

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

Constanțiu DINULESCU*

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.

Keywords: Radu R. Rosetti, First World War, Vasile Zottu, Dumitru Iliescu, Turtucaia, Mărășești

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

* PhD Associate Professor at University of Craiova.

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.

Headquarters about the violence of the Bulgarian attack: *‘On the evening of that day, the commander of the Major Military State was reporting to the General Military Headquarters that the situation was rather difficult, imporing that munitions should be sent to the infantry and also to the artillery’*⁵. On the 24th of August, major Rosetti give the order not to surrender. In the Daily Notes, Alexandru Averescu pointed out general Aslan’s idea to try to advance towards Siliștra; major Rosetti, from the Operation Department of the General Military Headquarters, responded that Turtucaia shouldn’t surrender, because new troops will come⁶.

On the 24th of August/6th of September 1916, Turtucaia was conquered. Over the years, trying to identify the reasons that lead to this defeat, Rosetti wrote, in his memoires, that *‘the German-Bulgarian troops had the experience of war and ours didn’t, the German plan forecasting an offensive of the Mackensen’s army’*⁷. To this, the military historian added: *‘the lack of any quality of general C. Teodorescu and the commander of the Third Army, general M. Aslan and also the wrongplacing of the innitial device of tha Romanian-Russian troops from Dobrogea’*⁸.

On the 27th of August/9th of September 1916, Rosetti was sent to Medgidia in a mission to inform the Russian General Zaioncikovski, who was urged to plan a vigorous action of the Russian troops against the Bulgarian-German ones, lead by General Mackensen. Besides, the dialogue of the Romanian officer with the Russian General was completed by the issuance of a written order by King Ferdinand towards the commandement of the 45th Corps Quarters of the Imperial army, in which were mentioned the Romanian divisions 2,5 and 12, to ensure the strengtening the group of armies from Dobrogea. All these facts were specified in the order elaborated by the General Military Headquarters and will be placed under the orders of Mr. General Zaioncikovski. This group will attack the enemy as soon as possible, on the Turtucaia direction, being covered from Dobritchi (Bazargik) by a commando, with the mission to hold up the enemy, if it tries to gain advantage from North⁹.

The adverse evolution of the military conflicts determined the allies to plan operations, such as the Russian General’s Alekseev and British General’s Robertson. The Russians proposed concentrating some troops on Brașov-Toplița front and on the Brașov-Bucarest, in order to destroy the oil and gas supplies and the retreat of Romanian armies towards East.

⁵ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 110.

⁶ Marshal Alexandru Averescu, *Daily notes from war*, vol. II (1916-1918) (Our war), edition elaborated, introductive study and notes by Eftimie Ardeleanu and Adrian Pandea, Bucarest, Military Publishing House, 1992, pg. 19.

⁷ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 111.

⁸ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 111.

⁹ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 111.

Taking into consideration Russian proposals, Romanian General Military Headquarters and major Rosetti, elaborated a paper, in which was proposed to fulfill some fortified lines, connecting the lines from Dorohoi and Botoșani counties and implicating the civilians and prisoners in executing these objectives. The paper was accepted by General D. Iliescu and orders were issued in order to accomplish these tasks¹⁰.

An important moment of the presence of major Rosetti to Periș was the arrival, on the 3rd/16th of October 1916 of the French Military mission lead by General Henri M. Berthelot¹¹. The personality of General Berthelot aroused dissatisfaction in the Romanian side, where General D. Iliescu¹² would have preferred his school colleague, Colonel M. Desprez, as well as in the Russian side, where General Alekseev¹³ showed it in an open way. In the military historian's opinion, the French Mission was the most loyal collaboration, the French made our cause, theirs¹⁴.

Rosetti realized the importance of the French military presence, which had great experience that could benefit to the Romanian officers. Convinced that the Romanian's victory couldn't become reality unless the French were involved and also the French army, Rosetti was one of the closest collaborators of General Berthelot, which was seen as an act of weakness by some military and politicians at that time¹⁵.

The failure of military actions in defending Muntenia and the pressure from South by the group of armies commanded by Mackensen, determined taking urgent actions. In the Minister Council's session on the 11th/24th of November 1916, at the General Military Headquarters was decided that authorities, ministries and delegations should be transferred from Bucarest to Iași. Eight days later, the General Military Headquarters will be transferred to Buzău, the same place where Rosetti went, who, in the meantime, at Periș, ensured keeping the connections between armies.

