

**GENERAL PAUL TEODORESCU (1888-1981) –
A COMPLEX PERSONALITY OF THE ROMANIAN ARMY AND MILITARY SCIENCE**

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On June 28, 1888, the twins Paul and Virginia were born in Bacău in the family of the Cavalry Captain Gheorghe Teodorescu and Antonia, who came from the illustrious Sturdza and Rosetti families, who had offered the country rulers and distinguished personalities. A beautiful family with six children, four boys and two girls.

According to the custom of the age “*the seven-year home education*” was the concern of the parents. The father, a participant in the War of Independence (1877-1878), wounded in the Opanez battles, gave the children true lessons of patriotism sprinkled with heroic deeds from the campaign of the Romanian Army to the south of the Danube. Constantly, the parents paid attention to the civic education of their children in order to make them “*citizens useful to the society with the feeling of love of the country*”, as General Paul Teodorescu would write in his memoirs he simply called “*My Life*”.¹



General Paul Teodorescu

In the educational climate in which the country and the love for it occupied a central place in the education of the children, the three Teodorescu boys chose to pursue a military career. Paul and his older brother Gheorghe attended the Military High School in Iași. After graduation, Paul decided to attend the Military Infantry School. On July 8, 1908, along with his class, he was

¹ See *Generalul Paul (Pavel) Teodorescu (1888-1881). Vocația creativității* (coord. Valentin Ciorbea, Emilian Lovișteanu, Marian Moșneagu), Editura Ex Ponto, Constanța, 2013, p. 253.

promoted second lieutenant and sent, with his colleagues to Regiment 16 “Suceava”, deployed in Fălticeni, where he was appointed a platoon commander.

A few months later he had already been noticed by the commander of the 16th “Suceava” Regiment brigade to which he belonged. In the first qualifying sheet of Lieutenant Paul Teodorescu's “*Memoirs*”, the former noted: “*His military education seems to be well cared for. Excellent conduct. Serious and devoted character. I hope the regiment will take advantage of the good feelings he is animated by to prepare him as a platoon instructor and commander. Knowing the qualities with which he is endowed, I predict he will become a good officer.*”² (Sic). Also, for the period from 1 November 1908 to 31 October 1909, the commander of the 16th “Suceava” Regiment appreciated him as follows: “*He is intelligent. Shaped with judgment, with very good sense. Methodological and orderly in all occasions. He is a good observer. He has good general culture and he maintains it. He reads a lot, understands and manifests himself (...) Loves his career. He’s sure to be a good officer ... His direct bosses are very eloquent about him. Disciplined by feeling, based on good education. He has good sense, he is ambitious, authoritarian and gentle with inferiors, decent with his superiors ... He meets all the conditions of the eminent officer.*”³

He improved his capacity as commander and instructor at the Short Term School of Young Men in Ploiești, where he ran a company between March 1 and October 1, 1909. He then moved to the Military Infantry School as a platoon commander and instructor of regulations. The commander of the school, Colonel Mladin writes in the qualifying sheet (1 November - 31 October 1911): “*Very good and skilled instructor and educator with zeal, perseverance and much devotion, he works silently, methodically, he deals closely with his platoon and takes care of all the relationships of his students; that's why the results are very good. Very serious and thorough, the officer is studying diligently to enrich his solid knowledge ... He is doing the service in a commendable way A reliable officer who will always be distinguished. I have the justified faith that through the true qualities he possesses he will advance among the exceptional ones.*”⁴

He takes full advantage of the move to Bucharest where the Military Infantry School functioned. He read a lot of varied materials. He focuses his interest on the study of *The History of Military Art* over the centuries. He takes down notes in a notebook, still preserved in the *Memorial Room* at the Dintr-un Lemn Monastery, information about the great commanders and the wars waged by Alexander the Great at Napoleon Bonaparte. He watches theatre shows. Passionate about tourism, he makes trips in the country and abroad. On 1 October 1911 he was promoted to Lieutenant.

² *Ibidem*, p. 44.

³ *Ibidem*, p. 45.

⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 47.

He was drafted in the Romanian Army campaign in Bulgaria during which he ordered Company 12 of the 5th Regiment “Vlașca”. Lieutenant Paul Teodorescu had a decisive role through the measures taken to protect the subordinate military and not only, from the cholera epidemic, being proposed by his bosses to be decorated with the “*Crown of Romania*” order.

