

SHORT HISTORY OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF GENDARMES IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK

Valentin IOAN

Ph.D. Student "Ștefan cel Mare" University of Suceava (Romania),

E-mail: ioanvalentin87@yahoo.com

Abstract: *The facts and implications of the gendarmes in Romanian social life represent an unresearched segment that leaves open the way to the realization of a brief study. Social work is one of the prerequisites for ensuring the smooth running of democratic society, as it is a specific model of social protection for people and their rights. The present paper is in fact the result of thorough investigations of periodicals, documents from archival funds such as the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, as well as other funds in the field of public order and safety held by the Central National Historical Archives and specialized works in the field of social work. The paper highlights the legislative framework that established the role of gendarmes in social life, captures moments from which the qualities of the gendarmes such as human value and dignity, honesty, courage, empathy and so on, values that shape the profile of a gendarme dedicated to the people and the nation. Through this paper we note that in fact the public order institutions, the Gendarmerie in this case, supported the local social work system.*

Key words: *gendarme; help; calamity; disease; protection.*

In the structure of the national social work system there are many institutions with direct or tangential tasks in social work and which are subordinated to the various ministries (Buzducea, 2008: 28). In this case, an institution with the task of ensuring the maintenance and restoration of public order and security through tasks and missions and which makes a significant contribution to the public is the Gendarmerie. Following studying in the history of the legislative framework on the institution of the Gendarmerie we note that the gendarmes were involved in ensuring the well-being of people, with special attention paid to poor, vulnerable or in various difficult situations.

These aspects highlight the dignity and human value they had. Note that among the main normative acts from which we learn about the support that the gendarmes provided to citizens are the Regulation implementing the Law on Rural Gendarmerie of 1908 with the amendments of 1 January 1911 where, even in Title III, in the Gendarmerie's relations with the administrative, judicial and military authorities we identify the powers of the gendarmes in special situations and calamities (Mihalache, Suci et al. 1995: 240) such as fires, floods, locusts, epidemics, and any other calamities that the population was going through. In the event of fires or floods, the gendarmes were obliged to go immediately to the scene to take rescue measures, both for persons in danger and for the things they owned (Regulamentul de aplicare al Legii asupra Jandarmeriei Rurale, 1908). In case of epidemics like typhus, scarlet fever, dysentery, measles, shesed, diphtheria angina, etc., or epizots such as foot-and-mouth disease, bovine fever, yellowish, pneumoenteritis, they were obliged to inform, through the head of the ward, the mesh administrator and then, when the doctor came to the scene, they had to supervise the execution of the isolation prescriptions in order, eventually, to help the doctor and the health care officer with the admission of the patients in the infirmary or hospitals.

The Rural Gendarmerie was among the basic components of the public order and security system of the Ministry of the Interior, and in order to perform the ordinary and

extraordinary service, it was at the disposal of the authorities, given that some laws gave them general police powers. (Regulation of the Law and Statute of the Rural Gendarmerie of 1929). This reference to the general police task is also underlined in the 1929 Rural Gendarmerie Law and Statute Regulation, which stated that the Rural Gendarmerie police service was divided into General Police (state security police, public security and judicial police) and Administrative and Communal Police. In the branch of the administrative police it was clearly stated that the gendarmes were providing help to the needy or those who were in accordance with the principles of social protection. Also in the Regulation of the Law and the Statute of the Rural Gendarmerie of 1929 were stipulated the measures that were taken to prevent damage in cases of calamities such as fires, floods, lightning, storms, heavy fog, hail, heavy snow, epidemics.

The gendarmes were obliged to provide help and tried as much as possible to remove the danger or improve the consequences. They also helped remove debris from households in the event of calamities. Article 2(d) of the Law on the Organisation of the General Police of the State of 1929 clearly stated that the gendarmes gave the support to those in need, in accordance with the principle of social protection. These phrases highlighted the social work activity that the gendarmes had in the community. Thus, on the basis of the 6-J Brochure, representing the methodological norms implementing the Gendarmerie Law of 1929, the gendarmes were to provide social and moral work. In order to improve the Tasks of the Gendarmerie as a police institution and the gendarme in general, it was necessary to increase the contribution of the gendarmes to the social work activity.

