

THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CRAIOVA BY THE RED ARMY

Șerban PĂTRAȘCU*

Abstract: The study, based on published and unpublished documents, analyses the dynamics and dimension of the Soviet military occupation between 1944 and 1949, in the city of Craiova. The military occupation knew two periods: the first stage (September 1944 – May 1945), when the occupation appears to have a provisional character, and the second stage (1945-1949) marked by a massive military presence. In 1949 the withdrawal of the Soviet troops put an end to a severe and oppressive occupation, for the residents of Craiova.

Keywords: red army, military occupation, Craiova, commandeers, World War II.

On the 12th of August 1949, an event which “one might call sensational”¹, takes place in Craiova: the Red Army leaves the city.

An eye-witness tells that “the Russian army, which was so numerous in Craiova (I think more numerous than in any other part of the country), started to leave towards the west (for Severin), with tanks, lorries, emptying the barracks where they had stayed, with a reduced guard. But it was not only the army from Craiova, the ones that had stayed in Slatina, Caracal etc. were moving too. The crossing of the columns started around 4 o'clock in the afternoon and lasted during the entire Friday to Saturday night. The loud rattle of the wheels was heard in the entire city. Lots of citizens of Craiova were watching this display of armed forces, unexpected for them. Everybody was wondering if they were going against Yugoslavia”².

It was therefore ended a 5-year period of military occupation (1944-1949), in which the true masters of Craiova had been the commanders of the Soviet troops, scattered all over the city.

Among the numerous aspects that characterised this military occupation (the deportation of the refugees from Basarabia and Northern Bucovina, the seizing of

* 3rd Degree Scientific Researcher, PhD, “C. S. Nicolăescu-Plopșor” Socio-Human Research Institute from Craiova, of the Romanian Academy; E-mail: serban_patrascu@yahoo.com

¹ Constantin I. Năvârlie, *Între abandon și crucificare. România 1946-1949*, vol. II, Craiova, De Sud Publishing House, 2000, p. 258.

² *Ibidem*.

goods in the name of the Truce, the supplying of the Red Army, the abuses and despotism of the Soviet soldiers, the support for the communists etc.), we have decided to portray the dynamics and the amplitude of the Soviet military presence in the city of Craiova.

It is known that, after the coup d'état from the 23rd of August 1944, the Red Army, without facing any resistance, invaded Romania through different parts. Soon after, they would occupy the entire country, and at the beginning of September, they would reach Craiova.

On the 4th of September, Colonel Loghin, the prefect of Romanați County, announced the general Administrative Inspectorate of Craiova, that, “starting with 5 o'clock in the morning, there are going to pass through Caracal, on the direction towards Craiova, coming from Roșiorii de Vede, motorised infantry columns of the Red Army, having different troops and armament, including tanks”³, and after only an hour and a half, at 6.30 a.m., the first “motorised infantry column was arriving in Craiova, coming from the direction Alexandria-Caracal”, being stopped at the barrier from Caracal⁴.

After a short calm period, which seemed to have settled the fears of the people from Craiova⁵, on addressing the intentions of the Russians, in the same city, there was introduced a severe military regime, led by “Major Mordvinkin, a rigorous and exigent officer”, appointed the commander of the city⁶.

On the 7th of October 1944, at the order given by Stalin, Serov is sent to Craiova, a deputy of the People's Commissary for the Internal Affairs, “with the purpose to do chekist operative actions”⁷. These actions were translated into the arresting of almost 60 people, among which the leaders of the local authorities (the mayor, the prefect, the quaestor of the police, the director of safety, the commander

³ SJAN Dolj, Fund of Ad-tiv General Inspectorate from Craiova, file no. 65/1944, f. 130.

