Fire Department in Tecuci was in a deplorable state in terms of the condition of the fire extinguishing material and the accommodation conditions of the

military. In a report submitted to the Fire Inspectorate, the section commander pointed out that the extinguishing accessories must be replaced, the accommodation conditions are improper and the water pumps are old. In a report from 1928 on the logistical equipment needed for the chemical weapons neutralization team that could affect the population of Tecuci, the Fire Department mentioned that it does not have materials such as: masks, breathing apparatus, suits, gloves and hyperite boots, first aid bags and other accessories. With the three jackets and four pumps of various sizes, firefighters could barely limit the fires, not the fighting gases blown out of the air.

With the establishment of the Section, some moral coordinates required by the firefighter's profession are mentioned: "The first duty of any firefighter who arrives at a fire is to save the lives of people in danger".

Coming to the management of the Tecuci Fire Department, 2nd Lieutenant Vlad Radu asked the City Hall to impose some measures, correspondence from which we understand the state of the Tecuci community in terms of fire prevention:

"All state and private institutions should be connected by telephone to the fire service ... and be provided with sufficient water mouths of the same size and type as the city.

All the suburbs of the city should be connected by telephone with the fire service through the postal service and where there are no sewers or waterways, to build swimming pools ... ". The fire department was connected to the telephone exchange since August 9, 1928.

The training program had two periods: daily physical education, but in the first stage there was instruction on foot and with the weapon, description of the fire material and daily instruction on it, putting on the harness and driving the carriage, extinguishing and rescue procedures, description and handling the gas mask, moral education, military education, the Code of Military Justice, hygiene, choirs and dances and learning to write. The second stage included exercises with combat gas and Draeger breathing apparatus, gunfire and fencing, fire extinguishers, the ammunition column (matter left over from the war of independence), military transport, history and geography. Also, on Sundays, people would go to church by rotation. The Fire Inspectorate periodically notified the religious publishing units.

#### **4.10. Concerns of the Tecuci Fire Department for community safety**

The document entitled "History of the establishment of the military fire service in the city of Tecuci, August 1, 1928 and until January 1, 1931", shows how the Tecuci Section was founded following an agreement between the City Hall and the Ministry of Army, approved by the General Staff with order no. . 10766, August 1, 1928.

"According to the new law on the organization of the Ministry of War, the Military Fire Inspectorate was transformed into the Command", an Order made known to the Tecuci Fire Department (on September 6, 1929) that the new name was the Military Fire Command.

In the "Report" for 1929, the Tecuci Fire Department mentioned some aspects about the specifics of fires (mostly in residential buildings and household annexes), equipment and needs of the subunit, the result of preventive checks and firefighting, barracks training and proposals for improving activities, proving a permanent concern for the safety of the community in various emergencies.

From the addresses of the commander of the Fire Department, we can understand aspects of the activity of firefighters from the interwar period, such as the need for a truck to transport fire material in case of a fire affecting rural areas, or a scene of a fire in 1930.

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Cinemas and their functioning are a much-discussed topic in the press and changes in the sense of protecting the population have proved difficult to implement in people's consciousness. Although on January 24, 1929 the cinema caught fire, in June 1930 the performances took place with the doors tied in chains, the escape doors could not be seen in the dark, there was no telephone, and the hall was filled with seats over the limit of seats allowed by legal provisions. Due to the danger to which the people from the "school camp colonies" were exposed, the Fire Department notified the City Hall and the Police from Tecuci.

The Tecuci Section received a new pump-pump only on May 20, 1937. On January 11, 1938, the Section received the second "fire engine". Later, in February, two smoke masks were bought, to be given to the Tecuci firefighters for use.

#### **4.11. Beginning of World War II**

Mobilized three days after the start of the war, fire brigades played an important role in the campaign to prepare the population to defend against the effects of the war. One such example is the brochure published by the Ministry of Defense at the national level, about the various rescue, fire or bombing measures to be taken by the population during the war.

The chapter in the official brochure was called "Fire Measures" and showed the importance of extinguishing the onset of fire by the person who observed it. In this way, institutions, businesses and the population were educated to defend themselves. Firefighters were instructed to intervene only in large fires, especially in institutions.

The fire department received the name of Galati Fire Company I, which then became in time the Galati Fire Department, a structure subordinated today to the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations Galati. With the transformation into the First Fire Company, the Second Company established within the Galati Steel Plant was added on June 1, 1977, by Order of the Minister of Interior no. 04516, while in Tecuci was the Third Company. (today Tecuci Fire Department). After the unification of the Civil Protection and the Inspectorate for Emergency Situations in 2004, Companies II and III became Fire Departments, under which are the Ivești Intervention Guards, Tg. Bujor and Berești-Meria for example, aiming to shorten the duration of interventions.

Between 21.06 and 21.07.1941, the city was under Soviet bombardment and in addition to a series of files showing air and artillery bombardment of the city or communications with soldiers who died on duty, local archives record the damage caused by the earthquake to the fire station. An address of the command of the Military Fire Brigade to the City Hall of Galati showed the damage caused to the Galati Fire Company led by Lieutenant G.T. Tomescu, following the earthquake of November 10, 1940 and the urgent needs.

On the occasion of the unfortunate events caused by the 1940 earthquake, the "Fiat" tanker was the main car used by firefighters to remove the remnants of the earthquake (chimneys, severely damaged walls, schools, factories and mills), but also to save people trapped in the rubble. For six days, between November 10-16, 1940, the authorities worked together to remove the main consequences of the natural disaster. In February 1941 it was often announced to cover the barracks windows with headlight covers, either for exercises or for the enemy not to see the movements of troops in the air at night. Air and artillery bombardment by the Soviets continued throughout July 1941, so firefighters were asked to

extract unexploded ordnance, extinguish fire caused by incendiary projectiles or demolish buildings severely damaged by the explosion.

