

They love death. They love their god nailed bloody to slats of wood. Most of all they love to kill. but they are always careful. First they surprise you. Always shoot where it counts. Five times, ten times. Whatever it takes to inflict mortal wounds.

For these men, murder isn't simple. It has a ritual. From their victim they need a final involuntary testimony to their touch. For this they use a knife, pulled from a coat and shoved hard into the beating heart.

Tacky but irresistible. This is the mark of the legendary Iron Guard of Romania.

Sunday morning, February 1986. It's winter but it's drizzling in Etobicoke, Ontario. Cornelius Dima-Dragan is sitting in his kitchen finishing off breakfast. Dima-Dragan, a Romanian Canadian, is editor of a small Romanian cultural magazine, Tricolorul. Recently, Dima-Dragan published a series of articles criticizing the Iron Guard for its 1940 assassination of the country's greatest intellectual figure, the historian Nicolae Iorga. There's a knock at the door. Dima-Dragan opens the door and is greeted by a young man in a long coat. He is pointing a gun at Dima-Dragan's chest. The man shoots him five times and saves one bullet for his wife, Angela, who has come to see what is happening. Had he still been conscious, Dima-Dragan might have thought "Where is the knife." It would come.

The front page story in the *Toronto Star* the next day doesn't mention the Iron Guard or the stab wounds in the middle of Dima-Dragan's chest.

A few weeks earlier, the *Montreal Gazette* reported an unusual incident at the Romanian consulate on St. Urbain St. below Dorchester. Petrisor Lefter, a Romanian businessman, was walking down the glass enclosed hallway in conversation with a consulate staff member when suddenly the windows blew apart and Lefter collapsed with four bullet wounds in his side. M.C. Sergeant Le Royer informs the press police found four cartridges from a M-16 semi-automatic rifle outside.

"This is a very powerful weapon," he said. "It's a war weapon."

In November, 1985 there had been another incident in Montreal. Two Romanian emigres, Anton Anghel and Dorin Iancu, startled Christmas shoppers at the Bay on St. Catherine St. when they robbed a Wells Fargo truck of \$317,000 using hand grenades. They were caught by police who recovered only \$80,000 and discovered a huge cache of weapons, machine guns, rifles and grenades in Anghel's Montreal apartment.

By now one would expect the police to be onto something. According to Sergeant Wayne Oldham, Toronto Homicide, the Montreal police linked up with their Toronto counterparts and called in the RCMP and CSIS for help. Asked about the shooting at the consulate, Sergeant Robert Fuller, M.C. Homicide, says, "Get off the story. Come back in two months."

When pressed, Sergeant Fuller says something that sounds quite medieval, "Iron Guard."

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"I can't stop you from jumping off a cliff," he says. "Leave it alone."

One has to go back to 1933 to appreciate the Romanian Iron Guard's influence on today's methods of intimidation, assassination and extermination. It was

then that this mystical Christian fascist organization, founded in 1927 as the Legion of the Archangel Michael by Cornelius Codreanu, invented the world's most efficient political tool — the death squad.

RESURRECTION

OF THE

BY ALBERT NERENBERG

WITH RESEARCH BY HOWARD GOLDENTHAL, CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE, GLENDA HERSCH AND FEDERICO HIDALGO.

IRON GUARD

At an Iron Guard convention in 1933, the 3,000 members, known as 'legionnaires,' formed into 'equipa a mort' or death teams for liquidating the Guard's enemies: largely intellectuals, Jews and communists. They developed their shoot and stab system when they realized leaving mangled corpses for family and friends has a discouraging effect that extends well

beyond the victims themselves.

Over the following years the Iron Guard pledged allegiance to the Nazi party in Germany and grew more ambitious in their choice of assassination targets. They murdered two Romanian prime ministers

and set off a wave of right wing assassinations throughout Europe. The Guard, despite having been banned by the Romanian king in 1934, won the support of large elements of the Church with several priests figuring prominently in its membership. This relationship with the Church would later turn out to be a special blessing for the Guard.

Evening of January 19, 1941. The Iron Guard's activity climaxes catastrophically with an event which would eventually bring the Iron Guard to Canada. Viorel Trifa, one of the most dynamic and aggressive leaders of the Guard, mounts a statue in the main square of Bucharest, capital of Romania, to speak in front of the 6,000 armed Iron Guardists who have gathered there. They have assembled to hear what Rifa would say about the