On 1 April 1916 he was promoted to captain, and on 15 August the same year, he was again drafted in the 11th Infantry Regiment “Siret”, a unit that joined the others in the Great War on the side of the Entente. Among the missions accomplished, we mention that of the adjutant of General Mihai Aslan, Commander of the 3rd Romanian Army, who had taken over the defence mission of the southern front along the Danube and of the Romanian-Bulgarian border in Dobrogea.

Experienced military, mindful of the behaviour and capabilities of his subordinates, General Aslan praised his closest collaborator: *“I rarely met a younger officer with a greater love for his career and more constancy in fulfilling all his duties. Intelligent and with earnest work, he acquired rich military knowledge, which helped him enter the School of War. An eminent educator and instructor, he leads his group with great skill on the ground. Decisive and loyal character, he is endowed with beautiful moral qualities, and he brings the best service to the Army Corps 3 Major Staff. Based on the capability and education of this officer, I am convinced that he will take his important place in the army.”*⁵

He also works excellently with the next Commander of the 3rd Army, General Constantin Iancovescu, who replaced General Michael Aslan, dismissed after the Turtucaia catastrophe. At the order of General Constantin Iancovescu, he organized the soldiers’ withdrawing in disorder towards Moldova. He drove impeccably the passage of the Buzău water on the night of November 30 and December 1 and 2, 1916, and also the columns of the Danube Defence Group and other groups deflating northward. He was promoted to major on 1 September 1917. He was appointed Chief of the Cabinet of Minister Constantin Iancovescu, who held the Ministry of War's portfolio (20 July 1917 - 28 January 1918) in the fourth government led by Ion I.C. Bratianu (December 11, 1916 - January 28, 1918). As head of the cabinet, he worked, according to General Constantin Iancovescu's appreciation, *“with great skill, tact and eagerness”*⁶. In his *Memoirs*, General Paul Teodorescu considers General Constantin Iancovescu a great personality and *“a distinguished general. In daily contact, I noticed the cold and detached man, but with a warm heart, ready to help the needy and deserving ... I regretfully separated myself from my distinguished boss, with the satisfaction of being taught the norm of leadership I served later.”*⁷

He moved on April 4, 1918 to the *Mountain Hunters Regiment*, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Carol, the Prince of Romania. This is how their relationship started and lasted over 20

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 49.

⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 49.

⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 267-268.

years, with interruptions but also with great results. Prince Carol wrote in the Qualifying Sheet, for the period November 12, 1918 - February 26, 1919, laudatory appraisals: “A *very distinguished officer, whom I only had to boast about while he served in the regiment ... Very conscientious and honest - he was the most helpful when he replaced the holder as a head’s help. He’s an officer of the most distinguished ones.*”⁸

Although he had been admitted in the 26th Series of the War School since 1914, Paul Teodorescu did not start classes, the officers being sent to units because of the outbreak of World War I. Major Paul Teodorescu's group started classes on 1 March 1919 in Bucharest. Commander of the prestigious military higher education institution, Colonel D.M. Constantinescu appreciated the activity of the student in the first year who graduated it “*in the most beautiful conditions ... he also has an exemplary military education. At school, he took advantage of much of what he was taught in the 1st year and assimilated profound knowledge.*”⁹

After year I, he was ranked 2nd out of 32 trainees based on the results, which led to the proposal of the leadership of the Superior Council of War School to be sent to France to the War School for one year. He went to Paris with his colleague Romulus Țupa, the first classified. For the two Romanian officers the educational year 1919-1920, attended in Paris, was prolific, with free discussions and tactical solutions resulting from the students’ war experience.

General Debenev, the commander of the school, praised Major Paul Teodorescu: “*Excellent officer, very well read, precise and a very orderly spirit; he judges with a lot of logic, has very straightforward ideas and exposes them clearly.*”¹⁰ Out of the 30 foreign trainees, only the two Romanians were appreciated by the French Army Staff worthy of one year of practice. He was assigned to the 14th Army Corps in Lyon. The commander of the Grand Unit noted: “*In all respects, Major Teodorescu is a first order officer. July 15, 1921.*”¹¹ He did not hesitate to participate in the Mont Blanc climb (4,810 m) with two French officers and a guide although he did not have the right equipment. He was the only officer who, accompanied by the guide, reached the peak. Paul Teodorescu’s success did not go unnoticed in France. The French Alpine Club awarded Paul Teodorescu a diploma to acknowledge his extraordinary achievement, and his boots produced by a French factory were exhibited in a Paris shop.¹² At the end of the courses and the training period in France, Major Teodorescu was ranked first, but in the tradition of the French School of War, the head of the promotion could only be a French officer, a fact later recognized by General Henri Mathias Berthelot.

