

From the “*Campagnes de l’armée roumaine, 1916–1919*” The views expressed are those of Colonel Bujac. My notes are marked with square brackets, [thus] – Mark Plant.

Chapter XI – From the Tisza to the Danube

The 1919 Campaign against the Hungarian Soviet Republic

The Hungarian government, directed by Count Károlyi (proclaimed temporary President of the Hungarian Republic on 11 January 1919), allowed itself to be carried along with the advance of Bolshevism, hoping perhaps that they could use this menace as a sort of blackmail, to wrest concessions from the Allies.

To this end a propaganda office was set up in Buda-Pest (1 Mehmed-Ali Road): publishing tracts in Czech, Serb and Romanian; an office linked directly with the maximilists [far leftists] of Moscow, with the Ruthenian Soviets of western Galicia and with the Ukrainian extremists. Speaking frankly, without intending this ironically: Károlyi was playing Lenin’s game.

But there was a tragic turn of events. Károlyi resigned. On 21 March power was monopolised by the Revolutionary Party (*Forradalmi Kormányzótanács*; President Sándor Garbai) which proclaimed a Soviet Republic (*Tanácsköztársaság*); Béla Kun directed foreign affairs; József Pogány held the post of Commissar for National Defence (*Hadügyi Népbiztosseg*). The latter was scrapped and the War Committee found itself with five delegates – Béla Kun, Vilmos Böhm, Béla Szántó, Rezső Fiedler and József Haubrich. These puppets, by decree #8184 of 15 April, were charged with organising a Red Army (*Vörös Hadsereg*) with seven divisions (one of which was Ruthenian Guards), plus a Székely group (Transylvanian Magyars).¹ The command fell on 6 May to Vilmos Böhm, former War Commissioner under Károlyi and ex-typewriter broker; his second was Aurél Stromfeld, ex-Colonel of the Staff.

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Futog [near Novi Sad] which served as the residence of the captive Mackensen, was (as I have indicated in the preceding chapter) inside the Franco-Serb lines; these followed the line: Baja (on the Danube)–Szeged–Arad, climbed the line of the Mureş and at Deva linked with the Romanian sector, which was then dug in along the line Alba Julia–Cluj Napoca–Baia Mare. The Transylvanian march had initially been occupied at the end of November and start of December 1918 by the troops of General Trajan Mosoiu (1st Light² Div, 2nd Light Div, 7th ID) and then definitively by 11 December, with the HQ at Sibiu.

This boundary was exposed to continual incursions by Bolshevik groups; these encroached everywhere, especially penetrating the mountainous region of Bihor and Maramureş; they were abundant, and becoming more and more audacious thanks to the vacillating politics of the Supreme Council³ who could not adopt a definite policy with regard to Lenin and who hesitated to suppress Béla Kun. On an English request, General Smuts was sent to Buda-Pest (4 April 1919), in order to negotiate a neutral zone to be guarded by French, British and Italian troops. The Reds demanded first the withdrawal of the Romanian posts to the Mureş and the right to spread Soviet propaganda; it was useless to carry on [negotiating]. Meanwhile, the situation grew worse: the Bolshevik hordes prepared for an offensive against the Romanian positions, announced for 16 April. The Supreme Council was then forced to admit that the Bucharest Cabinet would have to urgent adopt some security measures. At this point, General G. Mardarescu, commander of the border corps (chief-of-staff General S. Panaitescu), intended to take the initiative. He had, on 16 April, the following troops with which to make an advance across the whole front: 1st and 2nd Light Divs., 6th, 7th, 16th and 18th “Transylvanian” IDs, 2nd CD: being 64 battalions, 28 squadrons, 184 artillery pieces of various calibres, 2 engineer battalions, 3 air squadrons, some MG armoured cars, etc. Three groups were set into action:

To the north: General Olteanu’s detachment (5th *Rosiori*⁴ Brigade, two battalions and a battery) would set out from Sighetu, in the upper Tisza valley, towards Chop, via Khust.

¹ [MP] <http://mek.oszk.hu/02100/02185/html/56.html> has some figures for the rapid increase in the Hungarian Red Army.