⁴ *Ibidem*, f. 97. The Address of the Prefecture of Dolj to of Ad-tiv General Inspectorate, Section VI Craiova; As regarding the issue of the Soviet army that was advancing through Romania, a citizen of Craiova, colonel Constantinescu depicts the following: “Endless columns of the: infantry, artillery, tanks, katyusha multiple rocket launchers, motorised infantry columns, carts pulled by horses – with and without tilts – were passing day and night on the Romanian roads and railways. I think there was not even a single village, even hidden through the glens and the ravines of the entire country that remained unvisited by the Soviet soldiers, although those villages were not placed on the main roads, specified on the advancing route of the operative troops. From Danube to the Carpathians, the Soviet soldiers were swarming, with or without a purpose” (Alexandru Badea Constantinescu, *Labirintul Terorii*, Craiova, Sim Art Publishing House, 2006, p. 33).

⁵ Constantin I. Năvârlie notes in his dairy: “Today, I have received a letter from my wife; she is writing to me that things do not go well at Craiova; the Russian army entered there too, but it is still quite” (Constantin I. Năvârlie, *op. cit.*, vol. I, pp. 25-26).

⁶ Radu Ciuceanu (responsabil), Ioan Chiper, Florin Constantiniu, Vitalie Văratie, *Misiunile lui A.I. Vâșinski în România. Documente secrete*, Bucharest, 1997, p. 78. “2000 soldiers from NKVD troops have been placed on the main routes of the city of Craiova, for introducing the military severe regime, and 250 soldiers make up the reserve for the intervention in case of excess”.

⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 75.

of the city garrison), the confiscation of numerous weapon and radios, various other goods, which were considered to be Soviet, were also sent to U.S.S.R.⁸.

The repressive measures were taken after some serious incidents⁹, which generated the violent death, through shooting, right in the middle of the city, of some Soviet officers. The preserving of order was even more necessary, as, starting from the 7th of September, the Soviets had organised in Craiova a supplying base¹⁰ for the People's Army for the liberation of Yugoslavia.

On the 4th of October, the Allied (Soviet) Control Commission for assuring the enforcement of the Truce convention, in agreement with the Romanian Government, decides to send to Craiova an officer, representative, accompanied by the necessary staff for supervising the way in which the stipulations of the Truce are observed. "The prefects of the counties – it is shown in the I.A.M order, no.

⁸ The operations of the Soviets terrified the people from Craiova: "On the streets there was hardly anyone, probably due to the late hour or the fear of Russians. There has passed only one year since Serov, the Russian Minister of the Internal Affairs, and brought terror into the city, through the arrests and the harsh measures introduced by N.K.V.D." (Cicerone Ionițoiu, *Memorii*, vol. 1, *Din țara sârmelor ghimpate*, Iași, Polirom Publishing, 2009, p. 46).

⁹ At least two incidents of this kind were registered in Craiova during the month of September. Colonel Constantinescu remembers one of them: "A serious case: in the first days when the Soviet troops entered in Craiova, an motor-lorry was transporting towards the train station the archive of the Ministry of War, which had been moved to Craiova. In the place where Calea București crosses with Gării Avenue, behind the Palace of Justice, this motor-lorry was stopped by a Soviet captain and few soldiers, who wanted to take hold of the lorry. That moment, a patrol interfered to help, and the Soviet officer slapped the chief sergeant of the patrol. A Romanian soldier fired his gun, killing the Russian officer, and the Romanians left in a hurry in the lorry, towards the train station, and the patrol disappeared too. The Soviet soldiers gave the alarm and, shortly after, a squadron of Cossacks arrived. They could not find the Romanians there, only their dead captain. They started galloping madly towards the station and they found, on the platform, an intendant colonel, who they shot dead and they disappeared in full gallop, shooting and terrifying the population" (Alexandru Badea Constantinescu, *op. cit.*, pp. 40-41); The second incident takes place on the 20th of September, at lunchtime, at is it known owing to the report handed in to the Quaestor by policeman St. Pârvolescu, who arrived immediately on the spot: "Two Russian officers were going in a carriage driven by a Russian soldier on Sf. Spiridon, towards Vasile Alecsandri Street, at the junction of these streets with Carol Avenue being slightly buffered by a motor-lorry that belonged to the Aviation, and driven by a soldier, from a similar military unit. Next to the driving soldier, in the motor-lorry, there was also a Colonel and a Lady. In the lorry, there was furniture and few Romanian Aviation soldiers. Because the motor-lorry was driving very fast, the carriage was slightly buffered (although the officers should have observed the right of way, according to our legislation), they became angry and, getting out of the carriage, they summoned the people from the motor-lorry to get out, which they did. Then, they started to push the Romanian Colonel, who did not show resistance to this treatment. Other Russian soldiers also arrived, one of them, or even one person from the carriage, trying to shoot a Romanian soldier. To avoid being shot, he handled the gun swiftly, firing in his opponent, who died immediately. After this, he ran on the direction Sf. Spiridon Church. We could not establish who killed the other Russian military" (SJAN Dolj, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 40/1944, ff. 296-297).