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 50.

⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 50.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 83.

¹¹ *Ibidem*.

¹² V. Firoiu, *Povestiri despre cutezători*, Editura Ion Creangă, București, 1975, p. 27-28.

He returned to the country and was assigned to the General Staff. At the same time, together with his colleague Romulus Țupa, they were asked to teach the *General Tactics* course at the Superior War School, starting with the 29th promotion. It was a moment of great importance for the higher military education. Years after, General Paul Teodorescu underlined in his memoirs that: “*Under the supervision of the more experienced professors, we introduced into the Romanian army the French doctrine that succeeded in a glorious way glory in the Second World War.*”¹³

On July 1, 1923 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. With this degree he signs with Lieutenant Colonel Romulus Țupa the work *The Division. The War of Motion. Themes and Solutions*, vol. I and II. *Maps and Sketches*, unique in the Romanian military scientific landscape after World War I. The main objective pursued by the authors was, as witnessed in Volume II, “*to inform the comrades about the modern use of all weapons on the battlefield and to show the most practical model for the appropriation and application of tactical principles. The general conclusions that come out of this work can be grouped in three guiding ideas: principles, organization, instructions.*”¹⁴ The two volumes were the basis for the regulations that were implemented and applied in the following years. Prince Carol was keen on writing in the Qualifying Sheet (November 1, 1923 to October 31, 1923) of his subordinate, whom he brought to the position of Chief of Staff at the Aeronautics Inspectorate, that the work is “*of great value ... a book that must not be in the bookcase, but on the working table of any officer wishing to train.*”¹⁵ The significance of the work was preserved in the years to come. General C. Chirițescu appreciated it in the “*Annals of the Romanian Academy*” as an achievement of “*great and undeniable practical value.*”¹⁶

A new and prolific stage in the career of General Paul Teodorescu began on 1 July 1923 within the Aeronautics Inspectorate. He became the chief collaborator of Prince Carol, who took over the command of the new military structure. The latter recognizes and appreciates the former’s work, as it can be seen from the remarks noted in the General's *Memoir*: “*From the first day I was able to find out that the grade I gave him when I commanded the M.H.R. (Mountain Hunters Regiment, our note) has come true. He became an eminent officer. A Chief Staff officer of great value, exemplary labourer, good comrade, with perfect military and civic education, he was my most invaluable and most ideal help I could dream of. Thanks to his power of work and his deep understanding, he was able, as a Chief of Staff, to organize my entire service to perfection. At any time I can rely on him completely. In a word, he is a perfect officer in all respects ... he fulfils*

¹³ *Generalul Paul (Pavel) Teodorescu (1888-1981)*, p. 84.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 84.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 53.

¹⁶ „*Analele Academiei Române*”, Tom 58, 1937-1938, p. 161.

perfectly the conditions required by law to advance to the exceptional. He deserves to go to the exceptional.”¹⁷

At Colonel Paul Teodorescu’s request, an initiative committee chaired by Prince Carol for raising the monument “*Aviators’ Sacrifice and Aviation Victory*” was established. The monument was made after the sculpture model by Lidia Kotzebuc, which General Paul Teodorescu chose after the project contest. The monument was inaugurated on July 20, 1935.

After Carol gave up the throne and the position of heir prince, an act accepted by the Romanian Parliament on January 4, 1926, a few months later Paul Teodorescu was included in the 9th Hunters Regiment as Battalion Commander, and from September 1, 1917 he was appointed Director of the Captain Training Course for those admitted to the Major’s Exam in Făgăraș. The commanders appreciated his activity, especially the nine conferences, tactical sessions and field exercises.

After a brief period of activity in the 23rd Infantry Regiment, he was transferred on November 6, 1928, as head help of the 6th Guards Regiment “*Mihai Viteazu*”, whose command he took over on August 1, 1929. He had been promoted to the rank of Colonel on May 10, 1929. For over three years, at the head of this elite regiment, he introduced a clear and effective conception of an officer’s mission, both theoretically and regarding field applications. The Commander of the Joint Guard Brigade, General Ioan P. Bădescu underlined in the characterization of his subordinate for the period from November 1, 1931 to October 31, 1932: “*The training and education of the company were put on academic grounds. There was no branch of the military instruction that had not been analyzed and interpreted so that each soldier would know his task perfectly.*