On 1 April there were 20,640 men, divided up as

Budapest 1 Division	1,655
Budapest 2 Division	1,661
Budapest 3 Division	3,275
Győr 4 Division	2,362
Nyíregyháza 5 Division	2,347
Szeged 6 Division	1,500
Székely Detachment	7,542
Marines/Naval	298

By mid-April the total was already 53,524 men.

² [MP] Bujac uses *Chasseur* for these units, which are *Vînatori* in Romanian. Some texts render it as *Jäger*.

³ [MP] The Supreme Council of the Allied Powers i.e. France, Britain, Italy and the US.

⁴ [MP] *Rosiori* were Romania’s regular cavalry and formed the core of the separate cavalry divisions. During WWI many *Rosiori* were dismounted. The Infantry Divisions had a territorial reserve cavalry regiment, termed *Calarasi*.



In the centre: the 2nd CD (General Constantinide) headed from the Baia Mare region into the Someş corridor in the direction of Satu Mare–Mátészalka and Nyíregyháza. The 6th and 7th IDs would leave from Şimleu Silvaniei–Zalău–Huedin¹, towards Debrecen–Oradea Mare; the 16th ID would be behind.

To the south: the 2nd Light Div., was ready to leave Basarabasa via the gorges of the Crişul Alb, with Békéscsaba as its immediate objective; the 1st Light Div. would follow in its tracks; the 18th ID would follow suit.

The Reds faced in three directions:

A northern front against the Czechoslovaks: three divisions (28 battalions). On the extreme left, about 7,000 men facing the Olteanu detachment.

The eastern, or Romanian, front: a division, a reinforced brigade, some other units (21 battalions); about 14,000 men in contact.

The southern, or Franco-Serb, front: three divisions and a brigade (23 battalions).

Approximately: 70,000 men and 137 cannons.

These bands only gave weak resistance to the approaching Romanians, even more localised for the Székely. The Hungarian War Commissariat, using its last reserves (7–8 battalions), hoped for a while to hold the line with the help of a wide mobilisation; but the troops assembled in Valea lui Mihai, Carei and Nyíregyháza, with the view to returning to the offensive, scattered (19 April); but already the day before the commander of the 39th IB, pressed by the 6th ID, had found out that his soldiers “did not wish to fight with weapons, only political arguments were worthwhile”. The façade cracked. The Székely Division retreated: the 1st IB to Csenger, the 24th IB to Nagyecsed the 21st IB to Valea lui Mihai; the 39th IB ceded ground up to Berettyóúfalu; bands of deserters seized hospital trains and forced the railway workers to take them further away, towards Buda-Pest. By the 20th, the Romanian forward elements had reached the Khust–Satu Mare–Carei–Valea lui Mihai–Oradea line; the left flank was up to Orosháza.

The spearhead elements sped up; that of Colonel Rotaru, joined by squadrons of the 2nd CD, reached out to Mátészalka (22nd); General Davidoglu led the 2nd *Rosiori* Brigade to Chop; Colonel Ioan and the 14th IB threw aside a rear guard at Nyíregyháza and pursued on to Rakamaz. Colonel Christofor, with the 24th IR (6th ID), and General Sachelarie, with the 12th IB, proceeded, not without some difficulties, to sweep clear the Monostorpályi–Hosszúpályi–Kaba–Püspökladány area (25th and 26th); after this, the Székely Division (Colonel Cratovil), being cornered, surrendered its arms (26th) – the 6th and 7th IDs consolidated at Debrecen–Oradea.

On the 28th there was further progress. The right of the Olteanu detachment (Colonel Pop) assured the necessary liaison with the left wing of the Czechoslovaks by way of Mukachëvo; this meant that the line of the Uzh² River was controlled, so as to intercept the flow between the Pest Soviets and the Kremlin. The 2nd CD reached the Tisza river (29th) from Chop to Tiszalök and arranged a bridgehead at Tokaj. The 16th ID, following in the rear, began to stretch out from Debrecen towards Tiszacsege and Egyek. The 6th and 7th IDs filled in along the Hortobágy Canal. The 1st Brigade of the 1st Light Div. was carried along to Orosháza. The reserve 18th ID reached the Oradea–Salonta region.