Next at the command of the Galați Fire Company was Captain Vasile Crăciun. He set up two more fire stations: one was at the City Hall stables, where the jackets used to leave, and then the new tank pumps were housed together with a "Ford" tanker used after the din41 dump; the other point was at the "Steaua" mill, the largest in the locality - a favourite preference for the bombing.

In 1942, the Documentation and Statistics Service proposed, following the numerous fires registered at the enterprises, that the factories with more than 200 workers have an internal regulation (Plan) for the prevention, location and extinguishing of fires. These plans included the outline of the mouths, the existing taps and the location of the fire picket - all in collaboration with the local fire chief. The elaboration of the Intervention Plan is regulated today according to the framework model presented in Annex 3 of the General Norms of fire protection approved by the O.M.A.I. no. 163 of 2007 and is endorsed by the county emergency inspectorate.

According to the order of the Minister of Interior, the factories were required to put out fire extinguishers and intervention machines with their team to operate the manual or electric pumps, in the case of large factories. Institutions and businesses were required to maintain and equip their firefighting equipment, and the population had to prevent the spread of fires in homes.

In 1942, numerous inspections were organized on the line of fire prevention, inspections led by Captain Vasile Crăciun, among other institutions and at the City Hall. These were ordered from the Fire Department.

Authorities were responsible for organizing and equip teams to remove debris and provide first aid to injured, burned or gassed people. The mayor's office also had to provide drinking water for extinguishing fires, arranging power supplies for fire trucks and tanks, as well as organizing young people to help extinguish the beginnings of fires and in the field of civil protection.

An Air Defense Plan of the Carpet area, dated January 1942, shows the existence of "6 ambush and alarm stations with the Information Center in Galați. Another plan of the ambush and alarm stations drawn up by the commander of the Carpet Defense, Captain Dupont Alexandru, showed the existence of two Information Centers, in Galați - with 19 alarm stations and Tutova, with 12 ambush and alarm stations subordinated to Captain Clopotaru. The passive defence measures contained: an alarm station at the Covurlui County Prefecture was to set in motion the eight electric sirens in the Defense Plan.

The military archives show that Vila Cuza Vodă from Al. Today's loan Cuza was the central shelter and command post of the Carpet Passive Defense Subzone in 1944. Unexploded bombs were stored there before being taken out of the city for destruction.

The spring of 1944 shows the elaboration of various passive defence works in Galați, as follows: shelter ditches at "25 primary schools, kindergartens and high schools", as well as at five hospitals, a dispensary, three churches and various public institutions; In all, 2,000 personal shelters were reported that were used during the Anglo-American, Russian, and German bombings in the summer of 1944.

#### **4.12. Galați Fire Station "September 13th"**

For a city with a relatively large area and a population of over 100,000, the Fire Company had only one tanker at the beginning of the war. In the summer of 1943, the Ministry of Internal Affairs communicated to the Galați Local Administration Directorate that the pump truck would be delivered in the autumn.

Since the purchase of trucks from abroad involved very high costs, from 1949 onwards they were assimilated and manufactured in the country together with the related accessories and equipment.

The "Memorandum" registered on July 31, 1943 by the Head of the Galați Architecture Service, the architect George Th. Popescu can be considered a short history of the fire station building in Galați. Given that the proposal has not been completed, we continue to provide data on the past of the fire station in Tecuci Street today:

The fire station of the city of Galați established [built] in 1871, had its headquarters, from the beginning, on the property of the City Hall located between Traian Street and the New Square «Costache Negri», in a central position...

In 1899 the barracks had 5 buildings, of which: one included the stables, one served as a shed for vehicles, and the rest for bedrooms, houses, chancelleries, warehouses and workshops. (...)

The earthquake of November 10, 1940 severely damaged all the existing barracks buildings and irreparably the two-storey building which, due to the danger it presented, was completely demolished. (...). Currently, the Galați Fire Company has a war force of 145 people and a staff of 70-80 people in peacetime. It does not have washing machines, showers or toilets.

Due to the impossibility of accommodating the band in its premises and due to the lack of sufficient garages, the Company's staff and part of the vehicles are spread in buildings apart from the barracks, a situation that hinders the proper functioning of the unit".

Following the report of the Fire Company, the chief architect of the City Hall draws up a list of the main buildings in the city proposed to "be arranged with a fire station, in case of aerial bombardment." The report drawn up by Captain Vasile Crăciun, the chief engineer of the City Hall and the architect George Popescu includes a list of five tall buildings for announcing fires in 1943, as follows:

- a) The building of the owner Marin Penu, from Brăilei street, corner with Cazărmii street;
- b) The Priest's Home Building, Poșta Veche Street;
- c) The Teachers' House from Cuza Vodă Street;
- d) The Financial Administration Building from Brașoveni Street and
- e) The building of the Romanian National River Administration, from the port of Galați.

The institutions and the owners of the mentioned locations undertook to provide the guards with a restroom, and the institutions themselves incurred the costs of the materials necessary for the guard post and the telephone. The Galați Telephone Company was also required to have a telephone for these watchtowers.

#### **4.13. Local realities: Galați, 1944**

The city suffered bombings and the consequences can be found in numerous photographs attached to the archive documents. The "Report on the June 6, 1944 Air Bombardment" details the number of planes that dropped bombs on the city, the objectives pursued, the participation of firefighters and the consequences of the bombing of the 72 planes that dropped incendiary and explosive bombs.

The efforts to prepare the city for the bombing have been known since March 1944, when Capt. Vasile Crăciun, under the command of the firemen from Galați, held a passive defence course at the Boys' School. In addition to police teams, civilian demolition teams were set up, while other passive defence works aimed at building five water basins in May 1944. These preparations were made in the context of short periods of aerial bombardments, such as those of April 1944.