¹⁰ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 111, Part I, pg. 29 (Annexe, document No.16, pg. 14,15).

¹¹ Eugen Bantea, *Berthelot's mission and its views over the French-Romanian relations*, in the volume *The Romanians in the Universal history*, II/1, Iași, University Publishing House, 1987, pp. 149-168 - with the bibliography on the French Military mission sent to Romania; Also see PhD. Colonel Petre Out, *International Symposium - The presence of the French military mission in Romania 1916-1918*, in R.I.M., 6(40)/1996, pg. 22; General R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pgs. 132-135; C. Kirișescu, *The history of the war for Romania's reinstatement 1916-1919*, vol. 2, pgs. 20-21; University PhD. Professor Valeriu Fl. Dobrinescu, Colonel Gh. Nicolescu, *Romanian military documents about the beginnings of Berthelot mission and its relations with Stavka*, R.I.M., 1996, pgs. 23-25.

¹² General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 132.

¹³ General V. Petin, *Le drame roumain (The Romanian Tragedy)*, Paris, 1932, pgs. 22-23.

¹⁴ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 134.

¹⁵ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 134.

The trespassing of the German-Bulgarian forces over the Danube, at Zimnicea, deepened the state of crisis, in which Romania was at that time. In order to save the Capital, it was decided to engage in the Neajlov and Argeș battles, ending with the defeat of the Romanian armies and the capture of the operations plan by the enemy, at Găești. The Central Powers' troops and the allies troops entered in Bucarest on the 23rd of November/6th of December 1916.

On the 22nd of November 1916, Major Rosetti was advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel¹⁶. In the qualifying paper, General Rășcanu indicated that Radu R. Rosetti proved, as long as he worked at the General Military Headquarters, a great will to work, devotion and great skill in executing his objectives. On conclusion, General Rășcanu was convinced that Rosetti had *'an open path to reach the highest steps of a military career'*¹⁷.

Convinced that an officer is in the frontline of the troops, major Rosetti asked, from the 20th of October 1916¹⁸, through a raport adressed to the Operations Department of the General Military Headquarters to be in the frontline, because he activated in the state service for a period of two years and three months¹⁹. General D. Iliescu's resolution from the 21st of October 1916, refused the officer's request, because the circumstances were not convenient²⁰. The officer's tranference emerged the same time with the appointment of General C. Prezan as chief of General Military Headquarters.

In his memoirs, General Rosetti justly wrote: *'The faith wanted that the time I served at the General Miliary Headquarters, our army to suffer a series of defeats (...). I was leaving, seen by few as vanquished. Just one moment, I haven't had this feeling and my moral never let me down, because I knew I had done my job and I had a deep sureness in obtaining the final victory. I thought the defeats were just something that would pass. It was proved by our entire historic past'*²¹.

2. Radu R. Rosetti, hero of the battle of `La Răzoare` – the 6th of August 1917

On January 1917, Rosetti received the command of the 55th/67th Infantry Regiment²² by uniting two divisions - the first one from Piatra Neamț and the second from Bacău. The Regiment was being settled in Vorniceni, near Botoșani.

¹⁶ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 161; *'I was also advanced, but I wasn't glad, especially that these advancements were made rapidly and without any discernment'*.

¹⁷ Romanian Military Archives, Personnel Direction Fund, f. 33.

¹⁸ Romanian Academy's Library, Radu Rosetti Archive (hereinafter-RALRRA), IX, varia 62, f. 38.

¹⁹ RALRRA, IX, varia 62, f. 38.

²⁰ RALRRA, IX, varia 62, f. 38.

²¹ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, pg. 166.

²² RALRRA, IX, varia 62, f. 41, The Order of the Major Military state, Folder No. 9977 from the 14th of January 1917.

The new commander wanted to ensure a good technical training of the regiment, as well as rising the moral of the troops, which was in a state of panic following an imminent eviction to Russia, due to military action on the front. Rosetti paid attention to administrative problems, as ensuring food for the regiment, officers' accommodation and with proving everything that was necessary to a military unit during war.

