

Bucharest and the slaughter began.

Their sadism put the Nazis to shame. Equipped with rifles, daggers and swords, they swept onto the surprised residents of the quarter. Historians Hans Rogger and Eugen Webber, in their book *The European Right* state Jews "were killed with dreadful brutality. Dozens were hung on butcher's hooks in the slaughterhouse."

Jews were butchered in a grotesque parody of Jewish food preparation, their corpses stamped "kosher meat." The Nazi military attache in Romania's report gives further details:

"In the Bucharest morgue one can see hundreds of corpses but they are mostly Jews," he wrote. "Jewish sources report the victims had not merely been killed but they had been butchered. In the morgue bodies were observed hanging like carcasses of cattle. A witness saw a girl of five hanging by her feet like a calf, her body smeared with blood."

After three days of rioting, the army crushed the Guard. Viorel Trifa's rebellion involved the deaths of 10,000 Jews. But the jig was up for the Iron Guard. This

Church, Annuciation of Montreal on Christophe Colomb at Jarry. He will conduct a service there at 11h this Sunday as he does every Sunday.

There are more. Churla Cuintu, who today lives in Windsor Ontario, is under investigation by the Deschenes commission on war crimes according to the Simon Wiesenthal centre. He distributes Iron Guard publications worldwide. George F. Goain publishes a news service out of New York which carries Iron Guard news. The Romanian Voice of Hamilton, which claims to be the largest Romanian publication outside Romania, has published several articles in support of Trifa and has Iron Guard writers.

Peter Popescu was very successful in Montreal, according to John Catarau an executive with the rival Montreal Romanian Orthodox Church, John the Baptist. Popescu split the parish into two. Catarau says he knew Popescu was a member of the Iron Guard and that he is a threat to the community.

"It was suspicious when he came here," Catarau said. "He didn't have proper papers. He uses the clergy for his own

The Romanian Orthodox church of America, despite Trifa's departure, remains under guard control according to Charles Allen, considered the pre-eminent U.S. authority on war criminals.



"Trifa is bringing embers of the Iron Guard to America and installing them in parishes"

"I can assure you after WWII a number of Iron Guardists came to the U.S. and began to regroup and reform. They still have the Fuhrer principal of the leader," he said. "Trifa is gone but there is a new leader."

In Canada there are still about two dozen active, if aging, Guardists passing on their poison. It's a time of growth for the Iron Guard. Through a network of institutions, churches, camps, publications many of which are partially funded by federal and provincial multi-culturalism grants, the Guard has been steadily recruiting young Romanians in Montreal and Toronto. Meanwhile, they are allied with a group of established Romanian Canadians, any in control of magazines and cultural organizations, whose generally right-wing politics jive with the Legionnaire's.

And according to Dennis Debbaudt, with the murder of one Romanian journalist they have resurrected the legendary 'equipa a mort', the death squads of the Iron Guard — an institution the Guardists must delight to see being used so extensively today in El Salvador, Chile and South Africa.

Iron Guard elders might look around and say to themselves "It's good to be alive."

Amen.
This article is not meant as a collective indictment of any nationality, Romanian or otherwise. It is simply intended to expose real crimes committed in Canada and elsewhere.

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"A new generation of legionnaires guard the altar."

genocidal outburst, no matter how much an inspired expression of patriarchal Christianity or hysterical nationalism, was decidedly uncool. Trifa and the Guard leadership were forced to flee Romania under Nazi protection. They were placed in protective custody in the Buchenwald concentration camp where they were housed in the luxurious special barracks. Trifa and company spent the remaining years of the war playing cards and watching films waiting for the Nazi occupation of Romania that would never happen. Viorel Trifa disappeared in 1945. When he resurfaced five years later, he was no longer Viorel, but Valerian Trifa, a resident of Cleveland, Ohio.

Trifa was soon joined in his new home by several other Guardists. It was like old times. In 1953, Trifa began a campaign against the Romanian Orthodox Church of America accusing it of communism and complicity with the Romanian government. In the summer of 1953, Trifa and several dozen comrades, marched on the Church's sanctuary in Grass Lakes, Michigan, physically tossing out the residing Archbishop and installing Trifa in his place. Perhaps because of the rabidly anti-communist atmosphere of the 1950s, Trifa was able to remain. Now he was "Valerian Trifa, Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Church of America." In 1955 he was invited to open the U.S. Senate in prayer.

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Suddenly there was a run on priest positions in Trifa's church. Men showed up in cities around North America claiming to be priests from Romania with certifiable orders to take over the parish. This happened in New York, Detroit, Cleveland and several Canadian cities. The FBI was well aware of Trifa's activities. A recently declassified 1955 internal FBI file warns: "Be advised that approximately 14 of these persons have formally served under the subject (Trifa). Trifa is bringing embers of the Iron Guard to America and installing them in parishes."

So Nicolae Tanase, a former high-ranking officer of the Iron Guard, alleged assassin of Professor Iorga, becomes Father Nicolae Tanase, Reverend of the Romanian Orthodox Church of Toronto. Nicolae Zelea, Iron Guardist, imprisoned in Romania in 1941, became Reverend Zelea of Hamilton. And Peter Popescu, Iron Guardist, identified in FBI files as living in Montreal, Canada, is today Reverend of the Romanian Orthodox

security. He recently gave a sermon saying the Iron Guard are the saviours of Romania. If he set foot today in Romania, he'd be dead."

Popescu has a different story. "I was never a member of the Iron Guard," he said. "They don't exist anymore. They are from the past."

Popescu dismisses Catarau as a "communist."

Catarau believes Popescu's church has been part of the resurrection of the Iron Guard in Canada. "The churches have been used to recruit young Romanian exiles," he said.

Denis Debbaudt, a Detroit journalist and expert on the Iron Guard in the U.S. corroborates Catarau's story. "I was given the names of five members of a Guard hit squad in New York but at the time nothing had happened."

Meanwhile, plenty had been happening in Canada.

On June 18, 1975, the Toronto home of an Iron Guard dissident was fire bombed. A group calling itself Romanian Action Group (RAG) took credit in the pro-Guard Boian news service:

"We are going over to action," the RAG statement reads. "We will hit mercilessly any person who is working for the communist embassy and also those who from stupidity do their job."

A few months later RAG took responsibility for an assault on the Romanian consul in Toronto. By 1980, the confident and growing organization published a history of the Guard in North America complete with pictures. It includes a photograph of two young boys, one 5 years old, the other 9, giving the Nazi salute. They are posed in front of the altar of the St. Nicolas Church in Detroit and behind them is an Iron Guard flag. The caption reads: "A new generation of legionnaires guard the altar."

In 1983, the United States government acted against the Guard for the first time. Trifa was deported. Before he left he met with representative of Aryan Nations, a high-tech neo-Nazi coalition that has just set up shop in Alberta.

There are more than 500 active members of the Guard in North America and many more sympathizers, according to Debbaudt. Several other sources agree with Debbaudt when they claim that the Guards operate a para-military training camp somewhere on the Niagara escarpment near Hamilton. Sol Littman, Canadian representative for the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, says "Apparently they have an active political program in Canada. They are able to sustain several churches, summer camps, and youth camps."