The few goods and the archive of the Galați Fire Company were taken by the Russian army with the barge Romanian River Navigations in the summer of 1944 after the armistice was signed. The cars, which did not fit on the barge, were destroyed by the German army

##### **4.13.1. Tecuci Section firefighters, confronted with the reality of the war**

With October 1942, all the localities under the administration of Tecuci county, drew up plans for the passive defence of the communes, in response to the Order given by the Second Air Region Staff. The communes had to organize a passive defence service consisting of: 1) "alarm team, designed to warn the population about the approach of the air attack; 2) the police and control team, destined to take measures to stop the traffic and to guard; 3) light extinguishing equipment, camouflage, designed to monitor that the lights are turned off during alarm; 4) the rescue team, composed of two groups: the fire brigade, ... the sanitary rescue group".

"Passive defence formations existing through the mobilization plan and which are: alarm service, shelter teams, firefighting teams, debris release teams, detection and disinfection teams, first aid teams, hospital teams with stations washing and gas sections". Citizens were organized in neighbourhoods, under the leadership of a police officer and a citizen to put out some fires caused by bombing, rescuing victims, snow removal and floods. Each police station had an engineer and a chief physician who worked all the time in the field and made an inventory of stretchers, dressings, gauze, syringes and medicines.

In Tecuci, it seems that there were some problems with the mobilization: the population was not willing to enlist in the community relief teams, they refused to dig ditches/trenches so that only young people from military schools and agencies were recruited. by the police.

According to the order of the Air Staff no.514 of 13.04.1945 and the order of the General Staff no. 50910 / 16.04.1945, starting with August 28, 1945 „areas and subzones A.P. they were abolished, and their attributions passed on to the fire units ”.

On March 14, 1945, the commander of the Tecuci Subzone, Major Constantin Pelin, was replaced by Capt. Aviation Commander Clopotaru Grigore.

#### **4.14. Conclusions**

The chapter begins with an introduction to the economic and social situation of the early twentieth century, to show the unsuitable working conditions in many factories, non-compliance with fire prevention and extinguishing rules (p.s.i.) both employed and industrialized. In parallel, I showed the lessons learned by the leadership of the Fire Inspectorate, which imposed, over time, compliance with laws and regulations in the field of construction and firefighting, shown in this thesis in terms of the importance of compliance in the process of civilization and urbanization.

Today, the County Inspectorates for Emergency Situations have Integrated Dispatchers ISU - SAJ which, in addition to taking over the emergency call made to 112, ensure the alarm and coordination of the intervention crews of the specialized intervention services. The ISU Galati subunits are the Galati Fire Brigade, the Galati Fire Department (with Work Points in Galati, Tg. Bujor, Berești and Pechea) and the Tecuci Fire Department (Ivești Intervention Point).

Archive correspondence shows proposals from firefighters to the municipality, regarding the need to increase hydrants, protect them from frost, signaling at night, imposing a hydrant in the yard of each factory, military unit and public building, and changing narrow streets to clean pass the fire engines.

After reproducing some organizational problems of the unit from Galați and not only, I chose to describe the course of the detachment of the military firefighters in my Inspectorate, with its leadership and administration, not through the Artillery Inspectorate.

Firefighters were often dissatisfied with both the conditions in the barracks and the rights, along with the lack of motivation, numerous deaths and careless injuries of the military. Besides, the correspondence and reports of the firefighters' order show many planned by the owners of factories or manufacture who wanted to collect the compensation made to the insurance company.

I gave space to a subchapter of the thesis for the period when the Fire Department was under the command of Major Nicolau, due to involvement in community problems and solutions found, the establishment of a literacy school for recruited firefighters and modern facilities received from the Military Fire Inspectorate.

During the Great War, firefighters were tasked with staying in the Garrison to protect the city from fire and bombing, rescuing casualties and removing debris. Under the command of the Fire Department, Major Ioan Nicolau had to find food for the troop, manage the division of personnel between daily tasks and extinguish fires, finding solutions to community problems during the war.

I reported the problems encountered at the big fire at the "Năvodul" factory, the lack of light in the city and the solution found by the fire officer, along with the new equipment received: the waterproof protective suit, the "Omnibus" type fire truck and the extinguishing machines received in 1924 together with the Capital and two more big cities.

Another important subchapter of the thesis is related to the emergence of fire prevention concerns in our country, the year 1768 being considered a reference moment due to the Document issued by Scarlat Ghica, available in the National Archives of Romania and attached to the thesis.

## CHAPTER V

# EVOLUTION OF CONCERNS FOR THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND DEFENSE OF THE CIVIL POPULATION AND WAR VALUES

### 5.1. Introduction

The first set of rules that laid the foundations of what we call today the protection of the civilian population and fundamental material-spiritual values, through dispersal and evacuation - a complex measure ensured in peacetime and implemented in special situations, is found in the Teachings of Prince Neagoe Basarab (1512-1521) to his son Theodosius.

This chapter is important in that it links the first passive defence measures of the interwar period with today's civil protection, in the general context of protecting and preparing the population for emergencies. After 87 years of existence, civil protection still fulfils its humanitarian mission today "contributing to the sustainable development, conservation and affirmation of the human species on an adequate material support".

The importance of the chapter also lies in the fact that it shows the evolution of the main concepts with which civil protection operates: notification, warning, alarm, evacuation and shelter of the population - the moment of appearance being accompanied by local realities in Galati and Tecuci.

The Law on the Organization of Firefighters of 1936 stated that the mission of firefighters, in addition to "preventing and combating accidents", was to comply with the provisions of the Passive Defense Regulation against air attacks. In this way, we can say that the fusion between firefighters and the "weapon of life" as it was also called civil protection was anticipated.

