

The Open House Collection

[March 15]

Honored Commander,

The undersigned, Captain Călugăru Stelian, of the 1944 contingent, from the 40th Infantry Regiment, a soldier who responded to the call for liberating Transylvania, and being encircled I fell prisoner at Mureș marker no. 477 (where I was captured on the 20th day of September, 1944 after being encircled for two days). I was then taken to an internment camp at Budapest, together with 150 Russians who were also prisoners. During the advance of the Allied Forces, I was captured by the Allied Forces, who on the 11th day of February, 1945, liberated all the Russian soldiers, sending them all back to their units; while I and the other Romanian prisoners, numbering 23, were put in a camp together with German and Hungarian prisoners. Instead of being sent to the Romanian Command, we were put on the road so to speak in the direction of Reni-Basarabia, on train no. 89903, car no. 1530.

Commander, with tears in my eyes I beg you to intervene with the Soviet Command in order to obtain my liberty along with the 23 Romanians who are in this train, because we are neither Germans or Hungarians.

I also enclose a list of the other Romanian prisoners, together with a birth certificate of the undersigned and as corroboration [of my fate] two postcards received in response from the respective Company after falling prisoner to the Germans.

Long may you live, Sir.

Călugăru P. Stelian, Captain, from the 40th Infantry Regiment, and with residence in the village Valea Mare Podgoria, Muscel County.

[Signature]

To the Commanding General of the General Staff, Bucharest.

Romania had fought with the Axis forces for three years, but on September 20, 1944, only eight days after Romania's official entry into the war on the side of the Allies, the 23 Romanian soldiers described on this name list were captured by German and Hungarian forces, only to be retaken several months later by their nominal ally, the Red Army, and treated as POWs. The microfilm collection contains several accounts and lists of Romanian citizens, as well as Hungarians and Germans, who were transported to the USSR for slave labor. (How the author of the letter and name list gained access to a typewriter while on a POW train remains a mystery.)

From Compilation III, Military Offices Attached to the Romanian Commission for the Implementation of the Armistice and the Peace Treaty, 1944-1947; reel R62, directory current number 201, frames 626-627.

Facilities at the Romanian Military Archives

LIST OF NAMES

Romanian noncommissioned officers and soldiers who were prisoners in camps in Germany, taken during fighting in Transylvania and Hungary and who were transported toward the USSR on train no. 89,903, car no. 1530, which train passed through Pitești train station on 14 March 1945, in the direction of Bucharest.

<u>First name</u>	<u>Last name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Call-up</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Regiment</u>	<u>Captured</u> <u>on date</u>
1.	Călugăru P.	Leader	1944	40th Infantry	9/20/44
2.	Oprea Marin	Sergeant	1943	19th Infantry	"
		Major			
3.	_omară C-tin	Sergeant	1937	18th Mountain Troops	"
4.	Udrescu Savu	"	1938	18th Mountain Troops	"
5.	Brazdă Marin	"	"	34th Infantry	"
6.	Caciuc Gh.	"	1930	11th Infantry	"
7.	Berbece Ioan	Corporal	1935	3rd Infantry	"
8.	Ionger Mihai	"	1942	19th Infantry	"
9.	Dumitru Marin	Soldier	1937	40th Pioneers	"
10.	Băjea Ioan	"	1944	18th Mountain Troops	"
11.	Neagu Ghiorghe	"	1941	8th Doroban_i	"
12.	Tănase Petre	"	1933	?	"
13.	Ilie Constantin	"	1943	34th Infantry	"
14.	Floare Alexandru	"	1936	11th Infantry	"
15.	Petre C-tin	"	1945	"	"
16.	Dumitrescu A.	"	1945	19th Infantry	"
17.	Gicu Ghi.	"	"	91st Infantry	"
18.	Popa Marin	"	1943	94th Infantry	"
19.	Velcea Ioan	"	"	3rd Infantry	"
20.	_ohao Marin	"	1945	3rd Infantry	"
22.	Băciu Dobre	"	"	21st Infantry	"
23.	Petre Stefan	"	"	"	"
24.	_amș Ludovic	"	1942	34th Infantry	"

Attachment to letter, previous page.