

**WEAPONS – KILLING TOOLS.
TESTIMONY OF OLD AND NEW MASS GRAVES**

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The discovery of the mass graves from Horlești and Iași at “Casa Pogor”, in the county of Iași, is a testimony of the turbulent history of these places. The weapons and killing tools discovered are both deadly, although they come from different eras. The bones bear witness in this respect, as a manifest evidence of the use of weapons.

The mass grave from Horlești was chronologically framed using ¹⁴C, being dated between 1400 and 1800 AD. The excessive fragmentation of the osteological material made difficult the paleoanthropological analysis but, much to our surprise, we discovered amazing things. The deceased, aged between 20-50 years, had a violent death, as shown by the injuries detected on the cranial and post-cranial bones. The minimum number of individuals that could be registered is 99. The large majority of the buried ones is formed of males, which indicates a typological picture similar to that found in the synchronous necropolises of the reigns of Petru Rareș. The fatal injuries were caused by sharp weapons, arrows and projectiles. The burial was hasty, without funeral material and little attention given to the deceased, the individuals being deprived of the goods that could survive in time. Most probably, the dead are the losers of a military confrontation.

The presence of specific equipment and the *Gymnastiorka* type summer shirt buttons may attest that the deceased from the mass grave at “Casa Pogor” in Iași are soldiers of the Soviet Union, whose death occurred in the spring-summer of 1944, during the fightings carried on north of Iași.

The anthropological analysis of the 11 individuals indicates a typology that confirms the eastern origins of the soldiers, highlighting the existence of a wide range of injuries caused by firearms (shrapnel, bullets or blast waves), attesting that their death was extremely violent, during the fights, and not at a later stage, as a result of injuries. The anthropological analysis has also highlighted the young age of the deceased, only one individual being over the age of 50.

Keywords: weapons, killing tools, mass grave, anthropological analysis, injuries

INTRODUCTION

The two mass graves or collective burials are located in Iași county, one in the city of Iași, and the other, very close to the city, in the village of Horlești, Rediu commune. The common grave dated earlier is located on the county road DJ282, on the direction of Iași-Gropnița, within the village of Horlești (Fig. 1), in an area the locals call *Hățaș*.

The common grave, dated as later, is located in the city of Iași, in the courtyard of the “Vasile Pogor” Memorial House, which houses a municipal section of the Museum of Romanian Literature in Iași, located in Vasile Pogor Street no. 4 (Fig. 1).

In the case of the common grave from Horlești, the archaeological research and the detailed paleoanthropological analysis of the bones were carried out at the request of the Iași Military Prosecutor’s Office, represented by the Chief Military Prosecutor Prelipcean Gheorghe. Archaeological excavations were carried out by Assoc. Prof. PhD N. Bolohan, from the Faculty of History – “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, and detailed laboratory paleoanthropological research was done by R.D. Simalcsik, 3rd degree researcher at the “Olga Necrasov” Center for Anthropological Research, Romanian Academy – Iași Branch.

We did not participate directly in the archaeological excavations of the mass grave in the courtyard of “Casa Pogor” – carried out by archaeologists Sever-Petru Boțan and Ludmila Bacumenco-Pîrnău – we only analyzed the bones taken out from here, at the request of the authors of the excavation.

Both mass and collective graves represent the undisputed testimony of the turbulent history of these areas, requiring similar archaeological and anthropological analyzes; as we will see, apparently they are the result of tragedies that took place in these areas in different historical moments, but with similar consequences.