The primary mission of civil protection established by the mentioned Regulation is still found today in the form of kernels in the provisions of Law no. 481 of 2004 on civil protection, notification, alarm and warning of the population. According to the law, the main goals today are: a) avoiding the surprise and carrying out the measures for the protection of the population and the material goods; b) limiting the effects of disasters, airstrikes and military actions. Currently, the civilian and military authorities are guided by a series of Norms on the organization and provision of notification, warning, pre-alarm and alarm activity in civil protection situations. The principles are the same as those of the Passive Defense Regulation, namely "avoiding surprise and taking measures to house the population, protect material property", along with restoring normalcy after disasters, airstrikes and military action.

### 5.2. Chronological landmarks from the past of civil protection in Romania

During the First World War, modern weapons of war were used, which not only destroyed the lives of the soldiers on the front, but also hit the civilian population behind the front, the place where the logistical needs came from. During the bombing of the Great War, the police and law enforcement were tasked with knowing and guiding the population for behavior during and after the air alarm. The Ordinance issued in August 1916 at the level of

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the Capital Police Headquarters is important because it made complex recommendations for the protection of the civilian population, given the lack of basic measures for the preparation and protection of the civilian population before the Great War.

The document included "Fire-fighting measures" for the population and industrial objectives, "lighting measures" and "measures in the event of an air attack", the latter referring to the sheltering of the population caught in the bombing, the alarm signals given by the police.

January 1, 1925 meant the official establishment of the Gas Defense Service of the Romanian Army in the Ministry of War. Also on the line of information, in 1927 the "Antigaz Magazine" was established, meant to inform the military and the population alike, in matters of aerochemical warfare and anti-chemical training, starting from the solutions found by other countries and adapted to the specifics of our country.

The 1930s were marked by intense concerns of states for the development of the doctrine of total warfare: the improvement and production of fighter jets, the improvement of classical armament, the development of the chemical industry, the production and storage of a wide range of toxic combat substances, the production and storage of microbial agents capable of producing mass epidemics. In our country, the background of the general concerns of the theoretical and practical motivation of defence measures, due attention was paid to the preparation and protection of the civilian population in case of an attack with chemical weapons. Given that not all states have signed conventions banning gas attacks, the military chemical service has carried out actions to supply the population with gas masks, according to measures established by the International Red Cross Society in Rome (1929).

In the context of the military thinking of the 1930s, there are numerous regulations and instructions designed to improve the country's defence. In the past of defending the civilian population, it was important to establish a new military authority, namely the Command of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery of the Territory and implicitly the air defence zones of each Territorial Command of the Army Corps. The mission of the Command was to organize and prepare all means of active and passive defence of the territory.

The beginning of 1933 was marked by the promulgation of two important laws for the conception of organizing and preparing the population in emergency situations. The first is Law no. 1245 of 24.03.1933 on the organization of the nation and territory for wartime. In 1930, the Ministry of the Interior drafted the "Passive Defense Against Air Attack Regulations", a set of French-inspired rules approved only in 1933.

On February 22, 1933, King Charles II signed the High Royal Decree no. 468 of 1933, which established the Regulation for the operation of Passive Defense against air attacks, a document that was established to be the birth certificate of the Romanian Civil Protection. Following documentation both in Romania and abroad, Law no. 1245 of 1933 and the Regulation no. 10, by which the military firemen have new basic attributions in the organization, management and development of the Passive Defense of the Territory in addition to the task of extinguishing fires.

The "Law on the Organization of the Nation and Territory for War" stipulated the components of the organization of the nation and territory, which consisted of organizing military forces, raising public awareness so that the entire nation was aware of the efforts required for national defence and the territory organization.

### **5.3. Regulation of passive defense of the population against air attacks**

The "military lexicon" defines civil or passive defence as a component of the national system that materializes the participation of the entire people in the defence of the country, summing up measures taken throughout the territory to defend the population and material or spiritual property against air attacks.

Frédéric De Mulinen's Handbook highlights the main elements of international law on military operations; Civil protection is defined by fulfilling the specific tasks of protecting life and creating the conditions necessary for the survival of the civilian population. The distinctive sign of civil protection consists of an equilateral blue triangle, on an orange background, according to the Geneva Convention (1949).

The specific tasks of civil protection are listed in the law of armed conflicts, including alarm service, evacuation of persons and property, organization of transport and care of victims, correct marking of locations and localities, rescue operations, religious assistance and funeral services, firefighting, surveillance and signalling of dangerous areas, decontamination of land, emergency supply, emergency first aid to restore and maintain order in affected areas, restoration of public utilities, assistance to recover essential goods for survival.

The personnel of the defence services (police, firefighters, doctors) active during the bombings, the workers obliged to stay at work and all the personnel provided in the Passive Defense Plan of the city had to be equipped with gas masks.

### **5.4. The contribution of firefighters to the organization and training of the civilian population**

The organization of the military firefighters was continued by the High Royal Decree of 03.04.1936, which brought new clarifications regarding the organization and preparation of the passive defence formations, the civilian teams being trained at the fire brigade.

The contribution of firefighters during civil protection operations is shown in the Organization Act of 1936, which provided for the training of management personnel of all fire brigade units and formations, regarding specific missions. The participation of firefighters in passive defence emerges both from the articles of the first fire magazine called "Bulletin of Military Firefighters" (since 1929) and from the fact that military passive defence formations prepared by firefighters remain the only qualified forms of organization that meet until 1943 the heaviest fire-fighting and fire-limiting missions.

Starting with 1937, the Military Fire Brigade Command extended the passive defense demonstration exercises to counties, municipalities, cities and communes, involving local authorities with responsibilities in the protection of the civilian population, industrial objectives, military firefighters being the basic structure of forces and means of intervention for removing the negative effects of aerial bombardment.

### **5.5. Law on the organization of military firefighters from 1936**

Through the Official Gazette of 1938, the Lower Danube Land appeared, which included the counties of Cahul and Ismail. With the militarization of firefighters across the country, the law stated that "the prevention and control of accidents, as well as the implementation of measures imposed on firefighters by the Passive Defense Regulations, are entrusted throughout the country to the Military Fire Brigade, which must provide training

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to all units and formations. of firefighters both in terms of combating accidents and to fulfil firefighters mission, according to the Passive Defense Regulation ”.