¹⁰ Radu Ciuceanu (responsabil), Ioan Chiper, Florin Constantiniu, Vitalie Văratie, *Misiunile lui A.I. Vășinski în România. Documente secrete*, Bucharest, 1997, p. 75.

3395 – are to provide accommodation and food for the staff and to take all the necessary measures for the representatives of the Control Commission to be able to function in optimal conditions, alongside assuring an effective and fruitful collaboration”¹¹. For covering the support expenses for the representatives of the Allied Control Commission, the Internal Affairs Ministry had requested a loan from the Ministry of Finance.

Through an address (No. S – 110 from the 29th of November 1944), the Allied (Soviet) Control Commission communicates to I.A.M. the name of the representatives: the commissioner of the Allied Control Commission for the province of Oltenia, is the major on guard A.A. Rozanov, seconded by major V.M. Zaharcenco, and the commissioner of the Allied Commission for Dolj County is lieutenant colonel L.N. Vorosiľov helped by captain A.V. Trandasir¹².

During the 1944-1947, the Allied (Soviet) Control Commission functioned in Vorvoreanu building (palace)¹³ from no. 34 Buzești Street. The requests and the orders of Vorosiľov and then, from 1946, of his successor, Lt.-colonel Vasili Uskov, will be promptly executed by the Romanian authorities. In the *Report on the activity carried out in January 1947*, the mayor of Craiova shows that “There were executed entirely all the superior orders and there were fulfilled all the requests that we were addressed, from the Soviet army, related to the enforcement of the truce convention”¹⁴.

At the installation of the Soviet troops in Craiova, there can be distinguished two stages, between September 1944 – May 1945 and May 1945 – August 1949.

In the first stage, the military occupation seemed to be temporary. Being still in the midst of war, the Russians stationed few days or weeks in Craiova, then they were going to move towards the western battle-front. For example, on Jitianu and Calea Dunării streets, which were circumscribed to the Police section no. 6, there had stayed in October 1944, in few dozens of commandeered rooms: a Commandment, a Unit of Engineer troops, Unit 265, the Soviet Union Hospital from the Barrier, along with other military units. On the 23rd of October, the Russians had gone and the administrator of the Police section no.6 was reporting to the quaestor that “up until now, we do not have under our circumscription quartered Soviet troops”¹⁵. These constant coming and leaving are not ignored by the people of Craiova: “From my wife from Craiova – as the magistrate Năvârlie

¹¹ SJAN Dolj, Fund of Ad-tiv General Inspectorate from Craiova, file no. 66/1944, unnumbered page.

¹² Idem, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 40/1944, f. 501.

¹³ The building was also used by N.K.V.D. In the summer of 1945, Cicerone Ionițoiu is abducted at night, from the street, by the N.K.V.D. captain, Vasiliev Petrov, brought “in front of the boyar house of Ion Vărvoreanu, where there is today the chancellery of Oltenia Metropolitan Church”, investigated and beaten in a large room from the ground floor, which was study, and confined in a barred room from the basement (Cicerone Ionițoiu, *op. cit.*, pp. 46-47).

¹⁴ SJAN Dolj, Fund of Ad-tiv General Inspectorate from Craiova, file no. 36/1947, f. 9.

¹⁵ Idem, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 17/1945, ff. 84-85.

notes on the 1st of October – I have received the news that Russian troops left the city before, remaining less of them”¹⁶.