Vilmos Böhm, accompanied by his staff and a terrorist guard commanded by Tibor Szamuely, moved to Szolnok, the centre of assembly for a mass of 51 battalions and 16 batteries. Not having succeeded in stemming the disorderly flow to the Tisza, he tried every means to preserve the bridgeheads at Szolnok, Tiszafüred and Rakamaz. It was too late, Colonel Ioan occupied Rakamaz (29th) with the 5th *Rosiori* Regt. General Taut (7th ID) arrived at Tiszaszentimre (28 km S of Tiszafüred), sending (1 May) a column of two battalions and a battery to Tiszafüred; thus linking upstream (Egyek–Tiszacsege) with the feelers of the 7th ID; meanwhile converging on Szolnok were both the 6th ID, via Törökszenimiklós, and the 2nd Light Div., via Túrkeve and Mezőtúr. The 1st Light Div. fanned out to Szentés–Mindszent–Hódmezővásárhely.

This first phase of the campaign led the Romanian government to expect that complete victory would come quickly.

Thus there was a profound and painful disappointment felt at the halting of the victorious troops on the Tisza. Public opinion, translated by the press, knew immediately that the brusque and untimely restraint was ordered by the Supreme Council. Two of the Allies took umbrage at the excessively brilliant exercise of arms by General Mardaescu and yet more at a project for an energetic Franco-Serb intervention; they succeeded in prevailing with a strongly felt indecision: “they sat on the fence”.

In the circumstances there would be, once again, made clear the value of the precept brutally formulated by Blücher on the day after Katzbach. Doubtless the resources of the Romanian army could be said to be precarious enough, but not to the point of crippling further exploitation; with the pursuit checked, everything favoured the Hungarian Soviets, letting them wander into Moscow’s orbit and restore their cohorts. Bela Kun was able to maintain his dictatorship and triumph internally only by virtue of the prestige of these military advantages.

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The most pressing issue would be for Böhm to clear the railway running to Košice, interrupted by the Czechoslovaks.

¹ [MP] in the original = Sebesvar, which I have assumed is Huedin from its placement on Map A.

² [MP] in the original = ligne d’Uscoz.



He pushed his 1st and 5th IDs into the Emőd–Mezőkövesd region. The Czech 6th Division (General Rossi), maintaining a line of control along Nagyrosvány–Abaújszántó–Miskolc, could not fend the blow (20 May 1919) and retired on Sajószentpéter–Szikszó. The Romanian 41st IB (16th ID) made an attempt on 23 May towards Henádnémeti–Belsőbócs–Tiszalúc, a clearing manoeuvre combined with the return to the offensive of the Czech 6th ID. They met near Gesztely. This was a notable straightening of the line; but the right, meeting much greater forces, wavered and the centre followed (Szikszó–Parasznya). Colonel Dragu, 41st IB, did not settle in Henádnémeti, determined not to lose contact with the Czechoslovaks; who rebuffed by the incessant attacks, withdrew during the night of 30/31 May and took positions at Felzöldobsza–Putnok. General Hanzu [Romanian 16th ID] then recalled all his men back to the left bank [east of the Tisza] (2–3 June 1919).

Shortly afterwards Czechoslovakia took the advice of the Supreme Council and negotiated an armistice with Hungary.

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On the Tisza front the calm was used profitably by both sides to do some precautionary patching up.

A) Left bank – The Romanian defensive organisation was made up of three elements:

- a) Northern sector: General Trajan Mosoiu, later replaced by General Mihaescu; General Olteanu's detachment, in liaison with the Czechoslovakian troops around Mukachëvo; 16th ID (General Hanzu) formed a bridgehead at Tokaj; extended south to the confluence of the Someş at Abádszalók. The 2nd Light Div. was a reserve in the Nyíregyháza–Debrecen area.
- b) Southern sector: General Holban; 18th ID (General Papp) stretched from Abádszalók to the confluence of the Mureş. The 1st Light Div. was a reserve in the Békéscsaba area.
- c) Strategic column: the 6th ID in the Oradea–Berettyóúfalu zone. The 1st ID (from the start of July) was based between Carei and Valea lui Mihai. The 1st CD (start of July) was scattered across the Szeghalom–Sarkad region.