Because when regiments fused, the 55th had C. Dragu as commander, it was decided that Rosetti should have the command of another regiment, namely No. 6 'Mihai Viteazul' Regiment²³, settled at Horlești, that was under the ferule of the 4th Division, lead by Colonel I. Ghinescu, an ex-colleague of Rosetti at the Superior Military School.

Due to lack of equipments and officers and noncommissioned officers, the new commander forwarded a report to the 8th Infantry Brigade and to the 4th Division and also to the War Minister, Vintilă Brătianu. The report²⁴ explained the real situation of the regiment and were proposed measures for a quick reorganization. When typhus broke out, this affected even the No. 6 'Mihai Viteazul' Regiment. In these exceptional circumstances, the commander of the No. 6 'Mihai Viteazul' Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Radu R. Rosetti, took measures to provide food for the troops and ensured a good saniatry climate.

On the 21st of March/3rd of April 1917, Rosetti fell ill with typhus; this episode was reported by Queen Mary in her memoires: *'When I was ready to leave, an officer told me that in a remote village was our friend, Colonel Rosetti'*²⁵.

Being at Horlești on the 2nd/15th of April 1917, Queen Mary remembered: *'Most of the time, I was between ill people, who unfortunately were too many (...). At Horlești there was something disturbing. A poor doctor (Weinberg), was taking care alone of hundreds of ailings, in dirty huts, and the regiment's officers, almost all of them, suffered from typhus. They were walking from one place to another in their dirty crowded huts. The ailings were everywhere; I gave them candies, cigarettes and to the illest, brandy and tea (...). The filth inside the improvided infirmeries were beyond my immagination'*²⁶.

Radu Rosetti's state of health got worse, so he was moved to Iași, at the 'Charity' Hospital, where he would stay until May of 1917, when he was back in war.

²³ The Order of the General Military Headquarters No. 18204/1917, communicated with the 14th Division's Order, No. 1163/4th of March 1917.

²⁴ No. 40 to the 4th Division and No. 1208 to the 8th Infantry Brigade, General R. Rosetti, *Confessions*, vol III, pg. 192.

²⁵ Mary, Queen of Romania, *The story of my life*, vol. III, translated from English by Mărgărita Miller Verghi, edition elaborated and notes by Ioana Cracă, Bucarest, Eminescu Publishing House, 1991, pgs. 187-188.

²⁶ Mary, Queen of Romania, *The story of my life*, pg. 192.

Commender Rosetti's activity was highly appreciated by General I. Ghinescu, the commander of the 4th Division. The general pointed out the physical and intellectual qualities and also the bravery of the regiment's commander, later verified on the battle field: *he is a treasure of the army and deserves to be exceptionally advanced to general*²⁷.

At the proposal of General Prezan, Rosetti accepted, on the 22nd of May/4th of June 1917 to take charge of the 4th/72nd Infantry Regiment, composed by ex-regiments No. 47 (Ploiești) and No. 72 (Mizil)²⁸. With this regiment Lieutenant-Colonel Radu R. Rosetti will participate at the great battle of Mărășești, in the summer of 1917.

At the command of the 47th/72nd Infantry Regiment, Rosetti proved his professionalism, his capacity in administrative and technical organization and, above all, his devotion and selflessness towards the military career.

A detailed presentation of the battle of 'La Răzoare' and of the days that foretold it is found in the 47th Infantry Regiment's Journal of Operations²⁹. From *the notice of the part I had taken in the battle of La Răzoare on the 6th/19th of August 1917*³⁰, elaborated by Lieutenant-Colonel Rosetti, emerges the idea that he took the regiment's command on the 22nd of May/4th of June 1917. This regiment, which fought on Olt's Valley, reajusted in Hârlău's surroundings, although it was in the middle of typhoid fever and typhus.

The command to leave for the battle was executed on the 3rd/16th of June 1917. The regiment had: 56 officers, 2960 soldiers, 590 horses, 100 carriages. The munition consisted in 2775 Lebel rifles, 48 sub-machine guns, 24 St. Etienne machine guns, grenades etc³¹. On the first days of July 1917, the 47th Infantry Regiment requested to be placed in the first line of war, for it was in Blehani, situated on the second line of the front.

After the regiment crossed over Siret's right bank and settled in Clucerul, it formed a line-up, which was occupied between the 22nd of June and 3rd/16th of July. The sector was inspected on the 10th of July 1917 by General Berthelot, who noted in his Journal: *I examined the regiment's installation, commanded by Colonel Rosetti; the reserve of the Infantry's Division. All works have been properly made, traced notably and well hidden even to vertical views. In 3 or 4 nights, everything will be ready*³².