At the beginning of November, the Prefecture of Dolj, in collaboration with the Town-Hall, founds Canteens “for the officers and the isolated Soviet troops that cross Craiova”¹⁷, and on the 11th of November, the leaders of the local authorities (the mayor, the prefect, the chief of the General Staff and the commander of the garrison) are summoned by Vorosilov “to make an urgent decision on addressing the measures that must be taken for the organisation of four hospitals, necessary for almost 3,800 beds for the Soviet Army; moreover, there were requested three special services (approximately 50-60 rooms)”¹⁸.

The commandeering of furnished rooms (for the officers), empty (for the soldiers) and buildings (for the military Soviet institutions), constituted a permanent preoccupation for the Police of Craiova. The policemen, helped by the delegates of the Army (the Territorial Group), Town-Hall and Prefecture, and sometimes accompanied even by the Soviet officers, were permanently checking the houses from their circumscription, reporting the number of available rooms.

In the fall of 1944, the city was over-crowded, owing to the thousands of refugees, who had found shelter in Craiova, whereas in certain areas of the city, the houses still had the traces of the allied bombardment from the previous summer. A commissary at the Police Section no. 6, which the Commandant’s Office for the Market of Craiova had requested to commandeer “25 more rooms for the Romanian and Russian officers”, shows that, despite the insistences on the local people, they did not succeed in finding 6 rooms, “because in the area supervised by this commissariat, cannot be found more rooms, most of the people suffering from the consequences of the disaster, and there are still refugees who own 2-3 rooms in each building”¹⁹.

Excepted from commandeering, there were the houses of the active Romanian military men, from which – according to the order issued by the Allied (Soviet) Control Commission from Romania – “there are not commandeered rooms for the needs of the red army”²⁰.

With all the difficulties, between the 1st and the 30th of November, the 6 Police Sections had managed to commandeer almost 400 rooms and buildings²¹.

¹⁶ Constantin I. Năvărlie, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 30.

¹⁷ SJAN Dolj, Fund of Ad-tiv General Inspectorate from Craiova, file 66/1944, f. 72. “Mordunescu Restaurant from Calea Unirii Avenue, cornered with C.A. Rosetti, had to serve meals for the officers, and Petre Florescu Restaurant, from no. 14 Kogălniceanu Street, for the troops”.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, f. 74. The four hospitals will be installed, at the indications of the Soviet officers, in Pionieri Barracks (for sorting), the Barracks of Reg. no. 14 for Artillery (as surgical hospital), the Barracks of Reg. 1 of Foot-Soldiers (for the slightly wounded) and the Midwives School from. Sf. Mina Street (for contagious).

¹⁹ *Idem*, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 17/1945, f. 42.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, file no. 16/1945, f. 113 (The address from the 6th of August 1945 of Vorosilov to the Police Department of Craiova).

²¹ *Ibidem*, file no. 17/1945, ff. 40-77.

Most of them belonged to the Police Section no. 5 (approx. 140), on the streets of: Caracal, Cazărmii, Bolintineanu, Crucea de Piatră, Toți Sfinții, I. G. Duca etc., and in the Police Section no. 4 (approx. 70) on the streets of: Cuza Vodă, Calea București, B-dul Carol, N. Bălcescu etc.; while in the Police Station no. 3, there had hardly been found few rooms.

Among the streets with a predominant Soviet presence, there were: Caracal, Cazărmii, Severinului, Brestei, Calea București, Carol Avenue and even Unirea Avenue – the main thoroughfare of the city.

Besides the house of Vorvoreanu and other buildings²², there were entirely occupied: the house of Chintescu (Unirea 124), Giuvăra (Aurelian 6), Calețeanu (Gh. Chițu 5), Pleșea (Negru Vodă 17), Angelescu (Pr. Nicolae 20), Corlățeanu (Ecaterina Teodoroiu 7), Vulcănescu (Negru Vodă 5) etc.

Moreover, there had been commandeered, for a long time use, the hotels from the centre of Craiova. In New York Hotel, the Russians accommodate themselves in 46 rooms, for a period of 143 days; in Imperial Hotel (Kogălniceanu Street) they were staying in 67 rooms, for 202 days; in Mineva Hotel they were having 20 rooms, for 152 days; and in the hotel of Gh. Marinescu (Buzești Street) and in other three hotels from Cuza Vodă Street, they had occupied 46 rooms, for 40-47 days. Extremely satisfied²³ – according to the administrator – are also the Soviet from Palace Hotel, which they commandeered entirely in February 1945, in March keeping only the first floor, and in April only 3 rooms. In July 1945, they returned and commandeered again the entire hotel.

