

CRISTIAN CONSTANTIN*

IN THE NAME OF THE KING: (COUNTER)INTELLIGENCE AND PROPAGANDA
SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL GUARDS OF THE LOWER DANUBE COUNTY
(1939-1940)
(Summary)

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This article aims to present how the personal dictatorship regime of King Charles II of Romania established and subordinated to the single party an intelligence service, through which it carried out political police actions against its citizens. As is shown by the information contained in the archival documents, which are kept at the territorial services of the National Archives of Romania, the agents of the propaganda department of the National Guards of the National Revival Front/Party of the Nation carried out counter-intelligence operations in sensitive regions of Romania and duplicated the tasks of similar structures within the police, gendarmerie and army. The Lower Danube County was a prosperous region of the Romanian monarchy, bordering the Soviet Union, and was dominated by ethnic and foreign citizens. The King's agents' briefing notes reveal a world of intelligence willing to serve its homeland but also agents resentful of some of their countrymen. Very often, the leaks touched on personal and trivial subjects, which they considered of interest to the sovereign's ears.

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