

in fact a well-connected central topic: the connection between community and space in the 19th century. Maricica Munteanu has developed an innovative approach which is waiting to be tested when applied to other groups and contexts. □

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Notes

1. This group has been studied in detail by Ligia Tudurachi, “Grup Sburător”: *Trăitul și scrisul împreună în cenaclul lui E. Lovinescu* (Timișoara: Editura Universității de Vest, 2019).
2. For example, D. Micu, *Poporanismul și “Viața românească”* (Bucharest: Editura pentru Literatură, 1961).
3. Which is evident in the case of Mihail Sevastos, *Amintiri de la Viața românească*, orig. published in 1956, revised in 1966. I have consulted the reprint Iași: Polirom, 2015.
4. In translating this review, we have opted for this calque, because a more natural English expression, such as Moldavian identity, does not cover the meaning sufficiently well. This “Moldavianness” was an elitist notion, fed by the Moldavian feelings of superiority vis-à-vis the “Romanian Land” (internationally better known as Wallachia), with which a union was formed in 1859. Moldavian intellectuals associating with this concept were not separatists. They fully supported the union (some even fought for it), but they did not want to be dominated by Wallachia. They were proud of their distinct, Moldavian identity.
5. “O perspectivă dedublată asupra relației dintre un grup literar și spațiu,” literally: a dual perspective on the relation between a literary group and space.
6. Z. Ornea, *Junimea și junimismul* (Bucharest: Eminescu, 1978), 93.

Dr. JÖRG BIBER

Aventurile lui Paul Biber, mecanic de precizie pe aerodromul Sânanndrei de lângă Timișoara: Nume de cod “Adebar” (1915 și 1916)

(The adventures of Paul Biber, a precision mechanic at the Sânanndrei airfield near Timișoara. Code name “Adebar,” 1915 and 1916)

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ELEVEN DECADES after the outbreak of the First World War, or the Great War, as the people of that time called it, there are still many unknowns about this topic. Therefore, Jörg Biber wrote a book about the adventures of his father, Paul Biber (1891–1957), a soldier in the German Imperial Army during the First World War, deployed as a precision mechanic for airships, attending to the zeppelins stationed at the military base at Sânanndrei, near Timișoara, between 1915 and 1916. Before going into the details of the volume’s structure, it must be specified that it is a heavy book, literally, albeit not voluminous, due to the quality paper used for printing, allowing for the inclusion of a significant number of photographs and accompanying notes from soldier Paul Biber’s war album.

The Foreword and the Introduction (pp. 23–49) provide general information on the evolution of the First World War in the Balkan area, but also on the political-historical context that allowed the establishment of an airship airfield at Sânanndrei, a village near Timișoara.

The first chapter (pp. 50–71) describes the formation and training of the Royal Saxon Land Airship Division no. 14 (LT14), and the historical information is supported by photos. In fact, the photographs are the novelty and the strong point of the book. They are group or individual shots, in which Paul Bieber or his comrades appear dressed in military uniforms, but there is another picture that conveys a strong message of humanity, even in the context of the anticipation of war—the grave of Bob, the company dog—, and on the back of the photos there are details, even on the death of Bob, hit by a car.

The second chapter (pp. 72–103) traces the journey of Paul Biber's unit from Germany to Sănandrei, with a stop in a village in the Hungarian countryside, where some photographs were taken. The photographic itinerary continues in the third chapter (pp. 104–151) with the presentation of the metal frame of the warehouse where the airships would end up being parked. Also, there are pictures of the construction of workshops, warehouses and living quarters; in other words, the infrastructure of the military base. Paul Biber also took photos of the airfield's surroundings, without forgetting the local people; for example, a picture taken in front of the train station in Timișoara where two men were sitting, one wearing a hat, dressed elegantly, the other in poor clothes, with a sheepskin hat on his head; the first one sits almost dejectedly, while the poor man is looking at the camera, almost smiling, an interesting antithesis, especially since Paul Bieber himself wrote on the back of the picture: "In front of the train station in Timișoara. Those two in the left corners are amazing!" The album also

contains other pictures about the inhabitants of Timișoara and their daily activities. Chapters five (pp. 194–213) and six (pp. 214–241) are dedicated to photographs that capture the various maintenance activities of the aircraft inside the military unit, but also the combat flight of an airship departing from Timișoara to attack the city of Thessaloniki in Greece. At the same time, we can see the zeppelin which was to attack Bucharest in 1916, but technical problems appeared en route, and the ship crashed in Bulgaria; all these stages were also all immortalized. In the seventh chapter (pp. 242–259) there are photographs that capture the last actions of the aircraft in the Balkans, at the end of 1916, when Bucharest and part of Romania had been occupied by the German and Austro-Hungarian imperial troops. Further photographic materials show the hangars of the airfield, generally the life after the end of the war. Finally, the eighth chapter (pp. 260–275), the last one, comes as an overlay of the present over the past; in other words, a field search of the remains of the airfield near Timișoara.

In conclusion, if we were to be guided by the expression "a picture is worth a thousand words," the photographs taken by Paul Biber, which are the main subject of this volume, are worth a lot. So, it is a heavy book not only literally, but also figuratively, which deserves to be browsed not only by those interested in military history, the history of photography, or the history of aviation—especially since we are talking about zeppelins, devices that are no longer in use nowadays—but also in general by anyone interested in the past.

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