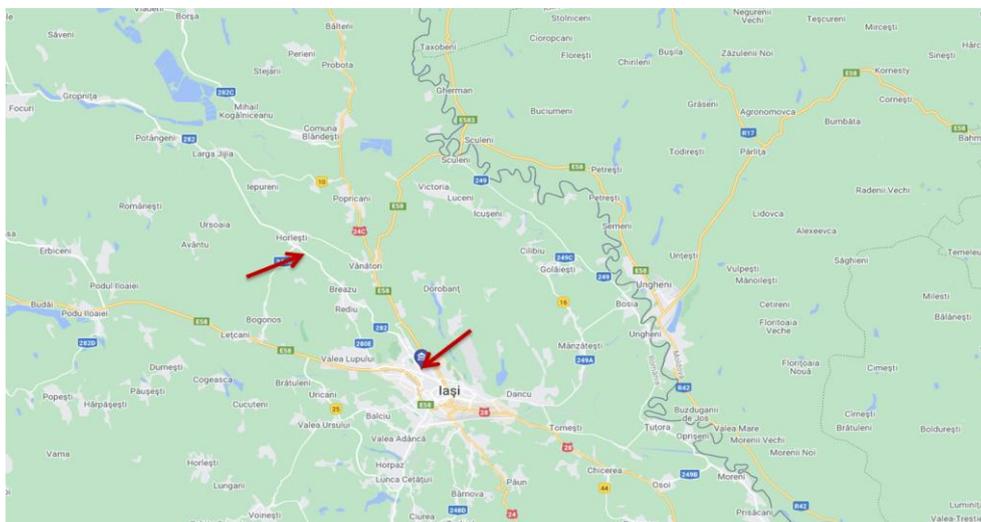


Figure 1. Geographical placement of the discoveries (<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Iași>)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The two mass burial pits are the result of different historical contexts, a noteworthy observation being that they belong to different historical eras and, therefore, to different socio-cultural organizations.

In the case of the older collective burial pit, dating was done in the absence of artifacts, based on ^{14}C analyzes, financed by the Military Prosecutor's Office, on four samples. The results interpreted by archaeologist N. Bolohan showed that the burial took place between the years 1400–1800 AD. Specifically, the burial occurred not earlier than 1450 and not later than 1650 AD [13, p. 414]. The authors assume that the common grave can be attributed to the Ottoman campaigns during the reign of Petru Rareș, who ruled in Moldova in two periods (1527–1538, 1541–1546), and more precisely, to the year 1538, when Suleyman the Magnificent occupied the territory of Moldova and the Iași area, which has been devastated [13, p. 415]. Also, the authors noted a funerary context devoid of any artifact that could provide useful information, so that dating is uncertain [13, p. 416], showing that the burial of these individuals may be even later in time.

Regarding the collective burial in Iași, within the courtyard that houses the “Vasile Pogor” Memorial House, dating was simpler, based on artifacts that can prove the period of death and burial of the individuals. The discovery of fragments of unfired bullets, of 7.62×54 mm caliber, for the Mosin-Nagant M1891 rifle, metal and plastic buttons for *Gymnastiorka* summer shirts, *Pilotka* cap star, knife, buckles and others, Soviet models [14], confirms that the burials died in the spring-summer of 1944.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Within the locality of Horlești (Fig. 1), in September, 2015, during the construction of a house, a common pit containing a rich human osteological material was discovered. Several large mammal bones (cattle and horses) were also present.

On its opening, the mass grave had a messy appearance, most likely due to the fact that it was of surface, being affected by deep plowing agricultural works carried out over time in the area. After stripping, skull caps and long bones, all mixed up, could be seen. We could notice that the dead were arranged one on top of the other in a semi-sitting position, with their feet towards the center of the pit, in dorsal or lateral decubitus (Fig. 2). In most cases, those placed above had their heads on the chest of those below them. Such an arrangement, with relative thoroughness, was meant at facilitating the work of the grave diggers, and at occupying and making the best use of the available space.



Figure 2. General view (left) and detail of the mass grave of Horlești [41]



Figure 3. General view (left) and detail of the mass grave at "Casa Pogor" [14]

In the area of the Iași city, very close to its center, in the courtyard of the Museum of Romanian Literature, as part of the project entitled "Restoration of the «Vasile Pogor» Museum Iași", a ditch was dug for the restoration of the water and electric networks. On this occasion, human bones were discovered. In 2020, with the consent of the local Police, an archaeological intervention was carried out to determine the funerary context (Fig. 3). An anthropological examination was then performed to discover the causes of death. Anthropological research has proved very valuable, bringing strong arguments supporting understanding of the funerary context.

METHODS OF PALAEOANTHROPOLOGIC ANALYSIS

The skeletal elements were identified and anatomically sorted, then laterality and individual bone assignment were established [55, pp.75–308]. The state of conservation of the skeletal material [21], the state of representation [18, pp. 5–8] and the taphonomic changes were recorded [18, pp. 95–106].