In the second stage, which begins in May 1945, the Soviet military presence became even more massive, and the occupation becomes permanent.

After the end of the war in Europe, the Russians enjoy the necessary respite to organise the occupation thoroughly, in the territories under the domination of the Red Army.

At Craiova, numerous military units and formations started to appear: *the Russian Aviation Unit, the Military Unit no. 01366, the Soviet Formation no. 92722, the Military Unit no. 03892, the Soviet Formation no. 71371, the Military Unit no. 93597, the Military Unit no. 24345, the Soviet Military Hospital for the Evacuation no. 280, the Soviet Formation no. 03292F, the Military Unit no. 53622 – led by major Clușnicov, the Soviet Military Post Office no. 68-274, the Military Unit no. 92117, the Soviet Polyclinic no. 51119, the Russian Telephony Regiment no. 2795, the Soviet Military Hospital no. 32-49, the Soviet Hospital from no. 36 Calea Brestei Street, the Soviet Unit no. 35775 (the Health-Epidemic Laboratory of the military unit no.1), the Soviet Censorship, Office for Soviet transmissions, Aerodrome Soviet Commandment, the Soviet Information Centre, Regional Soviet*

²² *Ibidem*, p. 80. *Situation on the buildings and the rooms disposed for the Soviet armies, on the 25th of October 1944.*

²³ *Ibidem*, file no. 16/1945, f. 156.

Hospital of Foot-soldiers no. 1. At least a part of these troops belonged to 57 Soviet Army²⁴.

A *High Soviet Commandment* (with the headquarters in the Palace of Justice) was representing the supreme military authority in the city of Craiova. The N.K.V.D. troops did not miss either, whose military commander was being installed, in the summer of 1947, in the building from no. 10 Mihai Bravu Street²⁵.

For the quartering of the Red Army, there will be evacuated state institutions, schools and high-schools, barracks, private houses, hotels, and most of the people from Craiova will be forced to host in their houses Soviet officers and soldiers.

In a paced rhythm, between 1945 and 1947, the Russians come and install themselves into the city. At the beginning of 1947, the phenomenon was at its highest point. According to the report of the mayor "It was continued the assistance given for the commandeering of the necessary houses, for the quartering of the Soviet army, and for that purpose it was put at the disposal of the Quartering Department, especially founded within the Town-Hall of this Municipality, 11 municipal clerks, to collaborate with the Soviet military bodies and the local police ones, for the quartering"²⁶.

Yet, there was a moment when the Russians made a curious decision.

In the summer on 1945, the endless commandeering stopped suddenly. On the 7th of June 1945, Vorosilov ordered: "There are ceased the commandeering of buildings, necessary for the Soviet units, until further orders. Any request, expressed by the Commandants of the Soviet units, are not to be considered"²⁷. The new orders arrived at Craiova very fast. On the 18th of June, the Soviets request "skilled workers, necessary for reaping the barracks that will be occupied by the allied Soviet troops"²⁸.

All the barracks²⁹ (the Barracks of the Foot-Soldiers Regiment, of Artillery Regiment no. 9, of Heavy Artillery Regiment no.1, of Regiment no.14, Alionul Regiment) would be occupied by Russians, and when the Romanian military men

²⁴ *Ibidem*, f. 192. The head of the Quartering of the Soviet Army no. 57, was the major-engineer Șteinboc. On the 5th of January 1946, he approves the request of the colonel Govela Ioan, the commandant of Hunting Flotilla no. 2, who asked that his house to be exempted from commandeering.

²⁵ *Idem*, Fund of Ad-tiv General Inspectorate from Craiova, file 17/1947, unnumbered page.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, file no. 36/1947, f. 9.

²⁷ *Idem*, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 16/1945, f. 80.