It was very solid and well equipped in the rear.

I would add for the record: the 7th ID disappeared from the theatre of operations, being transferred to northern Moldavia. The 8th ID was fixed on the axis Sighet–Körösmező–Kolmea, watching the Bukovina frontier, along with several Polish contingents, worried by the Ruthenian Bolsheviks. The 2nd ID had to occupy the portion of the Banat that the Supreme Council designated as Romanian and, foreseeing events, remained around Arad (the 6th Light Regt. entered there on 17 May); replaced by a mixed¹ [infantry] brigade of the 21st ID, it rejoined the front.

B) Right Bank – the new commander of the Red Army, Jenő Landler (chief-of-staff, Colonel Julier) was made up of two principle groups:

- a) Southern front, Csongrád–Szolnok: the 1st Corps, under the orders of Béla Vago (chief-of-staff, Jenő Farkas), was made up of the 2nd, 5th, 6th and 7th IDs. It had 44 battalions, each with an MG company (21,183 rifles); 4 squadrons; 4 aviation companies; 59 batteries (210 pieces). The main body was aimed at Békéscsaba and a detachment directed at Oradea; the security of the right flank was assured by the 4th ID, which was kept in the Sükösd–Szeged sector.
- b) Northern front, Tiszadob²–Tokaj–Gávavencsellő: the 3rd Corps, under the orders of Dezső Bokányi (chief-of-staff, Géza Schwarz) consisted of the 1st Division and 2nd and 3rd IBs. It had 22 battalions (6,673 rifles), 21 MG companies; 2 squadrons; 1 aviation company; 20 batteries (71 pieces). The main thrust was Debrecen; there was a detachment aimed at Carei.

Between these two groups was the 80th IB under the orders of László Osterreich. It had 4 battalions (1,712 rifles), 4 MG companies; a half-squadron; one aviation company; one battery (4 pieces). Its role was to demonstrate in the vicinity of Poroszló.

I would add, so as to not omit any effectives: the 4th Corps (fractions of the 3rd and 4th ID; 3,245 rifles, 14 guns) and two divisions of *Lucrători*.³ The 2nd Corps (8th ID) and three brigades of frontier guards.

All up this made: 170 battalions (80–90,000 men), 127 MG companies (964 pieces), 90 batteries (327 guns), 10 squadrons, 9 armoured trains, 10 aviation companies (40 aircraft).

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On 20 July (0300 hours), as had been forecast, there was a short artillery preparation, after which the first echelons of the Red 7th ID commenced to cross: on the left, the 101st IR; in the centre, the 4th IR; on the right, the Marine Regt. Around 0900 hours, the 33rd IR of the 6th ID protected the establishment of batteries on the left bank. The 5th ID assembled around Szolnok station. That night (2100 hours) all the works of the bridgehead made in April fell to the attacker.

¹ [MP] “Mixed” in the sense of including regular and militia/territorial units. They were still all infantry.

² [MP] This might actually be a mistake for Tiszalók, a bigger town just to the north, and which is given as the junction later.

³ [MP] I believe this is a Romanian term for a work company. Their only appearances appear to be far to the rear.



In the following days the gains were not large: on the 23rd the 7th ID reached Mezőtúr; the 5th ID took Túrkeve; the 6th ID took Kisújszállás–Kenderes; the 7th CR reached out to Karcag; the 80th IB covered from Tiszacsege via Egyek to Tizsafüred; the 3rd Corps was strung out along the Tiszalök–Gávavencsellő line.

On the fourth morning, the pocket opened out until it cut the Berettyó. The 5th ID was pointing towards Kisújszállás; on the left, the 6th ID was at Kincstari;¹ on the right, the 7th ID's object was Dévaványa. On the extreme of this wing, the 3rd ID, which had acquired the Szentés–Hódmezővásárhely sector, was thrown back to the west of the Tisza by the 1st Light Div.