For juvenile individuals (aged 14–20 years), estimation of biological age at the time of death was made taking into account the following indicators: the eruption stage of final dentition (the degree of mineralization of the crowns and the degree of root formation of teeth that erupt after the age of 12), the degree of ossification of epiphyses at diaphyses, vertebral endplate ossification and the length of the appendicular skeletal components, including those based on length standards taken by radiographic measurements [30, 32, 39, 48, pp. 82–93].

In the case of adult individuals (over 20 years of age), estimation of biological age at the time of death was made by analyzing the following indicators: obliteration of cranial sutures, degree of wear of masticatory surfaces, presence and severity of dental pathologies (*antemortem* loss of teeth, resorption of alveolar edges, installation of periodontitis), degenerative changes in the joint surfaces (especially the symphyseal facies of the coxal bones and the sacroiliac surface), changes in the spongy tissue in the proximal meta-epiphyseal of the humerus and femur, and the existence of pathological processes that may be related to aging [18, pp. 15–46, 22, 26, 31, pp. 33–73, 33, 36–37, 40, 42, 48].

Sex was determined by combining morphoscopic observations with the obtained dimensional data, on considering: the general aspect of the neurocranium and viscerocranium (forehead shape and degree of inclination, thickness of the orbital edges, size and volume of mastoid processes, appearance of zygomatics), mandible characteristics, bone thickness, development of bone relief, characteristics of the pelvic girdle, size of joint surfaces, development of muscle insertions and robustness/ gracefulness of the skeleton [11,17,18, pp.15–46, 22, 31, pp. 33–73, 44, 48, pp. 93–114,54].

The probable skeletal height was calculated from the length of the bones of the upper and lower limbs - integral or completed by reconstruction [5, 15, 29, 35, 45–47]. The final mean value was placed in the categories corresponding to each sex [66, pp. 221–249].

Trauma and pathologies were determined at both dental and bone level [4, p. 19–200, 305–316, 357–423; 7–8; 16, p. 41–260; 23, p. 299–410; 31, p. 102–181; 27; 28, p. 19–230; 34, p. 119–639; 38, p. 44–262; 53, p. 24–248].

Determination of the anthropological type was made only in the cases in which the state of conservation, the degree of representation of the skeleton and the presence of the characteristic features available allowed this diagnosis. The anthropological type was appreciated according to the classification elaborated by Cheboxarov 1951 [12], but also according to other methods recommended and completed with special taxonomic aspects [6; 12; 19; 24; 43; 50–52; 59]. The

complex of dimensional and conformal characters was analyzed typologically, using the scoring method signed by E. von Eickstedt [52].

Considering the context in which the analyzed bones were discovered, as well as the fact that the remains were mixed, the demographic study required calculation of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) – the lowest estimated number of subjects that contribute to the formation of a skeletal series. For the calculation of MNI, the anatomical parts were identified, then the laterality of the even ones was established. The developmental stages (sub-adult, adult), the morphoscopic characteristics of each anatomical area (robustness, bone wall thickness) were taken into account, the latter observations helping us establish, even if somewhat subjectively, the incompatibility of fragments. All identified skeletal elements were noted by age category (subadults and adults) for determining “the most frequent skeletal element” [1–2; 9; 18, p. 9; 20; 25; 31, p. 26–32; 49].

COMPARATIVE PALAEOANTHROPOLOGIC ANALYSIS

AGE AT THE TIME OF DEATH

In the case of Horlești, the biological age at death was estimated on disparate elements, due to the impossibility of recovering, from the mixture of bone material, an individual with an approximately complete skeleton. For most individuals, the age at death has been set in the range of 20–50 years [41].

At “Casa Pogor” in Iași, the situation is broadly the same, but, in this case, noteworthy is the presence of individuals with an age of death under 20 years; according to certain indicators, it drops as low as 16 years. Thus, we have here a widest age range at the time of death, between 16–17 and 50–55 years [14].

SEX DETERMINATION

In the case of the burial from Horlești, determination of sex was done on disparate bones, as in the case of estimating age at death. This determination was difficult, because we did not have the opportunity to analyze the whole set of morphoscopic factors of an individual; the skulls were very degraded and friable, in very rare cases they were reconstructable.