²⁸ *Ibidem*, f. 88; On the 20th of June 1945, the magistrate Năvărlie was writing in his diary "It is intensively rumoured that new Russian armies will be installed in Romania. The country, which is nowadays dealing with the lack of food, will definitely experience a crisis in the future ... the country is filled with Russians, but seemingly an army of few hundreds of thousand people will be installed in our country, especially in Oltenia... At Craiova, there have been commandeered buildings, for the installation of the Russians, which will apparently spread through all the villages" (Constantin I. Năvărlie, *op. cit.*, vol. I, pp. 109-110).

²⁹ SJAN Dolj, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 16/1945, f. 89.

returned from the battle front, they were sheltered in Romanescu Park³⁰. For the painting and plastering works of the barracks, there were hired, through Territorial Office of Dolj, the entrepreneurs: Bruno Tamburini, Ion Panduru, Ferdinand Bulfon, Leonardo Mander, Michel Mander, Butnaru, Carlo Dallabarba and engineer Dumitrescu.

At the airport of Craiova, the Soviets were preparing for an intense activity. If, on the 19th of June 1945, few thousands of rooms from Cuza Vodă Street, were commandeered for the aviators³¹ who had arrived in the city, two days later, lieutenant Davâdov was requesting “3 painters, necessary for the disposal of the aerodrome from Craiova”³².

The schools and the high-schools received different destinations: “Elena Cuza” Girls High-School became a *Soviet Commandment*, D.A. Sturza Military High-School, the Girls Orthodox High-School and the Girls School became *hospitals*; Obedeanu Primary School and Madona Dudu Primary School – *Military Units*. On the 11th of July 1945, the *Soviet Formation no.03292F* occupied Carol I College, on the 17th of November they evacuated it for the start of the school courses³³, and in February 1946, the documents present it as being entirely occupied³⁴.

After the evacuation of the courts, the Palace of Justice became the headquarters of the High Soviet Commandment (1945-1947). Once the Russians had left, there was noticed that “lots of carpets, curtains, door knobs etc. are missing, and the cleanness of the place leaves much to be desired”³⁵.

One by one, there are commandeered: buildings in which there were service departments of the Town-Hall (the Companies of the Municipality of Craiova – Sanitary Engineering Department), Inspectorate, Private companies (Florica Factory, Waidman Repairing Workshops, Distribuția Company, Carpatina Company, Spirtaru Brothers’ Pub, on Carol avenue, Medina’s store etc.), the houses of some personalities (Virgil Potârca, St. B. Drugă, Mendel, Grigore Pleșea, Iancu Isvoranu etc.).

The magnificent Palace Mihail does not avoid the commandeering, there being installed ARLUS, the agency from Dolj County³⁶.

³⁰ Constantin I. Năvârlie, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 121.

³¹ SJAN Dolj, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 16/1945, ff. 71-72.

³² *Ibidem*, f. 92.

³³ *Ibidem*, f. 183.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, f. 242.

³⁵ Constantin I. Năvârlie, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 67; Also see Șerban Pătrașcu (editor), *Istoria Baroului Dolj în documente 1911-1957*, Bucharest, Universul Juridic Publishing House, 2015, pp. 319-321.

³⁶ SJAN Dolj, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 16/1945, f. 250: *Situation on the buildings belonging to the State, Counties, Communes, Institutions or Public Companies, occupied by the Soviet troops, Commandments and authorities.*

On the 14th of July 1945, a citizen of Craiova, who had been gone for two months, found, when returned, a totally changed Craiova: “To Caracal, through villages, the Russians are almost at all present, on the other hand, Caracal and Craiova, and especially Craiova and the villages around, are packed with Russian military men. In Craiova, the barracks that we pass by are occupied by them, on the streets, on all the directions, there are Russian officers and soldiers rushing around in cars or on foot. The Palace of Justice, numerous schools and other buildings have been completely evacuated by the Romanians, so that they could be occupied by them. From almost each house, there were taken rooms for the Russian officers, the troops living in the barracks”³⁷. And he further notes: “It is said that the living in Craiova has become harder. The great majority of the food products is taken by the Russian army”³⁸.