The regiment is perfectly prepared for war and the same level of brightness is displayed during parades. The Regiment's Casino, opened this year, is an ornament of interior architecture in its organization; it is a small athenaeum where great literary, economic personalities etc. come and develop interesting conferences. The organization, the household, the good life of the soldier, the endowment with all the modern means of shooting, the organization of officers' and company instruction, the physical and the military education, the perfection of the field applications make the Guard Regiment an institution and the barracks a place for soldierly help; never have I met a more creative and more precise spirit. Between conception and execution there is only moment – they are almost simultaneous. It is indeed a pride of our army. Colonel Teodorescu Paul is an officer of high intellectual and moral value that give him great authority and value.”¹⁸

He continues to combine complex and creative work of command with the valorisation of knowledge and experience in new books. In 1931 he published *Instruction in an Infantry Regiment*

¹⁷ *Ibidem.*

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 58.

dedicated to the “Guard Regiment Officers who, with skill, zeal and devotion practiced this instruction.”¹⁹ The following year he published the volume *The Use of the Territorial and Operational Gendarmerie in War*. The purpose of the new book was, as Paul Teodorescu confessed, “to draw attention to issues still in the dark. Through this study, we are sure of the knowledge of the role of the Gendarmerie on the battlefield, of the close collaboration between it and her other weapons and of its thorough war training.”²⁰

Between November 1932 and December 1936, he was a military attaché for France, accredited for Belgium and Spain as well. He was distinguished in his mission abroad as one of the brightest military diplomats of the period. Of the eulogistic appreciations of the diplomatic mission accomplished in Paris, we mention here that of General Ion Antonescu, Chief of the General Staff: “Col. Teodorescu Paul brought as a military attaché real services, his reports are always very interesting. With his admirable past and culture he has continued a beautiful activity in Paris. He is worth admitting to the command line.”²¹ (Sic) He returns from the diplomatic mission in Paris and on October 1, 1936 he is appointed commander of the Upper School of War. He was promoted to the position of Brigade General on 1 February 1937.

He again proves his creative qualities, reforming military higher education on two levels. By means of a *Directive*, he establishes the role of the Upper School of War in the training of the State Chiefs of Officers and orders the building of the campus, designed to provide new and efficient conditions for the students and teachers, the building becoming an emblematic place through the body of buildings erected in the urban area of Bucharest. On Țăcăliei Hill in Cotroceni, on an empty site belonging to the “Elena Doamna” Asylum, which General Paul Teodorescu passed to the Ministry of National Defence, a complex building site was opened after the project of the famous architect Duiliu Marcu and of other specialists.

Under the co-ordination of General Paul Teodorescu, in March 1937, the organization work of the site began and there were great diggings on the hill. On November 2, 1937, in the presence of members of the government, commanders of the Great Army units, former Commanders of the Higher War School, students and graduates’ representatives, a ceremony was held to build the *Foundation Act* of the main office. The inauguration of the campus took place on 6 December 1939. Attending the event, King Carol II ceremoniously presented his note in his Journal: “*The place is indeed a miracle corresponding to the needs and a modern, civilized concept of what must be such*

¹⁹ Colonel Paul Teodorescu, commander of the Guard Regiment, *Instrucția într-un regiment de infanterie*, Lupta Publishing House, General Budișteanu St., no. 8, 1931. (Passim).

²⁰ *Idem*, *Întrebuințarea Jandarmeriei teritoriale și operative în război (8 aplicațiuni, 2 hărți, una schi9ță)*; f.e., f.a., 1932, p. 6.

²¹ General adjutant Paul (Pavel) Teodorescu, p. 59.

an institution. The effort made by Paul Teodorescu is absolute to all praise and deserves the warmest thanks from all.”²²



The main building of the Upper School of War (today “Carol I” National Defence University)

On 4 September 1937, he was appointed Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of National Defence in the Gheorghe Tătărescu Second Government (August 30, 1937 - November 7, 1937). The minister’s portfolio was held by General Constantine Iliasievici. Here he initiated an Army reform, in an area where the moral state, dishonesty, and “greediness” had become “*extreme*,” as King Carol II appreciated. The proposed measures, the promotion of young elements that “shattered the spirit of the officers”²³, attracted Paul Teodorescu's generous appreciation of the minister and reproaches from General Ion Sichițiu, the head of the General Staff.