Two of the skulls, noted by the archaeologist as M31 and M161, were attributed to mature male individuals (Fig. 4). Thus, the relevant evidence that could be accurately analyzed indicated that an overwhelming percentage of the individuals buried in this mass grave is represented by males. Remarkably, the uncertain bone fragments for this determination can be attributed to the female sex, although there is a chance that such parts of the skeleton could belong to more slender men. The presence of female bone remains is not completely ruled out in the case of Horlești [41].



Figure 4. Male skulls from Horleşti
M31 with facial trauma and M161 with Mongoloid features [41]



Figure 5. Male skulls from two individuals at “Casa Pogor” (1 to 4),
with Mongoloid features (images 3–4)

In the case of the mass grave from “Casa Pogor”, the situation is different, as we have the certainty that, in all 11 cases, the subjects belong to the male sex [14],

the sexual dimorphism being in these 11 cases perfectly outlined, regardless of the age of the subjects (Fig. 5).

MINIMUM NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS (MNI)

This indicator was calculated for both common graves, by counting the bone remains from all available packages. The whole and reconstructable anatomical parts were identified, the latter were reconstituted. To increase accuracy, the laterality of the even ones was established. No bone was left uninventoried.

The results of the inventory are quite accurate in the case of the Horlești burial, showing that the minimum number of individuals is 99. However, the author believes that this number may be higher, estimating that the increased fragmentation and the amount of osteological material may decrease the actual number of individuals [41].

In the case of the burial from “Casa Pogor”, the minimum number of individuals is identified with high accuracy, namely 11 totally or partially reconstructable skeletons, but with very few missing elements [14].

SKELETAL STATURE (HEIGHT)

The height of the individuals from the Horlești burial was calculated from the measurement of the length of 100 long bones (whole and reconstructable) from the postcranial skeleton (46 femora, 18 tibiae, 22 humeri and 14 ulnae). The calculated average skeletal stature (height) falls into the above-middle class [41]. Resuming this calculation for a better comparative analysis, we can say that this indicator is located at the lower limit of the above-middle class, with an average of 167.7 cm.

The situation at “Casa Pogor” allowed us to calculate the skeletal stature only in the case of whole long bones (for reasons to be later mentioned). In this burial, 43 long bones were available. The skeletal stature recorded at this funerary complex ranges over a wider scale, between the under-middle category and the lower limit of the very large/ high category, *i.e.* between 164 cm and 180 cm [14]. Large statures, ranging between 170 and 173 cm, predominate in 8 individuals; also, an individual with a stature of 164 cm and 2 individuals with a stature of 180 cm were registered.

TYPOLOGICAL PICTURE

The skeletons in the two common pits present a different typological picture. Thus, in the mass grave from Horlești, the anthropological type was determined morphoscopically on disparate elements, supported, in certain situations, by metric observations. It is noted that the dominant anthropological type is the Mediterranean one, which represents 41% of the total, followed by an equal

number of elements from the Dinaric and Eastern European (ostic) types, with a weight of 16.5% each. The Nordic type holds the third position, with 11.4% of the total, followed by the Proto-Europoid one, with a weight of 9.9%, and by the Alpinoid elements, representing 2.9%. The Mongoloid type is present with a share of 1.8% [41].

In the mass grave from “Casa Pogor”, the anthropological types were estimated in 7 of the 11 individuals, based especially on metric observations, supported by morphoscopic ones. These individuals belong to the large Europoid typological group, namely, the dominant anthropological type belongs to the Eastern-European (ostic) conformation, followed by the Nordic and Mediterranean types; Proto-Europoid elements are noticed in one individual. Here, too, one individual has Mongoloid characteristics, yet mixed with Eastern European traits [14].

TRAUMAS

In both common graves, the buried ones have fatal injuries and traumas. We will further present, exemplifying with images, their diversity, explaining how we believe they were acquired and what weapons caused them.

In the common grave from Horlești we are dealing with fatal injuries, many detected in the cephalic segment, but we also recorded injuries in the long bones, which are very few and difficult to notice, due to the extremely fragmented material [41].