But that same morning, the situation changed completely: the Romanian counter-offensive developed its full force.

The covering forces, who had not been surprised by the attack, had fulfilled their assigned roles remarkably well. A slow retirement; prolonged resistance around certain points which were propped up by sector reserves; measured attacks with excellent opportunism. These tactics gave the high command the necessary time and space to establish a mass of manoeuvre; it was collected as follows:

General Mosoiu drew up in the centre of the theatre: the 2nd CD at Kunmadaras. The cavalry sent to Tizsaszentimre the 9th *Rosiori* Regt, a cyclist company and a horse battery as a flank guard and also a liaison unit, necessary to co-operate with the Northern Group at Tizsafüred. The 1st ID was in the Berekfürdő² region. The 6th ID had the 12th IB placed at Karcag and the other brigade in the rear near to Szentagoda. The bulk aimed down the Szapárfalu–Törökszentmiklós axis.

This important station [Törökszentmiklós] was also the objective of two detachments of the Southern Group. General Papp's was made up of the 46th IB (91st and 92nd IRs of the 18th ID); the 2nd Light Brigade (4th and 6th IRs); and a battalion of dismounted *Calarasi* (about 1,000 men). It was concentrated in the Dévaványa–Gyomaendrőd area; bordering Túrkeve–Mezőtúr. The other detachment, General Lecca's, was the 1st Light Brigade, two battalions of the 90th [IR.], one of the 89th [IR] and the 4th *Rosiori* Brigade. Set in the Szarvas–Öcsöd–Kunszentmárton area; it would drive between the river and Mezőtúr.

The southern sector still had the Red 2nd ID, encroaching onto the left bank, opposed by Colonel Pirici's detachment based at Orosháza (107th [IR], a battalion of the 89th [IR], two companies of the 1st Light Regt).

The northern sector would see two actions, one facing north and the other westwards. First of all, the 3rd Light Brigade, really only as a simple demonstration, stiffened the Rakamaz bridgehead. The 4th IB (9th and 10th IRs, two battalions of the 84th [IR] of the 16th ID and five batteries) participated on the 24th in an active and brilliant manner in the preliminaries of the battle.

Tizsafüred was taken from the Red 80th IB (26th and 27th IRs), who were repulsed and then routed by the 10th Light Regt, at whose approach the 9th *Rosiori* Regt pulled out of Tizsaszentimre.

The bulk of the 2nd CD left Kunmadaras towards Tiszaroff (3rd CB) and Kunhegyes (2nd CB and 18th Light Regt), so as to escort the 1st ID, the bulk of whose forces attacked Kenderes. At twilight the cavalry division was reaching Kunhegyes and the 1st ID filled the Fegyvernek–Kenderes strip.

The 6th ID, did not have it so well; they could not expel the opposition 46th IB from Kisújszállás; it even had to fall back at night fall to the Kecskeri–Cinaderék canal.³

During the day of 25 July, the manoeuvre group developed its attack superbly and energetically:

The 1st ID was spurred on: its right (17th IR) went towards Fegyvernek–Szapárfalu; its centre on Hay Mihaly,⁴ and its left (31st IR) against Kisújszállás, which the 6th ID was attacking frontally. The 17th IR, its right crushed, retired even though it was possible that some squadrons of the 2nd [Cavalry] Division could have improved the situation; it would only be re-established in the course of the afternoon, thanks to a vigorous return to the offensive of the 1st ID (left and centre). The enemy, smashed, recoiled towards Szolnok. The 6th ID occupied Kisújszállás and moved to the left of the 1st ID.

While the manoeuvre group took on itself the decisive clash into the left flank of the principle Red phalanx, General Papp's group held the enemy on the Mezőtúr–Túrkeve front and General Lecca's group took the Öcsöd–Szarvas area, threatening the right of the 7th ID.

The Soviet army had a rough time on the 25th, and by nightfall it was forced to admit it had suffered a serious blow; it slipped away in the dark on the 26th back to the right bank of the Tisza.