²⁷ Romanian Military Archives, Personnel Direction Fund, f. 35.

²⁸ RALRRA, II, mss.3, pg. 199.

²⁹ Romanian Military Archives, *The 47th Infantry Regiment's Journal of Operations*, f. 134-146.

³⁰ Romanian Military Archives, *The 47th Infantry Regiment's Journal of Operations*, f. 134-138; Also see, General Radu R. Rosetti, *The part of the 47th/72nd Regiment in the war for national reinstatement*, Bucarest, 1926, pgs. 64-72.

³¹ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, vol III, pg. 201.

³² National Archives, Folder 1770 (General Henri M. Berthelot, *The Journal-The French mission in the allied Romania 1917-1918*, the 1st of October 1916-5th of May 1919, f. 124). For the

From the 29th of July 1917, the 47th Infantry Regiment received an order to install itself with the first line on the West side of `la Răzoare` forest. In the precursory day of the great battle on the 6th/19th of August, Lieutenant-Colonel Radu R. Rosetti was concerned, as the documents indicated it, with the technical and logistic assurance of the troops, in the context of the enemy`s strategic moves, which was, on the 2nd of August, with the infantry, at 1800 meters from our army lines³³.

This way, the regiment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Rosetti was fully prepared to face the enemy. The commander of the 47th/72nd Infantry regiment tried to make contact with the First Battalion, situated on the edge of `La Răzoare` forest, to give instructions for the battle that was to come. Due to the breakage of the phone-lines, Rosetti writtenly raported to the Brigade, the situation on the front and asked for new information from contact officers of the neighbouring regiments³⁴.

An important moment in identifying the enemy`s positions was on the 5th/18th of August 1917, when sub-Lieutenant I. Popa, of the Second Battalion offered himself to go into the enemy`s entrenchments. He left with five people, in the middle of the day and succeeded in reaching the enemy`s lines, destroying an enemy position and bringing a prisoner, who said that, in front of them was the 115th German Division, with a few troops and they thought that, in front of them, were the Russians, not the Romanians³⁵.

In his memoirs, General Rosetti remembered that this episode: *‘Vintilă Brătianu and General Vouillemin came to the command post. They were in the region for two days, inspecting mostly two services and knowing that I was nearby, they came to see and ask me how was my regiment doing’*³⁶.

On the morning of the 6th/19th of August 1917, Lieutenant-Colonel Radu R. Rosetti inspected the First Battalion`s command post, situated on the Western side of `La Răzoare` forest. Around 10,20 a.m., while a part of the 51st Regiment was retreating, enemy troops were heading to the Eastern part of `La Răzoare` forest. The commander of the 47th Infantry Regiment released an order to Major Drăgănescu to counter attack with a company, the enemy lines. Around 11 o`clock a.m., when Rosetti was wounded, he released an order to Major Mareș, the oldest battalion commander of the regiment, to take charge and, at the same time, to communicate to Major Drăgănescu, to initiate the counter attack³⁷.

Romanian front, 1916-1917, also see Glenn E. Torrey (Emporia State University), *Russia, Romania and France: The reorganization of the Romanian front 1916-1917*, Revue Roumaine d`Histoire, 1992, January-June, 1-2, Bucarest, Romanian Academy Publishing House, pgs. 51-63.

³³ Romanian Military Archives, *The 47th Infantry Regiment`s Journal of Oprations*, f. 137.

³⁴ Romanian Military Archives, *The 47th Infantry Regiment`s Journal of Oprations*, f. 137.

³⁵ Romanian Military Archives, *The 47th Infantry Regiment`s Journal of Oprations*, f. 137 – the reverse page.

³⁶ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, vol III, pg. 215.

³⁷ Romanian Military Archives, *The 47th Infantry Regiment`s Journal of Oprations*, f. 137 – the reverse page.