Figure 6. Male skulls 1–6 with death-causing injuries. 1–2. Lesions with loss of bone tissue. 3. Bottomed injury and loss of bone tissue; 4. Penetrating lesion through clogging-cutting [41]

Figure 6 illustrates lesions on the skull not compatible with life, the subjects dying at the time of their acquisition or immediately after. These are fatal blows, made with sharp, heavy objects, from a superior position. Positioning the skulls in

an anatomical position, we found that the lesions appear to have been made by swords or something similar, we believe from a riding position, the blow or blows coming on the vertical or oblique plane, on the parietal, temporal or occipital bones.

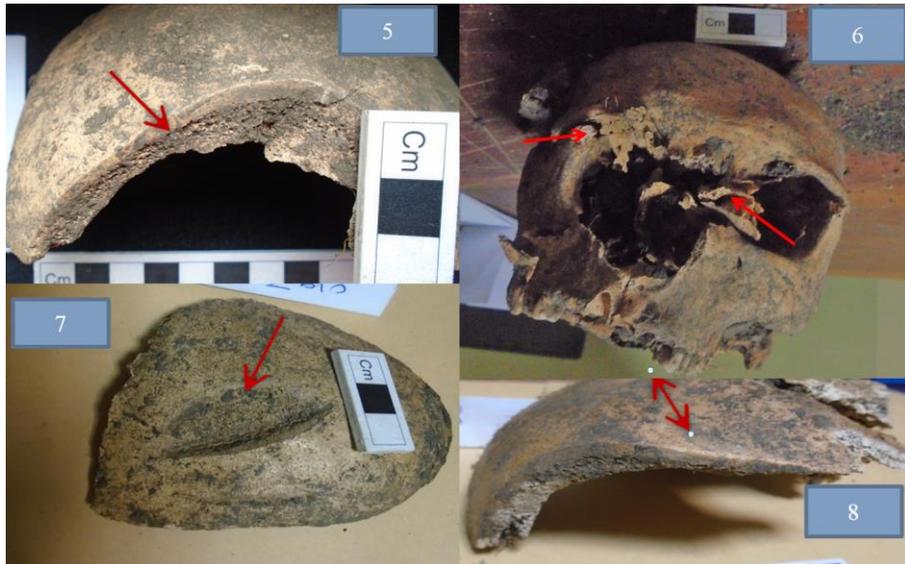


Figure 7. Male skull 6 with facial injury. Parietal fragments (5–8) detached from the skull following the injuries [41]



Figure 8. Bones with lesions perforated by projectiles (image 10 – frontal, image 11 – tibia, image 9 – dorsal vertebra) [41]

Figure 7 shows very serious wounds, certainly fatal, most likely caused by the same type of weapon and, obviously, in the same context as in the individuals from Figure 6. However, they are much deeper, the blows resulting in parts of the skull torn from its anatomical position. Images 5, 7 and 8 show parietal bones with missing parts, while image 6 illustrates destruction – through clogging-cutting – of the nasal and left orbit bones.

As shown in Figures 6 and 7, the injuries were caused by sharp and heavy objects, most likely swords. The blows were administered from top to bottom, from a higher position or, in image 6 from Figure 7, we are dealing with a blow from the same level, executed from left to right, with the same type of weapon, which partially destroyed the left orbit and the nasal bones.

We also notice circular lesions (Fig. 8, images 10–11), which seem to come from other types of weapons. These lesions appear to be produced by arquebus or musket projectiles, the holes having the appropriate size to confirm this. In a dorsal vertebra, we notice a rectangular hole (Fig. 8, image 9). This puncture of the vertebra reaches the spinal canal and the spinal cord, most likely causing paralysis and death. This wound could most likely have been inflicted by an arrowhead or crossbow bolt, weapons common in the 15th century.



Figure 9. Models of soldiers and weapons of the 15th century
1–2–3–4. <https://ro.pinterest.com/>; 5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kilij>

Figure 9 presents some of the possible weapons that could have caused the detected lesions. Firearms such as the arquebus or the musket (Fig. 9, images 2–3 and 1 bottom) were quite rare at the time, and this can be seen in the lower number of lesions detected. On the other hand, the injuries produced through cutting, cutting-hitting are numerous, being most probably caused by swords with various shapes and lengths, the most common weapon both for horsemen and pedestrians. The mass grave from Horlești being chronologically framed during the reigns of Petru Rareș and corresponding to the period of war against Suleyman the Magnificent, who devastated the Iași area [13], we can consider that the swords were typical Ottoman – Turkish swords, carried by horsemen, as well as by pedestrians (Fig. 9, image 4), or the sword called Kilij, a specific Ottoman-Turkish weapon (the here presented being a later and better preserved one) (Fig. 9, image 5). This type of sword has been associated with the Ottoman Turkish armies since the middle of the 15th century. “One of the oldest known examples is attributed to Khan Muhammed Uzbek in the early 14th century, and is currently on display in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.” (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kilij>).