There was an immediate and vigorous pursuit. The 1st ID, the 12th IB and the 99th [IR] (20th ID) penetrated through to Törökszentmiklós (0930 hours) by way of Szapárfalu. The 11th IB and the 5th *Rosiori* Brigade ended up in Zedeker,⁵ the point of convergence of the columns. In the afternoon they linked with the General Lecca Group. Several hours later, the 3rd Light Brigade took possession of the Rakamaz bridgehead.

¹ [MP] Unlocated, but just NE of Kenderes

² [MP] in the original = Mandoki Tu, and I have allocated it as Berekfürdő from its placement on Map B.

³ [MP] As far as I can tell, this is on the eastern edge of modern Karcag.

⁴ [MP] Unlocated, but presumably between Fegyvernek and Kisújszállás.

⁵ [MP] Not located, but presumably in the Törökszentmiklós area.



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The check, although serious, did not force Jenő Landler¹ to abandon a defensive attitude which might prevent the Romanians from exploiting their tactical success. He proceeded to rally his troops, without delay and with some welcome rest, into three groups: the centre one, at Szolnok–Cegléd, was the largest (3rd, 5th and 6th Divisions); a little further south, between Csongrád and Ópusztasza, the 2nd and 4th Divisions paired together; on the left the 1st Division was isolated towards Miskolc.

General Mardaescu used the days of 26 to 28 July to prepare methodically for operations on the left bank of the Tisza, which was to be forced at Tiszabő and at Kisköre.

General Holban's central group was in front of Fegyvernek (1st and 2nd Light Divs). The 9th IR crossed on small boats during the night of 29/30 July (0300 hours) in order to protect the construction of the bridgehead at Tiszabő.

On the left, after having held the enemy at Szolnok, General Mosoiu's group (1st and 6th IDs) went to Tiszabő on the 30th.

On the right, General Demetrescu's group (7th ID² and 2nd CD³) seized some crossings in the Kisköre sector (night of 30/31 July).

In the south, from Rákóczifalva to Hódmezővásárhely, there was the 18th ID (General Papp) with the 107th [IR] from the 21st ID⁴ and the 11th Artillery Brigade.

To the north, from Tiszafüred to Chop, there was General Mihaescu's wing (16th ID and 49th IB of the 20th ID).

The strategic reserve of the 2nd ID⁵ had its front elements arriving at Kunhegyes by the night of 29 July.

The total was: 84,000 rifles, 12,000 sabres, 392 guns.

The three groups, after having gained a foothold on the right bank of the Tisza, each received a distinct mission:

General Demetrescu launched the 7th ID towards Buda-Pest via Heves–Hatvan–Gödöllő. The 3rd and 5th *Rosiori* Brigades reached Koka and Nagykata by 2 August. From this group the 2nd *Rosiori* Brigade separated to the right to head towards Miskolc, which was also the objective of the 41st IB coming from Tokaj; by this means the left of the Soviet army (3rd Corps) was isolated from its rear. The Davidoglu detachment then ran into the Czechoslovak border.⁶

On the 3rd, a march of 50 kilometres permitted Holban's light units to catch up to the squadrons a few leagues from the Hungarian capital.

From Cegléd and Abony, his first objectives, General Mosoiu inclined towards the Kecskemét area, flanked by the 4th *Rosiori* Brigade, which left from Albertirsa to increase the extensive envelopment. The 1st Corps of the Red Army (3rd, 5th and 6th IDs; 1,000 officers, 30,000 men) gave up without too much resistance and put down their arms. The group was then left to pursue the debris of the 2nd and 4th IDs.

On 4 August (1600 hours), General Mardaescu went to his forward posts and entered into talks with the delegates of the new government⁷ which had been substituted for the "dictatorship of the proletariat".⁸ The "Comrades" left the hotel "Ungaria".⁹

During the night (1800 hours), in order to confirm the liberation (and that was the least of it), there was a proud parade down the Andrássy Street of a mixed detachment of the victorious Romanians.

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Once more calling on the competent authority of M.G. de Saint-Aubin,¹⁰ it will be recognised (without overdoing the

¹ Sickened, his chief-of-staff Colonel Julier, resigned and courageously denounced the causes of the indiscipline which doomed the army.