In the closing of his Notice Giving, Rosetti identified the factors that lead to the regiment's success: 'I award the success of our resistance and counter attack to the following aspects:

1. Officer's and troop's high moral and their will to erase the disgrace from the night of the 14th of July.

2. The disposition in depth of the regiment.

3. The highly advanced state of defensive works and especially to the fact that we had at least a complete wire netting.

4. The good connection that existed between infantry and artillery, which brought us everything that we requested³⁸.

The actions of the 47th Infantry Regiment were, therefore, presented to the King, although an operative report³⁹, elaborated by the General of Division Eremia Grigorescu, whose estimations needn't any remarks: *'with an extraordinary elan, he vigorously counter attacked, reaching together with the advanced troops Satul Nou (New Village). The commander of this regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Rosetti, in front of his regiment, while leading the attack, was badly wounded'*.

In the Notice Giving elaborated by General Ion Popescu, the commander of the 13th Division, showed that Major Gheorghe Drăgănescu confirmed the order received from the commander Rosetti, to counterattack the enemy and to reestablish the situation⁴⁰.

On his turn, chief of the Major Military State of the 13th Division, Colonel Dragu⁴¹, *'perfect man to be on the front'*⁴², was presenting the content of the facts on the 6th of August 1917 in the Operative Notice Giving: *'In the sector of the 26th Infantry Brigade, under a fierce bombardment and attacked by superior forces, he lost almost the entire First Battalion, which was on the left side of the wing and needed to retreat. Lieutenant-Colonel Rosetti Radu was badly wounded in this moment, by a bullet shot from a machine gun and the command of the regiment passed to Major Mareș'*⁴³. As a symbol of bravery, Lieutenant-Colonel Rosetti, being in the lead of his soldiers, tersely noted on his map: *'I command the (R) Regiment not to walk over my body'*⁴⁴.

On the 8th of August 1917, the commander of the First army, General Eremia Grigorescu, released a daily order, in which he addressed his soldiers, mentioning

³⁸ Romanian Military Archives, *The 47th Infantry Regiment's Journal of Operations*, f. 138.

³⁹ Romanian Military Archives, General Military Headquarters' Fund, Folder 824, f. 116 (copy).

⁴⁰ Romanian Military Archives, The 5th Army Corps, Folder no. 56, f. 260-262 (original).

⁴¹ Romanian Military Archives, The 5th Army Corps, Folder No. 57, f. 23-24 (copy).

⁴² 'Manuscriptum', year XIV, no. 2(51), 1983, pg. 117 (the characterization is made by Ștefan Zeletin, who calls Colonel Radu R. Rosetti 'a wonderful theoretician of rare culture').

⁴³ Romanian Military Archives, The 5th Army Corps, Folder No. 57/1917, f. 23-24.

⁴⁴ General-Major Constantin Antip, *In the First World War, The fight of the entire people*, special number, Bucarest, 1987, pg. 31.

that in the period of July the 24th – August the 7th, hard and big battles were fought and at Sușița and Siret, proved the entire world that *`not even here could anyone pass. Here, the German General Mackensen knew what defeat meant. Mărășești was the grave of German illusions`*⁴⁵.

In his journal, General Henri M. Berthelot noted, on the 21st of August 1917: *`Colonel Rosetti was badly wounded and transported to the French Hospital of Notre Dame de Sion (Iași)`*⁴⁶.

The heroism of the Romanian soldiers had wide re-echoes in the newspapers of that time, in the writings of the Romanian poets, amongst: Octavian Goga, Ion Minulescu or Mihail Sadoveanu. These, together with Barbu Ștefănescu Delavrancea, Gheorghe Ronetti, Vasile Voiculescu, Eugen Lovinescu, handed a report to the General Military Headquarters, in which they solicited that a newspaper of the national defense should be edited. Thus, it appeared the first military newspaper from our country – *`Romania`* - , edited in Iași, starting with the 2nd of February 1917 to the 23rd of March 1918, having Mihail Sadoveanu as managing director and Octavian Goga as chief-editor.

A few days after the memorable battle from the 6th of August 1917, M. Sadoveanu published an article: *`On our front-The battle of `La Răzoare`*, where he described the events; *`In this cruel and vicious battle, the officers, as always, proved a good moral and quietly waited the moment for counter attack. No weakness, no hesitation (...)`*⁴⁷.