The mass grave at “Casa Pogor” has a different character of the injuries, which permits the assertion that the weapons used in these cases are different and have a much more destructive character. In this case, too, there are many fatal, both cranial and postcranial, injuries.



Figure 10. Cranial injuries with linear and curved fractures
1. Right parietal right; 2. Left parietal; 3. Frontal [14]



Figure 11. Complex cranial injury with massive loss of bone tissue [14]

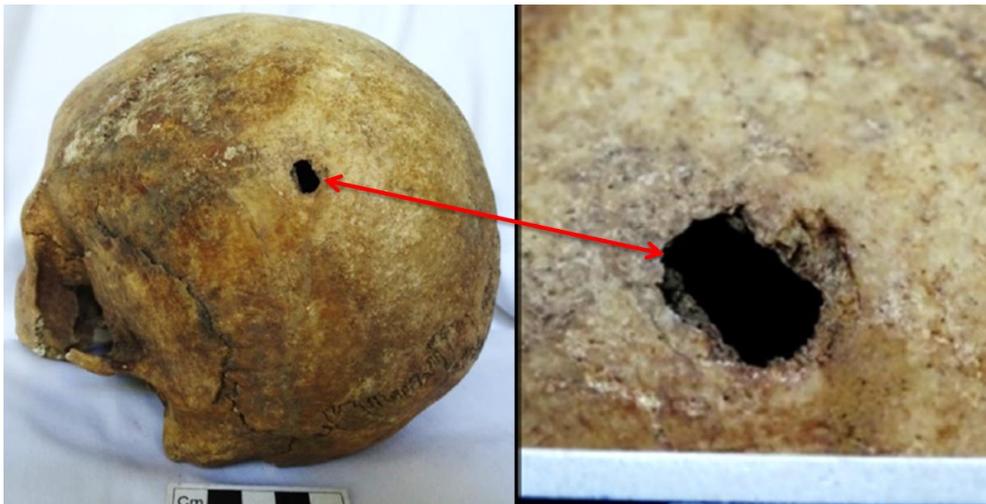


Figure 12. Penetrating cranial injury (left parietal), overview and detail [14]

As shown in Figures 10–12, the head injuries are very extensive (as in Figs. 10 and 11) or small in size – Fig. 12). In both situations, they are lethal. Based on the highly accurate dating based on artifacts found by archaeologists, we conclude that these lesions are the result of modern weapons.

Next we will present the most impressive traumas detected on the postcranial skeleton. As in the case of the cranial segment, they are larger or smaller.

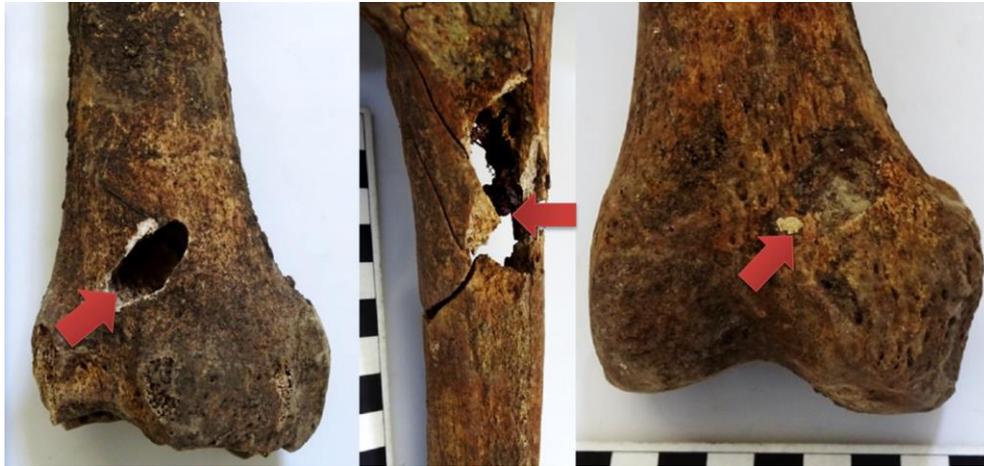


Figure 13. Penetrating and clogging postcranial trauma
1. Right tibia; 2. Right femur; 3. Right femur