Enjoying the appreciation of King Carol II, General Paul Teodorescu was included between 1 November 1937 and 2 June 1940 in the governments that followed as Minister of Air and Navy. In the informative file kept at C.N.S.A.S. it is appreciated that General Paul Teodorescu is the person who meets the qualities to act “*to stop once and for all the disorder and lack of morality both in the Ministry of Air and in the Air Force Command*”²⁴. The results obtained at the Air and Marine Ministry were outstanding. We enumerate: the reorganization of the Galați shipyard; the construction of the “Amiral Murgescu” mine port vessel; the reception of the “Mircea” School Ship built at the “Blohm & Woss” site in Hamburg; the building of the network of modern silos from which, in 1940, 38 were put into use; raising the housing facilities for the employees of the I.A.R. Brașov, Plane Factory et al.

Simultaneously with these diverse and demanding activities, General Paul Teodorescu succeeded in completing his doctoral thesis on *Public Opinion in Europe on the 1877-1878 Romanian War of Independence*, a subject suggested by Nicolae Iorga and prepared at the Sorbonne

²² *Regele Carol al II-lea. Însemnări zilnice. 1937-1951*, vol. 2. 13 martie – 15 decembrie 1939. Editura Scripta, București, 2003, p. 297.

²³ *Ibidem*, p. 121.

²⁴ Arhiva C.N.S.A.S., dosar I – 259348, p. 189.

University in Paris²⁵. He had done impressive documentary work, if we count the 3067 recording sheets submitted in 1966 to the Manuscript folder of the Romanian Academy, which can “*constitute a brilliant example of rigorous scientific work with the most interesting research hypotheses.*”²⁶

Although submitted and a committee of reputed French scientists formed: Pierre Renouvin, president, Emmanuel de Martonne and Louis Eisenmann, members, who accepted the paper, the public defence could not be organized because of Paul Teodorescu's recall in the country, and of the important positions he had been holding. In 1978, he announced the people close to him that he intended to go to France to publicly defend his doctoral thesis. At the age of 92, in 1981, he wrote a letter in French to the Sorbonne University, pointing out that “*the subject I approached in the thesis did not lose its topicality. I express my legitimate pride in getting a PhD in history at the age of 92, and at the same time being the dean of age of those who, in recent years, have been awarded the title of Doctors.*”²⁷

Recognition of the value of his scientific work came from the highest scientific forums in Romania. On May 27, 1938, the Romanian Academy elected General Paul Teodorescu as a corresponding member of the Scientific Section. The presentation speech was given by the academician Emil Racoviță, who stressed out that it is the Academy's tradition to choose among its members at least one military person as a member, a decision by which “*the love and gratitude of the Academy for the army of the country is demonstrated. Then the need to have military scientists among us becomes more and more powerful, since in these times all the scientific powers, and therefore those of the Academy, must be put together in the military service, must work together to solve the problems posed by national defence.*”²⁸ According to Emil Racoviță, Paul Teodorescu was “*one of the youngest and most capable general officers*”. After presenting the military activity and the accomplished functions, Emil Racoviță mentions the research and publications of General Paul Teodorescu.²⁹ *The Use of the Territorial and Operational War Gendarmerie* was, in the opinion of the scientist Emil Racoviță, “*a true 244-page Treaty with sketches and maps*” in which the author approached “*a subject that had not been treated with the attention it deserves.*” “*Another treaty of 499 pages*”, *Instruction in an Infantry Regiment* was “*the fruit of his trials and experiments as Commander of the Guard Regiment*”.³⁰

The conferences held in 1927 at the *Upper Officers' Course* were published by General Paul Teodorescu under the title *What Every Officer Should Know of the General Practice*, 200 p., with sketches and figures, brought to the author an Academy award. The work was appreciated as “a

²⁵ *General adjutant Paul (Pavel) Teodorescu*, pp. 241-246.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 64.

²⁷ Handwritten letter kept in the archive of General Paul Teodorescu at Dintr-un Lemn Monastery.

²⁸ „Analele Academiei Române”, Tom 58, ședințele din 1937-1938, p. 160.

²⁹ *Ibidem*.

³⁰ *Ibidem*.

precise and concise manual, made up as the previous volumes with the same very good didactic system in the positive sciences, to go from concrete cases and not only to the clarification of the doctrinal generalizations. The deserved success of this handbook proves that it took two editions so far.”³¹

At the end of the presentation speech, academician Emil Racoviță considers the Romanian Academy entitled to submit to its members “*the proposal to call on General Paul Teodorescu among us, who among other qualities, he is also an eminent Aviation connoisseur – aviation this wonderful daughter of the human creative spirit, which is designed to fulfil such an overwhelming role in national science and defence.*”³² For its part, the Academy of Sciences chose him Associate member and a Full Member of the *Military Genius* Section.