`Adevărul`, underlined the deeds of Colonel Rosetti: *`are overjoying, were inspiring for the officers, that he lead and for the soldiers of his regiment`* (...). *In the middle of them he was wounded, raised by his soldiers from the battle field, telling them words to spirit them up: Onwards boys`*⁴⁸. At its turn, *`The Family`* Magazine⁴⁹, published what an officer wrote, in a letter addressed to Alexandrina Cantacuzino: *`Lieutenant-Colonel Rosetti from the 47th/72nd Regiment acted admirably in these battles`*.

In the *`Romanian Nation`*, newspaper lead by Nicolae Iorga, was inserted a report that *`Among the Romanian officers wounded in the battles of Mărășești, we mention Mr. Colonel Radu Rosetti and Captain N. Miculescu, whom, His Majesty, the King, for their heroism, decorated them with 3rd class `M. Viteazul` Military Order`*⁵⁰; the regiment received the same distinction.

⁴⁵ Romanian Military Archives, *Journal of Operations*, the 47th Regiment, pgs. 138-139.

⁴⁶ National Archives, Folder 1770, f. 146 (General Henri M. Berthelot, *The Journal-The French mission in the allied Romania 1917-1918*).

⁴⁷ *`Romania`*, the 15th of August 1917, pg.1.

⁴⁸ *`Adevărul`*, year XXIV, No. 11322, the 1st of March 1922, pgs.1-2.

⁴⁹ *`The Family`*, 5th series, year 13/113, No. 7/1452, July 1971. Dialogue with Ion Măneucă, participant at the battle of *`La Răzoare`*, realized by Stelian Vasilescu.

⁵⁰ *`The Romanian Nation`*, 15th of August 1917, pg. 2.

The decoration of the 47th/72nd Infantry Regiment with `M. Viteazul` distinction⁵¹, was thus motivated: *`For bravery and will to battle, the officers and also the troops, in the battles of Mărășești from 1917. On the day of the 6th/19th of August, while the regiment was in position at `La Răzoare`, the regiment was attacked by huge German armies; the officers, sub-officers and soldiers battled with rage and energy, against the attacks initiated by the enemy, this heroic regiment remained firm on position`*⁵².

The commander of the regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Radu R. Rosetti was decorated *`for the bravery and depth of reach, that lead the regiment in the battle of `La Răzoare` on the 6th of August 1917. By placing the reserve battalion in front of the German troops, giving time for the reserves of the division to interfere with determination on the flank and behind the enemy and to compel it to retreat in disarray. During the battle, while acting in the middle of the troops, he was severely wounded by a bullet from a machine gun`*⁵³.

In the qualifying paper from the 22nd of May 1917, his direct chief, colonel Marin Nedeianu, the commander of the 26th Infantry Brigade, noted that Radu R. Rosetti showed that he is a brave officer, skilfull and with remrkable energy and activity.

The commander of the 13th Division, General Ion Popescu, noted that *`the beginning of the battle on the 6th of August 1917, found Lieutenant-Colonel Radu Rosetti on the battle field, from where he returned only because he was severely wounded by a bullet (...). The left wing of the 47th/72nd Infantry Regiment, commanded by Radu Rosetti was heavily hit, situation that entirely smashed this wing, facilitating the advancement of the enemy into positions`*⁵⁴.

Transferred from the battle field to the French Hospital (No. 141) in Iași⁵⁵ and installed into the Institute building of Notre Dame de Sion, officer Rosetti enjoyed the doctor`s attention, in front with the French surgeon E. Sorrel and was constantly visited by high officils, such as Ion. I.C. Brătianu, Barbu Știrbei and by the Royal Family.

⁵¹ For further details, see: *`From the history of Mihai Viteazul Military Order*, in the volume *Mihai Viteazul-Restitutor Daciae, Craiova*, 1993, pgs. 7-12.

⁵² *`The Official Monitory`*, No. 201 from the 28th of November/6th of December 1917; Also see, General Radu R. Rosetti, *The part taken by the 47th/72nd Infantry Regiment in the war for national reinstatement`*, Bucarest, 1926, pgs. 64-72.

⁵³ The High Decree No. 1172 from the 9th of October 1917, in *`The Official Monitory`* No. 169 from the 17th/30th of October, pgs. 1755-1757; Also see, Romanian Military Archives, Old Generals` Fund, Folder No. 6, f. 37.

⁵⁴ The High Decree No. 1172 from the 9th of October 1917, in *`The Official Monitory`* No. 169 from the 17th/30th of October, pgs. 1755-1757; Also see, Romanian Military Archives, Old Generals` Fund, Folder No. 6, f. 37.