Another legislative framework not to be omitted is the Regulation on The Rural Police Service, published in Official Gazette No. 166/1941 where Article 11 stated that the gendarmes are obliged to give all the support to those called upon to carry out the work of social work and to protect public morals against those who would try to achieve it, to remove or avoid danger from helpless children on the shore of a river or near a precipice, or fire, or other dangerous place, without supervision, to bring home children lost and found or to teach to the communal authorities, but also to teach the communal authorities stray children and to report to depraved young people.

In Law No. 264 of 22 April 1943 on the organization and functioning of the Gendarmerie, the task was noted that the Gendarmerie provided the general police in the country's rural territory, defended the freedom, property and safety of persons and supported the work of social work.

Through their missions, in particular those of maintaining public order and national security, the gendarmes have demonstrated that the general interest takes precedence over them(Revista Jandarmeriei, 1942: 11). Where the law mainly required the obligation to carry out preventive work, in order to remove actions affecting public order and security, it was understood in fact that the legislator intended to impose a social character in his police function, and where preventive measures were insufficient to impede the interests of society and members, and recourse was made to repressive measures of any kind , the law merely referred to the social nuance of the function of the gendarmerie(Revista Jandarmeriei, 1942: 12).

The strength of a country and the prosperity of the people are in fact in the work of the citizens. Social security contributed in large part to high productivity, not only among business workers, but also among workers in general. Among the activities carried out by the gendarmes are the following:

➤ The assistance of all those who were in a precarious physical, moral or material state, those who were unable to support themselves and therefore needed

care, protection, and in this category were poor young children, poor, lost, infirm, homeless, wounded, sick and convalescent poor, poor families of the concentrated and mobilized, the blind and deaf, those who, although healthy and fit for work, did not find placement and did not have an income to ensure their livelihood, widows and elders of any social class who could no longer work;

- The prevention and combating of social diseases;
- Sign fight and repression of those who refused work, beggars by reeducating and reorienting them;
- Trade-related supervision of the application of social welfare laws that were in the remit of public or private institutions;
- The aid of injuries following events such as accidents, drowning, slow, calamities such as hunger, drought, earthquake, cold, floods, storms, rail accidents, etc;
- Surveillance of the marshaling offices, placement and assistance of the needy, dispensation, orphanages, hostels, canteens, popular bathrooms, noise-suppression furnaces, hospices, temporary shelters, etc;
- Feed support for institutions to protect mother, child, preventive school medicine, inmates, etc.

The scope of the gendarmerie in the work of social work is quite broad, and another good example would be assistance to Polish refugees since 1939.

Among the more important special laws that separate the gendarmes obligations and powers at the work of social work we mention:

- Share the Law for the Regulation and control of the call to the voluntary contribution of the public;
- Chain the law for the defeat of homeless people and begging;
- Is the law for the protection of the work of minors and women;
- Ub-Business Act;
- Is the Road traffic Law;
- Table Road Law;
- Are the law on exploitation and police C.F.R.;
- Code the General regime of religious Affairs;
- The law on Sunday rest;
- Act on the fight against Veneric diseases;
- The Health and protect Law.

An important aspect that highlights the role of gendarmes in social work is their involvement in preventing and combating contagious diseases and epidemics. Thus, the diseases which will necessarily be declared and for which immediate action will be taken and which the hygienist will necessarily report, case by case, are the following: anthrax (dalac), diphtheria, dysentery (bacilara and ameobiana), epidemic encephalitis, yellow fever, typhoid fever (abdominal typhus), paratifoid fevers, cholera, leprosy, epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, morva (rapciuga), plague (plague), poliomyelitis (acute infantile paralysis), rabies (turbation), scarlet fever, exantematic typhus, recurrent tifus and smallpox (Sanitary and Protection Law No. 236: 1930). This legislative framework established the duties of the gendarme, who was obliged to carry out urgently and in particular all the provisions ordered by the official doctors and who had to work with them to prevent and combat contagious diseases. The gendarme should not forget for a moment, that a negligence, or a overlook, however insignificant it may be, entails the illness and death of a very large number of people. Non-execution of orders was considered a refusal of service and was punished as such.

