

The Life of the Romanian Army's Combatants on the Frontline in 1917.
Activities Outside Confrontation with the Enemy
(Abstract)

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The war fought in 1917 by the Romanian combatants was not just an endless string of battles. Apart from confronting directly the enemy, the campaigners were involved on the front in a wide range of activities. Some were closely related to the military activity, others concerned requisite aspects of life there or they consisted in leisure activities. Those closely related to the military factor focused on organizing and strengthening the defense, taking care of weapon maintenance, training in order to acquire new fighting techniques, conducting patrols, scouting, developing strategic plans and sketches, censoring the correspondence. The aspects concerning their daily life refer to personal hygiene, providing food or repairing clothing and shoes. Most of these activities were carried out according to orders and regulations. To these were added leisure activities such as: smoking, reading books and newspapers, writing and reading letters, attending mass, listening to people singing or playing instruments, dancing, fortune telling, playing cards and backgammon or even watching shows put on for them.

None of these were carried out because of military regulations or orders. These activities, outside the confrontation with the enemies, depended on the material and human resources, physical condition and the mood of the soldiers, of their level of culture and the free time they had.

All the activities mentioned were not of stable and continuous nature, but were marked by interruptions due to fighting.