

THE PARTICIPATION OF RADU R. ROSETTI AT THE WAR FOR NATIONAL REINSTATEMENT

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Abstract. Main representative of the generation that created Big Romania, Radu R. Rosetti activated for a period of 27 years in the Romanian Army, scanning all the hierarchical steps, from sublieutenant to general. During the First World War, he had a major role in organizing and leading the army, with a heroic behaviour in the battle of "La Răzoare" on the 6th of August 1917, for he was decorated with the "Mihai Viteazul" Military Order.

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1. At the General Military Headquarters

On the 14th/27th of August 1916, when the Romanian army entered the war, Radu R. Rosetti, who was a major at that time, was transferred at the General Military Headquarters, acting as chief of the Operations Bureau, for a period of 116 days, till December the 8th 1916. The General Headquarters was established at Periș, the justification for this option being, that, this location was isolated from the Capital, safe from the indiscretions of journalists and foreign military attaches.

Leading the General Military Headquarters¹ was general Vasile Zottu, chief of the Major Military State, a reasonable person with a highly developed sense of honour, who committed suicide after the Turtucaia disaster² and general Dumitru Iliescu, subchief of Major Military State "one of our most capable generals, also having the trust of the King and of Brătianu"³.

While the Romanian Army was slowly but safely advancing in the North over the Carpathians, on the South front, the Bulgarian attacks were forecasting the Turtucaia disaster⁴. Yet, from the 20th of August 1916, the commander of the Third Army, general C. Teodorescu, was announcing the General Military

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¹ See the order of the army's offensive. General Military Headquarters, in Romanian Military Archives, Major Military State's Fund, Historic Service, *Romania in the world war 1916-1919*, vol. I, Bucarest, 1934, pg. 3.

² General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, edition elaborated, introductive study and notes by Maria Georgescu, Modelism Publishing House, Bucarest, 1997, pg. 101.

³ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 100.

⁴ Constantin Kirițescu, *The history of the war for Romania's reinstatement 1916-1919*, Bucarest, 1989, vol. I, pgs. 317-339; Also see, Florin Constantiniu, *A sincere history of the Romanian people*, Bucarest, 1997, pg. 297.