In order to understand the contribution of the gendarmes to the work of social work in the application of the various laws of a special nature, it was sufficient to show that, for example in the law of servants, it was not sufficient to keep only their records but to follow the way of employment, conduct, morality, treatment, care, tending

towards physical and moral training of the employee, which is precisely in the intention of social work. Also for the protection of women and children, the working conditions required of this category by power, physical, moral and specialized training were observed in enterprises. As far as homeless people and beggars are concerned, it was not enough for the strict application of the laws, but through social work they wanted to be directed to work, and honesty for their integration into society. As specific principles of tactics and techniques of the social work police we recall:

- Look at the perfect knowledge of the laws in social terms and their enforcement with perseverance, each in its sphere of activity;
- Establish a plan and establish social work problems in different environments: Asylum, sanatorium, beggars center, enterprise;
- The statement on the work order of what is actually to be pursued on a daily basis in the work of social work on the ground;
- Build committees, associations or cooperation with existing ones by stimulating their activity;
- How come the personal training of the subordinates and of all those with whom he comes into contact, even outside the service, the provision of assistance to an injured, injured, drowned, sick, etc.

Another involvement with the role (social work) of the gendarme in the railway disasters was that at the time of such an accident he had to move urgently with all the packages of dressings and the first aid material that was provided to the station. During this trip he had to notify the doctors and pharmacists in the nearby village about the accident, and if these events were large, rescue teams were organized with the tenants who were requisitioned on the spot and the convoys went to the postmaster, who gave them all the indication of the final destination, it was supervised that the transport of young children was carried out with the persons with whom they were found and with whom they could be related (Revista Jandarmeriei, 1932: 971), firefighting teams were set up before firefighters arrived and were helping them at the time of arrival. For edification on this topic in terms of the social support provided by the gendarmes on various occasions we bring to the attention a few moments in the history of this institution, missions of the gendarmes transformed into acts of kindness.

An example is that of April 10, 1919, when the Salaj Gendarmerie Company was stationed in the building of the "Correctional Institute" where it would begin its individual training. During this period, heavy rainfall flooded several localities, with the company engaged in saving lives, animals, as well as material goods in the towns of Hida and Cojocna. For the effort and proven sacrifice 7 gendarmes were decorated with the Medal of Manhood and Faith 3rd Class (Mihalache, 2018: 407).

For the institution of the Romanian Gendarmerie, the date of December 15, 1922, meant the appearance of the "Journal of the Gendarmerie". The magazine was printed in about 1000 copies, and its purpose was highlighted in the very section entitled "Word Forward" signed by Lieutenant Colonel Bendescu Constantin, Director and Commander of the School of Gendarmerie Oradea-Mare. The configuration of the magazine was as follows: the first part included studies and articles detailing some missions carried out by gendarmes on the public order line, the activity of gathering information, professional works also reflected by images, the second part was intended for studies of a general, scientific, social, psychological, etc. nature, and the last part ended with various official communications such as citations of meritorious facts, advancements and decorations. From the budget surplus of this magazine the steering committee decided annually the amount to be allocated for the granting of scholarships

for the sons or daughters of the re-employed, to take specialized courses, but also for the establishment of libraries at posts and sections (*Revista Jandarmeriei*, 1931: 158).

In 1927, by the Day Order No.19 of the Inspector General of the Gendarmerie, the appreciations were presented to the platoon gendarme Boiangiu Marin the head of the post at the Casin Monastery of the Bacau Gendarmerie Legion because he participated, together with the authorities of the Sanitary County Service to combat the scarlet fever epidemic (A.N. fond I.G.J., dos. 10/1931: 5). Also on the agenda were remembered the sergeant instructor Berghi Teodor and the soldier Popescu Oprisan also from the Legion of Gendarmerie Bacău. They were noted by the fact that with the patrol during the service, they noticed how a flash flood on the Tazlău River took a man, the horses and the loaded wagon. They left their weapons on the shore and jumped into the water dressed and managed to save both the citizen and the horses (Ioan, 2017:32).