In Galați, firefighters and the Red Cross acted as an organized force for the basic mission: extinguishing daily fires or those resulting from aerial bombardment, rescuing victims from rubble and transporting them to medical facilities.

At the time of the promulgation of the law, respectively in March 1936, there were three types of firefighters in the country considered professionals: "based on commitments, according to a certain status or who are assimilated to communal firefighters".

The importance of article 9 lies in the fact that it transforms the fire brigade units in the country into Companies (for municipalities) and Sections (in cities), only in Bucharest being called the Fire Battalion. "The numbers of fire brigades will be determined concerning the importance of cities, the number of inhabitants and local budgetary possibilities."

#### **5.6. Passive defense organization. Practical aspects on the territory of the country**

The year 1937 is relevant in the past of the firefighters through the Order of the Great Major State when the Military Firefighters Corps is organized in seven territorial groups: Group 1 - Craiova, Group 2 - Bucharest, Group 3 – Constanța, Group 4 – Galați, Group 5 – Iași, Group 6 – Sibiu and Group 7 – Timișoara and the Firefighters Company Bucharest becomes Battalion of Firefighters.

In the year 1938 a new modification in the organizational structure of the country contributed to the creation of 10 „Regions” which gathered more countries every one. The Firefighters Corps considered this organization so that Galați was included into the „Lower Danube” Region.

##### **5.6.1. Passive defense organization since 1943**

The attributions of the Command were exercised through civil state departments, Air Regions Commands, Passive Defense Zones and Subzones. A decision of the Undersecretariat of State for Air showed that in 1943 seven Passive Defense Subzones were established: Zone III of Passive Defense had its residence in Iași, Zone IV of Passive Defense was in Chernivtsi and had 7 Subzones of AP, 5th Passive Defense Zone was in Cernăuți and had 7 other subzones of A.P.

By a ministerial decision of February 5, 1941, the 48 sub-zones of Air Defense were grouped into 27 zones: at number 21 was the A.A. zone. Tecuci, with residence in Tecuci. Lieutenant Commander Clopotaru Grigore was appointed commander of the Tecuci Air Defense Zone.

Another characteristic element of the passive defence organization of 1943 is an unstable vision, trying to adapt to the realities brought by the massive bombings.

After the division of the country into Passive Defense Subzones, it was ordered that the fire units be subordinated to the garrison commanders in the aspects of passive defence. This was done by the subzone commanders who were subordinated to some prefects, the latter not having the necessary specialization. This super-centralization of the decision proved uninspired by Marshal Antonescu so that the arrival of the bombing on August 1 found the passive defence unprepared from a managerial point of view.

Surveillance stations were installed in high places (towers / blocks) to be visible to the entire supervised sector.

### **5.6.2. Organization of Passive Defense at the Tecuci Fire Department, on the eve of World War II**

Passive defence measures refer to the transmission of household planning recommendations to reduce the possibility of fires, firefighting missions carried out by aerial bombardments, as well as the remediation of unexploded ordnance, the removal of debris and the transport of gassed people to first aid stations.

The measures for the protection of the civilian population in the archive funds "Tecuci Fire Company" and "Tecuci Prefecture" are important in that they show the organization of passive defence in rural areas, stages of neutralization of unexploded ordnance by firefighters, accidents and related measures by alarming the population.

The "Passive Defense Instructions" sent to the Tecuci Prefecture on October 25, 1940 by the Command of the Air Defense of the Territory, also provided for the "Duties of firefighters in time of war", in the field of passive defence (civil protection): a) local vigilance; b) gas research, the rescue of victims and disinfection of the land; c) fire prevention and extinguishing; d) lifting of debris and unexploded bombs".

### **5.6.3. Organizing passive defense in rural areas**

The instructions of the Fire Command on "Organizing rural fire brigades", sent to the Tecuci Section in November 1936, focused on fire prevention by educating the population in case of emergency, but also on the minimum endowment of each commune with a water reserve, a team of firefighters and a service equipped with extinguishing means such as hand pump, a nine-meter ladder, water waggons or barrels for water and large axes.

The institutions responsible for organizing the Passive Defense in the villages, besides the prefect, were all the autonomous utilities, the enterprises, the chief of police, the lieutenant fire commander, the head of the Sanitary Service and the commander of the Gendarmes Legion.

Residents were required to have "piles of sand and shovels in the yard to put out fires caused by incendiary bombs". Concerning gas masks, the Prefecture notified the M.A.I. that in May 1941, only notaries, priests, teachers and gendarmes had masks in rural areas.

An order of the General Staff transmitted by the A.A. since 1941, the Tecuci Prefecture announced to take measures for the demobilization of the personnel from the passive defence formations responsible for the alarm, the extinguishing of the lights, the shelter. Only the teams of military firefighters, officials of the authorities, institutions, enterprises and civilian personnel obliged to perform the work for the benefit of the community remained.

The "Law for Passive and Active Air Defense of the Territory" of March 1939 required institutions and property owners to organize their passive air defence for premises, personnel and materials.

Tecuci had three electric sirens to alarm the population: "one of the city, one of the Leather Factory and one at the Military Aerodrome". These were complemented by church bells and public lighting.

#### **5.6.4. Measures to destroy unexploded ammunition in Tecuci**

The endowment of the firemen was weak in the face of the challenges brought by the war, and the correspondence between the Tecuci Fire Department and the local authorities mentioned this aspect.

Due to the numerous events taking place in Tecuci, the Tecuci Recruitment Circle sent an address to the Prefecture requesting an increase in the number of ambush and alarm stations, necessary for aerial surveillance. The gendarmes (whose commander was Major Cojocar) were also asked to set up a guard post in each commune, on the roof of the City Hall or in a nearby high place.