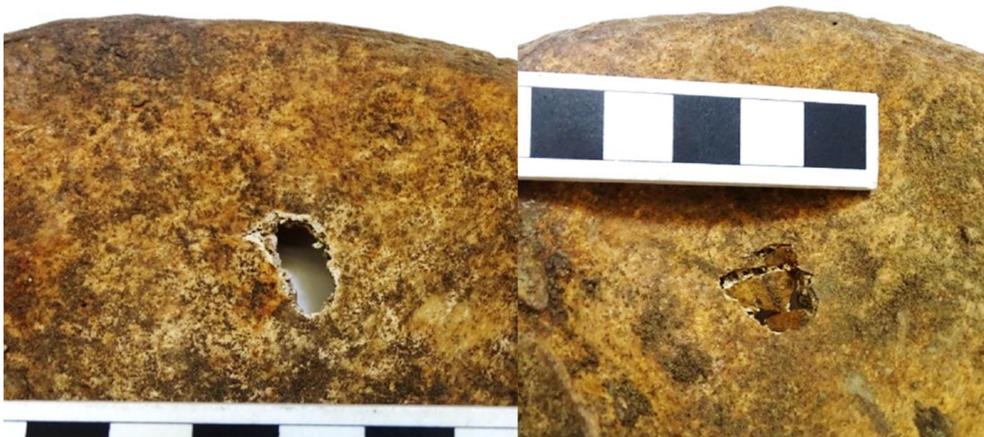


Figure 14. Postcranial trauma to the left coxals left
1. Penetrating trauma; 2. Semi-penetrating trauma

Figures 13 and 14 show traumas that, considered individually, are perhaps curable, but fatal in the harsh conditions of the front. These lesions are identified in different individuals, being most likely associated with other lesions that could not be identified on the skeleton – some soft tissue lesions. A soft tissue injury is identified on the left coxal bone in image 2 of Figure 14; in this situation, a shrapnel or a projectile entered the abdomen and reached the side of the coxal, on a downward trajectory, obviously its trajectory having caused destruction of the internal organs and death. In this way, the whole set of injuries is fatal. In Figures 13 and 14, penetrating or semi-penetrating traumas caused by projectiles and shrapnel are visible.



Figure 15. Postcranial trauma to long bones. 1. Humerus, right, open fracture; 2–3. Fibulae, diaphyses, open spiral fractures; 4–6. Right tibiae, mixed, open fractures; 7–8. Femur, right, spiral, oblique fracture; 9–10. Chipped fragments from diaphysis

A peculiar situation was observed in the long bones in the post-cranial segment, where we have a series of traumas provoked by twists, compressions and blows caused by falls. This set of injuries brings to one's mind the blast of explosions, whose force can generate such trauma. The individuals from the mass grave in the courtyard of "Casa Pogor" are therefore the victims of powerful weapons, as indicated by the cranial and post-cranial injuries suffered. Knowing that they are soldiers of the Soviet army, we shall mention in the following some of the most common weapons of the German army, which Soviet troops faced, weapons that could cause such trauma.



Figure 16. Firearms used by the German Army during the Second World War. 1. MG 42; 2. Walther P38; 3. Karabiner 98k; 4. MP 40 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_War_II_firearms_of_Germany)

Figure 16 presents the most common firearms of the German army, weapons produced in large numbers and used throughout the whole World War II. For these four weapons, two types of ammunition of different caliber were used. The MG 42 machine gun and the Karabiner 98k rifle used 7.92×57mm Mauser ammunition. These two weapons were used for long-range combat. We detected two wounds corresponding to this caliber, shown in Figure 13, images 1 and 2. The Walther P38 pistol and the MP 40 submachine gun are also widely used weapons, especially for close combat. These two firearms share the same type of ammunition, very common in those times, with the caliber of 9×19mm Parabellum type. Corresponding to this caliber, with which efficient fire could be executed from shorter distances, we identified two potential victims - presented in Figures 12 and 14, image 1.

