

**Botoșani County in the Early Months of the Soviet Occupation.
Unpublished Memoirs of Dimitrie Russu, Prefect of Botoșani
(7 April to 17 August 1944)
(Abstract)**

Marcel VARGA

Keywords: Botoșani, 1944, Soviet military occupation, Red Army, Romanians, Jews, political and social transformations, communism.

Dimitrie Russu, Botoșani county prefect from 7 April to 17 August 1944, expose in a report to minister of Internal Affairs the situation of this area before and after the Soviet military occupation. After the Romanian administration of Botoșani was evacuated at the end of March 1944, on 7 April the Red Army troops were occupied the city. Soon after, the German bombers destroyed a lot of houses and another buildings. After rebuilding destroyed facilities and institutions, Russu reorganized Prefecture, Law Court, Police etc. and was concerned for the smooth running of economic activities. Ample space is reserved for presentation of proposed relations with the Soviets, Jews and Romanians. Despite the statements made by V. Molotov in April 1944, the Soviets interfered actively in the political and social transformations. In April, Ana Pauker and Vasile Luca had been personally in Botoșani and tried to persuade Russu to join the communism. He refused and on 17 August, Russu was dismissed by the Soviet command and replaced by Gh. Boldescu.