The Russian occupation is the main subject for discussions: “Nowadays, in Romania, when two people are meeting, they are talking only about the Russians, who occupy our houses and eat our food, and they are wondering when are they going to get rid of them, a wish that everybody expects, from the bottom of their hearts, to become true”³⁹.

Inpatient to find the answer for this question, few people from Craiova, resort to the help of the spirits: “Today (20th of July 1945 – A/N), at professor Fortunescu, we assisted to a Spiritism session. We were told, among others, that the Russian are definitely leaving Romania, at the end of August”⁴⁰.

Although the city is full of Soviet military men, the room commandeers, from the citizens, does not cease.

On the 16th of August 1945, the Police quaestor was ordering to all the 6 Police Stations to give a daily report, until 7 p.m., regarding all the houses that will eventually be emptied. Until the 9th of September, there will be only 8 rooms in the entire city, their daily reports being almost identical: “until the present day, there were no empty buildings left, after the leaving of the Soviet soldiers, nor any other free rooms”⁴¹. Because the quaestor insists on this, through a new order (no. 5520/9th of September 1945), the head of the Police section no. 3, reports⁴², the second day, that “after verifying few streets from the circumscription of this commissariat, I did not find any empty or furnished rooms”.

The documents also mention the often attempts of the Russians to install in force into the houses of the citizens.

Vasile Ungureanu from no. 6, Bolinteanu Street, who lived, along with the 9 members of his family, in two rooms, makes a complaint to the Soviet

³⁷ Constantin I. Năvârlie, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 117.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, f. 112.

³⁹ *Ibidem*, f. 131.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, ff. 118-119.

⁴¹ SJAN Dolj, Fund of Craiova Police Department, file no. 17/1945, ff. 123-124.

⁴² *Ibidem*, f. 133.

commander of Craiova that “many times, the Russian officers and soldiers come to my house and domicile, forcing it, under the pretext that they need rooms”, and asks to be issued a receipt “that would stop them from doing violent acts and forcing the doors, as they did before, without being accompanied by the Romanian police, or without having a commandeering order”⁴³.

Nicolae Doncea from no.12, Lipscani Street, complains to the quaestor that a Russian military man warned him that, in two hours, he had to free the room in which his daughter was living. When Doncea tried to convince to find another place, the Russian said “that he likes here and he wants to move here, and if I say something more, he will arrest me”⁴⁴.

Most of the people from Craiova are greatly affected by the commandeering. Priest Marin Popa-Nemoiu, from no. 6 Obedeanu Street, tells the Soviet Commandment that he “absolutely needs” to also use the second room of his house, which was commandeered by the Russians, because he lives cramped with his family, made of 6 people, in just one room⁴⁵. Ioan Grigorescu, from no. 23 Luminei Street was in a similar situation, writing to the Russians in a revolted manner that “I the undersigned cannot live such a life anymore”⁴⁶. Engineer Hulubei, from no. 91 Carol Street, who suffers from tuberculosis, has to share a room with the rest of the family (4 persons).

As a sign of the more and more accentuated Soviet military presence, the commandeering will continue, without a stop, in the next years.

An ample raid, for finding the empty rooms, takes place in February 1946. On the 5th of February, a commission made of delegates of the Police, Town-Hall and Soviet officers will go on field, starting from the headquarters of the Allied (Soviet) Control Commission, for “controlling the number of rooms”⁴⁷.

ANNEXES

The list of the Soviet military officers and commanders from Craiova, between 1944 and 1949, drawn-up according to the documents and the information from the press of that period:

1. ASTAHOV IVAN PETROVICI – Russian lieutenant from the Russian aviation unit, installed in Craiova (June 1945)⁴⁸.
2. BESCOVAIN – captain, representative of the Soviet Commandments from Craiova (November 1944).
3. BRÂNZĂ – major, Soviet military commandant of Craiova (December 1944).

⁴³ *Ibidem*, file no. 16/1945, f. 264.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, ff. 161-163.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, f. 199.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, f. 194.

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 231.

⁴⁸ In brackets, it is mentioned the date when they were first mentioned in Craiova.