"Existing passive defence formations through the mobilization plan: alarm service, shelter teams, firefighting teams, debris release teams, detection and disinfection teams, first aid teams, hospital formations with washing stations and wards of gauze".

The Central Command of the Fire Inspectorate has gradually begun to focus on the humanitarian mission of firefighters' duty to raise public awareness, but also to motivate its employees. Extinguishing equipment was missing, was damaged most of the time, and victims whose homes were affected by fire or flood blamed the institution for not doing their duty. The image was deduced from this delay in carrying out the mission.

### **5.7. Conclusions**

The Great War and the beginning of industrialization led to the modernization of all fire services in the major capitals. where major investments in city security have taken place - due to the involvement of traders seeking business protection, disaster statistics have declined. In the case of feudal governments, no strategies and prompt investments were made in preventing and extinguishing fires.

The observation reminds us that an urban history of fires is inseparable from the financial and urban policy of cities and institutions. The payment of firefighters and the high costs involved in firefighting services have always meant seeking some form of funding, new innovations. Not only the institutions formulated a response to the fires but also the civil society, which was organized in small fire brigades of volunteers, who preceded the military firefighters.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, in the context of a city increasingly prosperous and modified due to industry, firefighters in our country still operated according to outdated laws and without a correspondence in the real needs of communities for fire prevention and extinguishing. With economic progress, fires could no longer be extinguished only with water, but the fire had to be prevented. Once the objective is built, firefighters begin to perform various exercises to simulate a fire in industrial objectives, to familiarize firefighters with the location of the troop on the ground and the organization of the military.

## CHAPTER VI

# ANALYSIS OF THE MEDIA IMAGE OF MILITARY FIREFIGHTERS

### 6.1. Introduction

In my thesis, I wanted to show that the identity of the organization is the same with its purpose and mission: if the purpose has been met, existence is justified - and the return to normal after a disaster (fire, natural events, accidents) that destabilized the space urban, depriving the population of a sense of security, is the main mission of firefighters.

Looking for a definition of organizational identity, we showed the characteristics that make firefighters a different organization from others within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and continuity over time. Another effect of identity analysis is understanding the future of the researched institution: unlike other similar organizations such as the army, police and gendarmerie, firefighters did not benefit from a well-organized and centrally-run institution from the beginning. Firefighters have not benefited from single management and administration since the beginning of the establishment, so they have not been able to adopt a single model of operation of firefighters across the country. The officers who led the fire brigade did not have the specialization in the field, so they could not provide solutions to the problems of fire prevention and extinguishing communities, they did not get involved in finding funds to improve the lives of soldiers in the barracks.

This late "outbreak" of the fire institution made it difficult to assimilate and apply passive defence measures, delaying it until the outbreak of World War II.

The issues that differentiate organizations are just as important. Within the M.A.I., there are several structures, including firefighters; each of the institutions and structures subordinated / coordinated / within the Ministry of Internal Affairs has a well-defined role.

We can conclude that the identity of an institution consists of continuity in time - not in resistance since changes are inevitable. Precisely because the actors cannot perceive the changes in their institution, I considered it necessary to follow the firefighters' activity reflected in the media, to complete the image of the archive documents, aspects during the interventions, logistical problems and organizational changes.

In compiling this chapter, I turned to the local newspapers "Vocea Covurluiului" and "Acțiã", but also to articles from the specialized press edited by firefighters. We used the notion of "organizational identity" after observing a mechanism for creating the image of firefighters in the media. Thus, organizational identity is seen in my thesis through the prism of the image, of the articles in the press over 50 years (1887-1938), of how the officers in charge got involved and solved problems in their unit and of the city.

The identity mechanism we have observed is based on a resonance process. We extended the understanding of this process in the relationship between the institution and the public, the latter being the source system. The image of firefighters appears in various actions involving only citizens and/or the press, which can be understood as a process of resonance by the fact that the military resonates with the requirements of the local media and improve the specifics of their work, understanding the following: mission quality their time in the event, the way they managed to fulfil their mission and the overall picture that includes the management of the intervention, the intervention technique and the quality of the equipment.

The resonance process can be considered part of the formation of the media identity of firefighters: we understand that saving people and the human property was the main coordinate

stable over time and that characterized the activity of firefighters. Analyzing the press articles, we can more easily understand the scene of an intervention by firefighters, we get information about the main prevention measures that applied, the existing legislation on fire prevention, the complexity of missions over time, but also the involvement of firefighters in preventive education of the population.

### **The identity mechanism in the case of military firefighters**

If the public's image of firefighters changes, the identity of the institution destabilizes and a new receptivity to the new meanings emerges. In this case, the information and public relations structure has the role of shaping the image of the new missions. Understanding, filtered through characteristics of identity, is shaped by the following reasoning: "what I am is proved only by what our deeds say".

The identity of firefighters is the only one that has taken over most organizational constructs to formulate itself. The institution was, chronologically, within the Police (Ministry of Internal Affairs), then received the organization and military regulations of the National Army (artillery weapon); In the interwar period, firefighters were tasked with preparing the population in case of air attacks (specific to the Ministry of Air and Navy). From the Turkish name of *tulumbagii* (those who handle water *tulumbai*), to the Russian *pojarnici*, and finally the French firefighters (*sapeurs-pompier*s), technological progress and the industrial revolution have forced firefighters to evolve from throwing water on fire, with complex knowledge of chemistry, physics, engineering and first aid.

## **6.2. The main appearances of the firefighters from Galați in the press from Galați**

The selection of the articles from the periodicals "Action" and "Voice of the Carpet" was made to highlight some aspects that permanently characterized the activity of firefighters, along with moral values that the press highlighted following interventions in which they were saved. lives or human property, often at the risk of losing the lives of the military. The main aspects of the activity were: fire alarm system, intervention technique, clothing, involvement in community problems and solutions found by firefighters, intervention techniques, serious accidents resulting in the death of firefighters, but also fires that affected the city of Galati and important objectives.