² Transferred during May to northern Moldavia, then brought back to the principal theatre (Kunmadaras)

³ The 2nd, 3rd and 5th *Rosiori* Brigades, reinforced by the 4th IB of the 1st [Infantry] Division and by the Light Mountain Regiment, coming from Arad.

Their Majesties the King and Queen, in close contact with the troops at the front, attended at the end of the 3rd a parade of the division (see the luxuriously illustrated publication "Pagini de Gloire de la Tisa à Budapesta").

⁴ The 21st ID and the 20th "Transylvanian" ID, reconstituted on 22 July, the first in Arad and the other at Carei.

⁵ The 2nd ID, originating in Oltenița, had to occupy the Banat (21 July) by travelling via Rimnicu-Vilcea – the Serbian high command not having the kindness to authorise the direct route via Vârciorova and Temișoara – and did not have time to set themselves up (General Mardaescu's work "Campania pentru Desrobirea Ardealului și Ocuparea Budapestei" p.107).

⁶ Czechoslovakia only finished the assembly of its forces in the proximity of the line of demarcation on 1 August; some advanced elements were near Luňenec and Szécsény.

⁷ The counter-revolutionary forces had not intervened. Admiral Horthy (who, seconded by General Kratochwill, had already tried in June to deliver Buda-Pest) would assume the heavy burden of raising Hungary from its bloody ruins.

⁸ The title of the volume by Armand Lebrun, in the circumstances, the most appropriate.

⁹ Recorded in the book of Jérôme and Jean Tharaud "Quand Israël est roi"; finding their preferred frescoes and silhouettes there.

¹⁰ "La France et la Roumanie" in "Revue Mondiale" of 15 March 1920



matter) that certain mistakes of internal politics later acted to harm the results of a brilliant campaign. Romania was to be somewhat disappointed.

In order to not go too far with a delicate subject I will limit myself to adhering with all my heart, in all sincerity, to the firm and loyal protestation formulated by Senator Lucien Cornet, member of the Commission for Foreign Affairs: "In truth, it is not time to disengage French responsibility from manoeuvres in which it is claimed that we have complicity".¹

Although attacked on various points by the demands of the Supreme Council, although frustrated on the western border of advantages previously conceded,

our Latin sister [nation]

did not produce her willing and prolonged sacrifices up to August 1919 in vain.

She realised her national unity.²

Greater Romania was formed.

¹ "L'intrigue anti-roumaine" in "France militaire" of 12 September 1919.

² Reported from a very precise article "Le dixième anniversaire de l'unité nationale roumaine" in "France militaire" of 18 May 1929.



Notes

Map A : Campaign of April 1919

Initial placements:

Between Khust and Yasinya, facing General Olteanu's detachment (north of Sighetu) were a group of about 3,000 Bolsheviks and the 1st Székely¹ Regt (1,700 men).

In the Satu Mare region, facing the 2nd CD, was the 2nd Székely Regt and the 12th Regt (Honved, 2,400 men). Facing the 6th and 7th IDs were a Honved Brigade (24th and 32nd Regts, 4,000 men) and the 39th IB, formed from 8 battalions from the 3rd, 4th and 21st Honved regiments and the 37th, 39th and 51st IRs; together, 10,000 men. Facing the 2nd Light Div, a clumping of battalions (4,500 men). There was support near Carei and Debrecen (5,000 men), Oradea (5,000 men) and Békécsaba (3,000 men).

There were bridgeheads at Szolnok and Csongrád.

Final placements:

The 1st ID, retreating via Tokaj; the 5th ID was deserting the Czechoslovak front and retiring via Miskolc. The 39th IB was at Poroszló. The Buda-Pest group, the 2nd, 4th and 6th IDs, were between Jászladány (N of Szolnok) and Cegléd–Nagykőrös–Kecskemét to Kiskunfélegyháza.

Map B : Campaign of July; Hungarian Offensive; places reached

The Northern Group (3rd Corps), leaning on Miskolc, bordered the Tisza from Chop, upriver from Tokaj, with two Brigades of Székely and *Lucrători* and the Szanto detachment; going over to the left bank at Szabolcs and Rakamaz.