4. CAZNIETOV – captain (October 1944).
5. CLIMOVICI – major (November 1944).
6. CLIUȘNICOV – major, commandant of the Campaign Post-Office Military Unit No. 53622 (March 1946).
7. COBZAR – general, commandant of the Soviet troops from the Garrison (October 1945).
8. CUDELSCHI – captain, representative of the Soviet Military Post-Office Unit No. 68-274 (August 1945).
9. DAVÂDOV – lieutenant, representative of the Soviet Commandment from the aerodrome of Craiova (June 1945).
10. ERINENCO VASILE – major April 1948).
11. GOGUTU – major, commandant of the city of Craiova (February 1946).
12. GUSEINOV – lieutenant (November 1944).
13. KIAȘCOV – general, the representative of the Soviet Army from Craiova (September 1946).
14. KOGAN – captain (October 1946).
15. KRUKOV – colonel (October 1946).
16. MALȚEV – colonel, representative of the High Soviet Commandment from the Palace of Justice (August 1945).
17. MIHALKIEVICI – general (October 1946).
18. MILUȘKA – major, the representative of the Soviet Army.
19. MOGUTIN – colonel, the representative of the Soviet Commandment (August 1945).
20. MORDVINCHIN – major, Soviet Commandant of Craiova (October 1944).
21. MORTOF IVAN NIKOLAİKSEI – commandant or representative of the Military Unit no. 03892 (September 1944).
22. MORUZOV – major, deputy of the Soviet Commandant of Craiova (March 1945).
23. NAUMOV – major in the Red Army (August 1945).
24. NICHITIN – major, representative of the Soviet Commandment (November 1944).
25. OSIPENCO – colonel, commandant Soviet Anti-aircraft Defence from Craiova (November 1944).
26. PETROV – Soviet prosecutor (June 1945).
27. PETROV VASILIEV - N.K.V.D. officer (November 1944), killed in 1946.
28. POGREBNOI – major, military counsellor of the Allied Control Commission from Oltenia; in another document he is registered as “Commissioner of the Allied Control Commission for the military problems, within the Territorial Commandment no. 7” (June 1945).
29. PREANIȘNICOV – colonel (November 1944).
30. PROVALOV – captain, commander of the Soviet Information Centre (October 1945).
31. ROZANOV A. A. – guard major, Allied (Soviet) Control Commission for the province of Oltenia (November 1944).
32. SARHIN – general-colonel, Commander of the Soviet Army from Craiova (May 1946).
33. SEMICENCO – major in the Red Army.
34. SEROV – deputy of the People’s Commissary for the Internal Affairs (October 1944).
35. SLUȚSCHI – major in the Red Army (August 1945).
36. SOHORIN – general, Commander of the Soviet troops from the Garrison (October 1945).
37. SUMARIN – lt.-colonel (October 1944).
38. ȘTEINBOC – major, engineer, head of the Department for the Quartered Soviet Army no.57 (January 1946).
39. TEVCENCO – general- lieutenant, representative of the Soviet Army from Craiova (May 1946).
40. TRANDASIR A.V. – captain, deputy of Commissioner of the Allied (Soviet) Control Commission for Dolj County (November 1944).
41. USKOV VASILII – lieutenant-colonel, Commissioner of the Allied Control Commission in Romania, the Region of Craiova (July 1946).

42. VINOGRODOV – major, military commandant of the city of Craiova (November 1944).
43. VIȘINEVSCHI – military commandant, representative of the Soviet Army (August 1946).
44. VOROBUEV ANATOL – Russian lieutenant, from the Military Unit no. 01366 (September 1944).
45. VOROȘILOV L.N. – lieutenant-colonel, Commissioner of the Allied (Soviet) Control Commission for Dolj County (November 1944).
46. VURCHIN – captain (November 1944).
47. ZAHARCENCO V.M. – major, deputy of the Commissioner of the Allied (Soviet) Control Commission for the Region of Oltenia (November 1944).
48. ZAHAROV – major, commander of the Military Unit no. 24077, member of the High Soviet Commandment from the Palace of Justice (September 1945).
49. ZAIȚOV – lieutenant in the Red Army (August 1945).
50. ZAVIREAHIN EUGENIU – Russian lieutenant (December 1945).