### **The years 1881-1884 in the press of the city of Galați**

The pages of newspapers from the end of the 19th century presented weekly cases of large fires in the city, along with the main causes of fire, insurance to insurance companies and the need to comply with fire prevention regulations.

Making a retrospective of the fires in Galați, the newspaper "Poșta" published an article called "About the fires in Galatz" from which we understand some of the firefighters problems:

"... if the firefighters get to the fire too late, it's not their fault, nor their commander's, but the city's, which has no observation tower or other warning system. Brăila is with Galați and has not only an observer, but also a telephone, the best, cheapest and safest thing for the fire service; which, if they existed in Galati, the firefighters would not be late or, if they did, they would be guilty: (...) The only way to announce is through guards who are very few. With this means of warning, the firefighters arrive late to the fire".

Following the numerous fires in the city, the press tried an analysis of the causes of these fires, adding older proposals to alert firefighters, so that they could reach the fires in time. The article called "Causes of fires in Galati, how to fight them" shows the concern of the citizens of Galati, following the numerous fires in the city: "What are now the causes of such disasters?"

Among the causes, the most important ones are the following: a) the lack of announcement immediately after the fire; b) insufficiency of the fire brigade; c) lack of water.

As for the lack of notice, we are in a very bad situation. There is not a city in the country today that does not have an observatory for fire; in Galați, however, although it is the third city after Bucharest, there is still no trace of an observer. The announcement in case of fire is made by guards; anyone can now imagine how inappropriate it is.

The pre-war press shows the involvement of publications in the life of the community, in response to the concerns of the population, but also an alarm signal to the authorities, to show the importance of developing the fire service in the city. In the interwar period, the press articles focus on educating the public in the field of fire prevention or the consequences of negligence in this regard, while showing the main problems of the community in the field of a fire alert, firefighting or measures taken by them to protect the population.

#### **Interwar media in Galati: fires, prevention measures and firefighters' difficulties**

Another form of alerting the firefighters was based on the verbal announcement of the service guards in the area, going to the fire station, then with them to the place of the fire so as not to waste time the crew asking for directions. Once they reached the burning building, the firemen's pumps had to be permanently supplied with water, and for this, there was only a hydrant, without any place arranged for the supply of natural water sources such as the Danube. Second, private looters refused to help firefighters or victims, although they received exemptions from donations from City Hall.

### **6.3. Firefighters' missions in the interwar period**

#### **Cinema fires, a major problem in the interwar period**

One of the most dynamic issues that kept the headlines for a long time was related to the lack of measures to protect the population while they were in cinemas, crowded and without observing fire prevention measures. During the filming, these rooms were crowded, and their evacuation was very difficult. This was understood by some spectators, who submitted several complaints to the responsible ministry. The legal mechanism for verifying cinemas was shown in the article, as being the responsibility of the municipality of Galati, "a commission in charge of inspecting cinemas and all theatres, to see if they work according to the law of theatres voted in the year 1927 ". After the inspection, we see how the task of prevention measures is taken over by firefighters.

This type of article is particularly important in that it shows the interest of firefighters to find the necessary solutions for the safety of citizens in cinemas, but especially the involvement to raise public awareness of the risks they are exposed to when going to places without measures to prevent fires, or in which they are violated.

The articles in the series "Fire safety in theatres" are interesting because the solutions proposed by firefighters describe the appearance of cinemas and the violation of all measures to prevent fires. Another type of event presented by the "Action" newspaper was large-scale fires. In the "Action" of April 1931, we read about "The terrible fire of yesterday. Lani's textile factory burned by flames. Other houses destroyed. The arrests. "

These reports help us to reconstruct certain areas of the city, but also to find out the name of the officer in charge of the fire department at that time. The newspaper "Action" from 1931 shows the high frequency of fires from the title: "The fires in Galați have started again". In the case of the fire at the "manufacturing store, owned by Mr. Solomon Marcovici, from Mare Street", he showed how the firefighters arrived quickly enough to expose the owner's intention to destroy his building to collect the insurance. "Firefighters entering the store in the first

moments discovered a real installation of drums with flammable materials connected by wicks and wrapped in sawdust. Several cans could be rescued and transported to the city police ".

Another type of intervention required by firefighters is the floods that affected the Port area in March 1933. The article called "Great floods in the city valley. Dangerous population - "Helping firefighters" shows the damage caused by high amounts of water that fell at the end of March, as well as the evacuation of water from homes by firefighters.

Another approach of the local dailies speaks about the training and endowment of the firemen under the command of Captain Bărbulescu loan in case of a new war. The article "Galați in case of war. The help that military firefighters can give to citizens "shows the need for underground shelters, but also the age or lack of adequate extinguishing materials:" In case of war, firefighters are those who remain in the city to train the defense of the civilian gas population and especially by the incendiary bombs ", said Capt. Bărbulescu. Another problem was the lack of hydrants suitable for supplying fire engines, so the duration of extinguishing interventions was extended.

During the unfortunate events of the 1940 earthquake, firefighters travelled to remove the wreckage (chimneys, severely damaged walls, schools, factories and power mills), but also to rescue people trapped between bombed buildings. According to the reports attached to the firefighters, they returned to the barracks only in the evening, acting on two fronts: while a vehicle travelled certain routes between the bombed buildings saving potential victims, other fire crews acted with the Magirus truck to eliminate priorities for fires everywhere. in the city, or to draw water from some households near the Danube.