From Poroszló, the 80th IB filled the small bridgeheads of Tiszacsege, Egyek and Tiszafüred.

The bulk (1st Corps; 5th, 6th and 7th IDs) propped up by the 3rd and 8th IDs, filled the deep pocket of Kisköre–Kisújszálás–Mezőtúr–Nagyrev.

The 2nd and 4th IDs alone filled the Szentes–Hódmezővásárhely sector.

After the Romanian counter-offensive, the Hungarian troops retired to: 1st ID around Miskolc; 3rd, 5th and 6th IDs into the zone Cegléd–Törtel–Nagykőrös (i.e. S of Cegléd); 2nd and 4th IDs into the strip from Kecskemét to Kiskunfélegyháza.

Map C : Exploitation by the Romanian divisions from the Tisza to the Danube

From Kisköre (Demetrescu group), the 7th ID, via Heves and Hatvan onto Gödöllő; escorted to the left (south) by the *Rosiori* brigades.

From Tiszabő–Kótelek (Holban group), the two Light divisions followed the railway line from Baldogháza² to Buda-Pest.

The 4th *Rosiori* Brigade left the grouping at Albertirsa (between Cegléd and Monor) and headed to Kecskemét, where it crossed with the 6th ID, of the Mosoiu group, which had left the 1st ID at Cegléd.

The 16th ID (Rakamaz–Tiszafüred sector), the 2nd ID (Kunhegyes area) and the 18th ID (Szentes–Hódmezővásárhely sector) did not participate in the full exploitation: to the north the Davidoglu detachment (2nd *Calarasi* Brigade) ran up to the Czechoslovakia border; to the west by parties pushed on to Vác, the Raab [River] (Colonel Constantin's detachment, 7th Light Regt, 2nd *Rosiori* Regt, three batteries), Veszprém (Colonel Neagu's detachment, 8th Light Regt, 7th *Rosiori* Regt, two batteries), Kunszentmiklós, Fülöpszállás and Kalocsa; to the south, by advanced elements towards Kiskunhalas and Kistelek.

¹ [MP] Bujac uses the term "Secui" which I have assumed are Székely, from context and the similar pronunciation.

² [MP] not located. There is a small village Boldogkóta, north of Nagykóta, in about the right place.



[MP Notes

I have returned personal names to their original Hungarian spellings, including accent marks, rather than retain Bujac's French versions, but have kept the non-Hungarian protocol of family names going last.

Most places in the text have multiple names – Hungarian, Romanian, German, Czech and Ukrainian – which are not always very obviously related. In the text have amended Bujac's versions (an eclectic mix of the Hungarian and German variants) to the modern spelling for the country each is presently in. I have amended the more important places on the maps, but a few minor places are still in the original.

The following are useful conversions for places in the text:

Abaújszanto = Albany Szanto
Alba Julia = Karlsburg = Gyula Fehervar
Baia Mare = Nagybanya
Berettyó = Barcăul (River)
Carei = Carei Mare = Nagy Károly
Chop = Csap = Tapud
Cluj Napoca = Klausenburg = Kolozvár
Danube = Duna = Dunărea = Donau (River)
Futog = Futtak (near modern Novi Sad)
Khust = Huszt
Košice = Kaschau = Kassa = Koalice
Luňenec = Losoncz
Mukachëvo = Munkács
Mureş = Maros (River)
Ópusztasza = Sövényházá
Oradea = Oradea Mare = Nagyvarad = Grosswardein
Salonta = Nagyszalonta
Satu Mare = Szatmár Németi
Sibiu = Hermannstadt
Şimleu Silvaniei = Szilagy Szege
Szeged = Seghedin = Algyó = Gyálarét = Kiskundorozsma = Tápé
Tisza = Theiss = Tisa (River)
Tiszacsege = Csege
Tizsafüred = Tizaszölos
Transylvania = Erdély = Ardeal = Siebenbürgen
Uzh = Uscoz = Uh = Ung
Vác = Waitzen = Vanzen
Valea lui Mihai = Er Mihályfalva
Yasinya = Körösmező
...]