For the medical care of the gendarmes, a medical service was created at the Command, led by an active general practitioner and to brigades, regiments and training battalions, the classification of active military doctors began. Two or three health workers were brought to the gendarmes to visit the gendarmes from the stations and wards each month. In order to stop the occurrence of typhoid or paratifoïd fever occurring sporadically in the territory, most of them deadly, on the basis of the Order General of the Minister of War No. 3752 of February 1928, for the anti-tifo-paratifoïd and anti-variotoxic vaccination of 1928, a circular order was given at the level of the General Inspectorate of Gendarmerie, for the vaccination shown above, both of the recruits and of the troops within, officers and re-employed from the training battalions and those in the territory. The vaccine has had excellent results, so there have been no cases of typhoid fever in the territory.

In 1929 by agenda, they were summoned to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, the gendarme Abălașei Iordache and sergeant instructor Stoleru Haralambie of the Legion of Roman Gendarmerie for showing courage and sacrifice by saving several people from the ice in the aftermath of floods (A.N. fond I.G.J., dos. 1/1893:86v).

In the spring of 1932, a season in which floods occurred regularly and the homes of the inhabitants were being washed away, gendarmes from the Iași Legion, leaders Belu Ioan and Trifu Dumitru and Private Răileanu Simion jumped into the water and managed to save the lives of many men and women who were trapped by the waves in their homes (A.N. fond I.G.J., dos. 1/1893:185v). They were assessed by Day Order No. 131/1932 of the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie.

Also, by Order Circular No. 23 of 16 June 1934 between 25 April and 8 May there were numerous forest fires in the territory of the Sibiu, Brașov, Trei Scaune, Odorhei, Bihor, Arad, Maramures, Hunedoara, Năsăud, Someș, Alba, Mureș, Cluj, Muscel, Dâmbovița, Prahova, Buzău, Arges, Vâlcea, Gorj, Neamț, Baia, Vaslui, Tulcea, Bacău Thanks were made to all the gendarmes within these legions for their efforts, who for weeks without the help of the population located the fires that threatened to become catastrophic, managing to save much of the national wealth (A.N. fond I.G.J., dos. 3/1934: 43). In January 1939 the Inspector General of the Gendarmerie, Major General I. Bengliu conveyed to the gendarmes "*respectful of the rights of every citizen and conscientious for the observance and enforcement of the laws, seek to fulfill the slogan: "Honest, humanity and legality"*" (*Revista Jandarmeriei*, nr.1, 1939: 10).

A veterinary service was established at the command, headed by a veterinary lieutenant colonel active for the medical care of horses, because in many parts, such as Basarabia (A.N. fond I.G.J., dos.1/1893:54v), many horses were killed.

For all the flaws of some of them, rural gendarmes were more educated, disciplined and clean people than most rural residents. Romanian society, in our case the rural world, faced quite a lot of problems in terms of discipline (evading tax, alcoholism) and hygienic-sanitary condition (diseases, almost total lack of healthcare). The gendarmes played an important role in educating the population, preventing epidemics, which was often hindered by the mentality of the peasants and the serious general condition. Even in Transylvania, where the level of civilization was higher, during the interwar period alcoholism, poor nutrition, lack of care, the almost total lack of medicines and doctors made mortality rise, as did the incidence of diseases (Robu, 2012: 87-104). The role of the gendarmerie was to be penetrated by a real social spirit, and according to the principles of the police profession, its own social welfare attribute is emerging. At the same time, the social interest, and even by defending the particular social interest, indirectly serves the same social interest. On the basis of the legislative provisions, the Gendarmerie Institution participated directly and intensively with other institutions in the various activities in the field of social work.

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