We also encountered clogging trauma or, as already mentioned, caused by twists, compressions and blows provoked by falls. These were most likely caused by shrapnel, by the blast of various types of explosive projectiles, grenades, mines or a combination thereof. Figures 10 and 11 show the head injuries caused by this type of weapon. The marks left on the skull are large, leading to the destruction of the skull (Fig. 10) or to the loss of a large part of it, as evidenced in Figure 11, where the bones of the face were torn by shrapnel and blast of an explosion.

In the case of long bones, the examples are more numerous, the postcranial skeleton being more exposed to such wounds. The illustrations and the type of trauma shown in Figure 15 are telling.

Figure 17 presents the most common weapons that, through the shrapnel and blast of explosions, could have generated the large-scale traumas recorded. With few exceptions, in all studied subjects, we discovered traces of fractures caused by splinters, shrapnel and blast.



Figure 17. Hand grenades, mines and German grenade launchers specific to the 40's. 1. Stielhandgranate 24; 2. Eihandgranate 39; 3. Schrapnellmine; 4. 8cm launcher; 5. 5cm launcher; 6. 12cm launcher (<https://ro.pinterest.com/>)

CONCLUSIONS

The comparative analyzes performed evidence that the two mass graves have many similarities, but also differences. The similarities are given by the fact that they are the unfortunate result of some military confrontations; we attribute the difference to the chronology, respectively to the fact that the two mass graves are separated by a period of 400 years.

If we compare the age at death, this is similar in the two cases and, with small exceptions, the deceased are young adults, therefore in full power to cope with military activities. Another aspect in which the two mass graves are similar is that the deceased are males. The later mass grave is, in fact, a reburial and there is a possibility that other human remains will be found on the surface left unexplored [14, p. 241].

One of the differences refers to the height of the subjects (an important factor in typological classification), which is to the detriment of the earlier deceased, as they fall into the over-middle category. The deceased in the collective grave at “Casa Pogor” fall into the “large” class.

Typological framing is important, representing an argument for the area from which the subjects come. The Mediterranean dominant with Dinaroid and Eastern

European co-dominants, the presence of Nordic characters and the amalgamation with Alpinoid and Proto-Europoid features supports to the idea that the dead are part of the local population of medieval Moldova. In the mass grave at “Casa Pogor”, the anthropological types belong to the large Europoid typological group. The dominant anthropological type belongs to the Eastern Europoid (ostic) conformation, followed by the nordoid and Mediterranean type, with Proto-Europoid elements noticeable in one individual. The dominant Eastern European elements prove the belonging of the individuals to the populations of the Soviet territory of the time. It is noteworthy that, in both necropolises, Mongoloid characters are present, even if mixed with other characters. We attribute the Mongoloid elements to the Tatar typological influences in the case of Horlești. In the case of “Casa Pogor”, we attribute this aspect to the fact that, in the Soviet armies, the soldiers were also drafted from remote areas of Asia, where this character is very common.

The presence of combat-specific traumas attributes the two mass graves to times of war. The type and nature of the wounds separate them over time. For the burials from Horlești, the wounds produced by hitting or cutting represent the majority, only in two cases we have wounds caused by a projectile, and in a single individual by an arrow or a crossbow bolt. These wounds support the chronological framing of the funerary complex that was completely lacking any artifacts.

The situation at “Casa Pogor” is different, where the landmarks found suggest the chronological framing and the burial circumstances. But here, too, the presence of wounds specific to modern firearms (pistols, submachine guns, rifles, machine guns) and wounds caused by explosions (mines and grenades) supports the archaeological context and its dating.

In the first case, the one from Horlești, the complex paleoanthropological study was of great help for establishing the cause of death and for confirming chronological dating. In the second case, the one from “Casa Pogor”, paleoanthropology and the study of traumas came with additional evidence, that certified the opinions of archaeologists. Anthropology, especially paleoanthropology, is very important for archeology, being able to elucidate moments in the lives of our predecessors and restoring moments in their lives, whether happy or unhappy, as in the above described cases.

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