### **6.3.1. Passive Defense Press**

The analysis of the related press that contains information about firefighters and their missions starting with the interwar period, reveals three directions of the interwar press in Romania. In Arad, starting with December 1923, we meet the first monthly, trilingual newspaper called "Pompierul". The director of the publication was the commander of a volunteer fire brigade and the publication brings together collaborators from various professional branches, with the stated purpose of defending the interests of the professional and volunteer firefighter.

The second direction consists of the series of specialized publications edited by the military firefighters. The "Bulletin of the Romanian firefighters", later "The magazine of firefighters, a body for fire prevention and extinguishing" appeared between April 1, 1929 - January 1944, continuing with the magazine "Guard against fires" from January 1948.

We find the third direction through the numerous articles of the local dailies, which signal various problems of the local firefighters, along with the description of the fires, floods and specific missions of the firefighters. The specificity of the press in Galați is that the fire commander himself chooses to publish a series of articles aimed at raising awareness and accountability of the public who were exposed to dangers in improperly arranged cinemas. It should be noted that the Tecuci Fire Department has rudimentary equipment, and the conclusions of the fire officer who wrote the article are also an invitation for the authorities to get involved in the needs of firefighters: "Why so much negligence? Why so much indifference to the wealth of the citizens? Those who are obliged to equip the firefighters, to step on the real path of facts.

## 6.5. Conclusions

The last chapter makes a brief analysis of the media manifestation of the firefighters' activity. I considered it necessary to use concepts associated with "organizational identity" due to the purpose pursued in the thesis subsidiary: understanding the institutional evolution of firefighters, in the context of major military conflicts in our country. Being about the reflection of the firemen's activity in the media, we proposed a new hypothesis regarding the formation of an image in the perception of the public / readers. The image presented by the articles in the press of the time is made up of the defining elements of the firefighters' activity: equipment, uniforms, response time to the alarm and how to carry out the intervention (if victims, property were saved) with a triple role:

- a) informs the community about a negative event;
- b) the problems of the firemen are shown, solutions are proposed being stimulated the public opinion;
- c) tool offered today to institutions or researchers who want to find out aspects of the activity of firefighters in the past.

Another role of the articles is to provide lessons for the present, from the mistakes of the past; for example, the 1883 newspaper "Posta" shows that firefighters did not have a supply ramp and access to the river. Well, this access ramp to the Danube has not been set up even today, at over 130 years old, when firefighters are struggling to launch lifeboats between rocks when they have missions on the Danube.

It should be mentioned at the same time that certain aspects shown in the press do not appear in the archive correspondence, being important for the completion they make when studying the archives and because they show the needs of the population, suggestions for improving the fire service, alarm.

The second part of the last chapter shows the missions of the Galați firefighters in the interwar period, but also the preventive actions carried out in the city. Thus, Captain Gheorghe Mihăilă got involved by publishing articles meant to educate the public, making the citizens responsible in respecting the fire prevention norms in theatres and cinemas periodically threatened by the fire.

The inspections made in Galați also took place in the cinemas in Tecuci, being meant to impose on the organizers the observance of the laws in the field, by respecting the maximum capacity of the halls, installing a telephone or leaving the doors unlocked during the shows, along with recommendations for using fire on during the cold season.

The thesis shows the correspondent of the pre-war prevention norms, in the current legislation built around the safety of the public present at the performances, since the construction of the building. The fire officer showed in articles that many damaged buildings were redeveloped after the Great War, with the purpose of theatre, but their structure no longer offered safety to spectators.

The press also offers aspects related to the celebration of September 13 in the unit in Galați, a day dedicated to the heroic fight carried out by firefighters in Dealul Spira in 1848.

## CHAPTER VII

### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The chronology of the organization of firefighters in our country reveals similarities with the preparation of firefighting in major European cities. Governments understood the importance of prevention measures only after repeated fires that destroyed large urban areas, and the establishment of fire brigades and their equipment was accompanied by a long-term vision of the urban space, which had to be protected from disasters. Through this thesis, I consider that I have achieved my research objectives, completing the image of military firefighters in Moldova, in the context of their organization throughout the country.

The evolution of fire prevention legislation has followed a difficult path, created following lessons learned from the urban space when it is affected by fires and major disasters. If regulations are initially used and not laws, the importance of fire prevention and extinguishing measures turn into legislative measures, shortening the path of the decision and administrative acts, to facilitate the management of fire brigades.

During my research I also directed my historical analysis to studies in various anniversary volumes on firefighters and articles in the press of the time, to complete the information about the activity of firefighters in Galati and their involvement during the two great World Wars. Through this thesis I consider that I have achieved the main objectives of the work, managing to reconstruct the overall image of firefighters, from the time of its establishment in 1840 until the end of World War II, correlating the activity of firefighters with national legislation.

The thesis is important because it can be used in press releases issued on anniversary days by the Inspectorates for Emergency Situations in the country and events that recall the past and traditions of the weapon; due to the complex information it can be used in the form of scientific communications in case of symposia, it can be summarized in the courses "Savior of Passion" to volunteers and guests on September 13 and February 28, but also to employees of the institution who want to know the past, creating a greater attachment to the firearm.

Thanks to the research in this thesis, new research perspectives have opened up, which concern the union of all available material about firefighters in the country, in an encyclopedia that deals with the local history of each Inspectorate for Emergency Situations in the country.

The importance of the subject of my thesis lies in the research of the specifics of the missions performed by firefighters over time, along with the study of the causes of the fire that were mentioned in the documents of the time, the specifics of the missions performed and the equipment used during this time. Their permanent change aimed at improving the response time to calls received by firefighters, improving the services provided to the community, preventive information activities following the needs of the weather and according to the requirements of the city.

Another aspect treated in this thesis is the evolution of legal provisions in the field of civil protection and military firefighters, from simple regulations and internal orders to increasingly complex laws that showed the multitude of missions in which firefighters are involved over time. These approaches are necessary because they have not been researched in such a complete formula, but separating the activity of firefighters from that of civil protection and other institutions.

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