⁵⁵ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, vol III, pgs. 220-241 (Chapter X, entitled *Wounded*).

Subjected to a difficult medical procedure, by which his left foot was shortened by 4,5 centimeters, Rosetti remained in the hospital until the end of October 1917.

On the 1st/14th of September 1917, Rosetti was promoted to Colonel⁵⁶. Mentioning this event, the hero of `La Răzoare` noted, in his memoirs: *`I didn't dislike to add another stripe on the tunic and on the cap, but I thought then, as I do it today, that from these hasty advancements, profitted to many unselecte and it was a mistake. I said it to Vintilă Brătianu. He thought the same, but he told me that many generals, especially Eremia Grigorescu and C. Iancovescu have insisted to be done, under the pretense to give satisfaction to the officer's body`*⁵⁷.

As a recognition of his military achievements, Colonel Rosetti was awarded by General Christopher Ballard the `British Distinction for Outstanding Service`, for which he was proposed by the ex-chief of the British Military Mission, Thomson⁵⁸.

The visits made by the members of the Royal family brought him emotions and joy. In his diary, Queen Mary remembered: *`In the French Hospital...I found my old friend, Radu Rosetti, badly wounded at his leg, he has a fractured hip. With soreness, I think about his active role in this ending war. But, he was cheerful as always and passionate, thinking of the battles; he had will to live and was full of enthusiasm. And he never stopped bragging his troops`*⁵⁹. But the visit that impressed him the most, was that on the 24th of Sepember/6th of October 1917, from King Ferdinand⁶⁰, who decorated him with `Mihai Viteazul` Military Order and embraced the Mărășești`s wounded.

Taking into consideration, just the fact that Rosetti`s active role in the war ended in soreness and his unquestionable qualities in guiding youg men, the Royal Family, as a sign of great appreciation, handed him the mission to accompany Prince Nicolae to studies in England. With great relevance is Queen Mary`s letter, received by Rosetti, through his friend Ballif, on the 18th/31st of October 1917, in which she expressed her trust and motifs for the Royal house`s choice, to hand this mission to Rosetti⁶¹. The situation in Russia determined the authorities to call off the mission.

The attachement of the commander for the regiment that he lead on the front line is noticed and by the wish to resume the command and continue the battle. Being in hospital, Rosetti received the verses written by the sergeant, Ion

⁵⁶ The High Decree No. 1330 from the 13th of November 1917 (The Official Monitory, No. 195 from the 16th/29th of November 1917); See, Romanian Military Archives, Old Generals` Fund, f.4.

⁵⁷ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, vol III, pg. 224.

⁵⁸ RALRRA, VIII, Acts 100.

⁵⁹ Mary, Queen of Romania, *The story of my life*, vol. III, pg. 259.

⁶⁰ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, vol III, pg. 223.

⁶¹ General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, vol III, pg. 225.

Vișoni⁶², from the 3rd Company, and also a telegram, congratulating him for the New Year. In the latter, there was written: *'The officers and the 47th/72nd Infantry Regiment's troops wish you many years, full of happiness and joy for the reinstatement of the nation for which you fought as a hero, Commander of the 47th Infantry Regiment, Colonel Dragu (January 1918)'*⁶³.

The echoes of the battle of 'La Răzoare', in which Rosetti behaved heroically continued even after the end of the First World War. The well-known historian, Constantin Kirițescu⁶⁴ described in detail, the battle between Romanians and Germans, underlining the bravery of the 47th Infantry Regiment's soldiers and the distinguished historian Alexandru Lapedatu named – on a reception speech at the Romanian Academy – the day of the 6th of August 1917, *'the day of the brightest battles of our war for reinstatement'*⁶⁵.

⁶² General Radu R. Rosetti, *Confessions (1918-1919)*, vol III, pg. 218.

⁶³ RALRRA, IX, varia 61, f. 8.

⁶⁴ C. Kirițescu, *The history of the war for Romania's reinstatement 1916-1919*, vol. II, Bucarest, 1989, pgs. 124-125.

⁶⁵ The Romanian Academy, *Reception speeches, LXV, The Answer of Mr. Alexandru Lapedatu*, Bucarest, 1935, pg. 22.