General Paul Teodorescu perceived the Orthodox Church as a fundamental institution of the state, having a multiple role in the history of the Romanians from a “*spiritual, educational, cultural, economic, political, military and historical*”³³ point of view. He did not forget to help, to support churches such as those in Fundeni, Autumn and Joița (Ilfov) and “St. Kings” from Bacău. The most extensive project was made at the *Dintr-un Lemn* Monastery at the request of the Queen Mary. Between 1938 and 1940 he initiated and carried out complex works, through which extensive repairs and upgrades were made, involving personnel from the Aviation, Marine and the “Mihai Viteazu” Guards Regiment. At his request in December 1939, “Dintr-un Lemn Monastery” became a holy prayer place for pilots and sailors. For over 79 years, the nuns and priests have been holding St. Mary’s special services celebrated by the Orthodox Church on August 15 for sailors and on July 20th on St. Elijah's Day for pilots.

General Antonescu, charged by King Carol II on September 4, 1940, with the formation of a new government, and on September 5, based on a royal decree, with full powers for state leadership, decides that General Paul Teodorescu, who had taken over the command of Division 1 Garda on June 2, 1940, after leaving the government, was house arrested, being considered a supporter of the former king who had abdicated and left Romania.

Throughout his 32-year career, General Paul Teodorescu was rewarded with orders and medals by the Romanian state and France. From the French government he received the great “Legion of Honor” Order in three ranks: Officer, Commander and Great Officer, with a plate for his contribution to the development of the Romanian-French relations.

After August 23, 1944, he requested the command of a large unit on the West Front but was not granted. He worked in the National Resistance Movement against the occupation regime of the Soviet troops. He comes into the attention of State Security, being considered dangerous for the

³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 161.

³² *Ibidem*.

³³ Generalul (Pavel) Teodorescu, p. 270-271.

regime. He was searched at his house in Bucharest and in Joița, where he had a rice farm, a search for documents and manuscripts that were taken from him.

Disappointed and tired, General Paul Teodorescu decided to leave the country. The attempt failed and he was arrested on the night of 18/19 December 1949 by the Security forces in Timișoara. He was sentenced to five-year imprisonment and released on March 8, 1954. Since the house in Bucharest was confiscated, he was forced to live in a 7-meter-thick, “*dark and stove-free room*”³⁴ without a retirement pension. To make ends meet he had to make paper bags at the Patriarchate and the Episcopate of Râmnic.

After repeated interventions, the Ministry of Armed Forces, which had allowed him the pension in December 1956, cancelled immediately on the grounds that he held important positions before August 24, 1944, granted him a pension of 800 lei in 1963 after the approval of General Ion Ioniță who was the Minister of Finance, who pointed out in the resolution: “*This 76-year-old man, without a family, without any help, has no other means for living.*”³⁵ He also received through the order of General Leontin Sălăjan, the Minister of the Armed Forces from October 3, 1955 to September 1, 1966, a two-room apartment in the Drumul Taberei neighborhood, in Bucharest.

The last years of his life were dedicated to the writing of his *Memoirs* and the work *A History of Aeronautics*, frequently returning to the Dintr-un Lemn Monastery, where he was warmly and respectfully surrounded by nuns and spiritual fathers, to support the Holy Monastery in various forms. Former colleagues and collaborators celebrated him at various times, highlighting his exceptional merits.

General Paul Teodorescu died on January 17, 1981, being buried at the Dintr-un Lemn Monastery, where he had prepared his grave, with military honours, surrounded by nuns, family members, friends of arms and other friends. In the Brâncoveanu Palace, the nuns arranged for him the *Memorial Room*, where the books, manuscripts and other objects donated by General Paul Teodorescu to the monastery are kept.



The tomb of General Paul Teodorescu at the wooden church of Dintr-un Lemn Monastery

³⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 103.

³⁵ Romanian Military Archives (A.M.R.), Staff and Education Direction Section, file no. 15785/1974, f. 73 and the next.

After 1989, gradually, the life and activity of General Paul Teodorescu began to draw the attention of historians, scholars, and journalists. The Romanian Academy confirmed his position on July 3, 1990 post-mortem as a corresponding member and wrote down his name on the board of academics who were included during the communist regime. A decisive step in the knowledge of the personality of General Paul Teodorescu was the publication in 2013 of the volumes *General Adjutant Paul (Paul) Teodorescu (1888-1981). The Vocation of Creativity. 125 years since his Birth*, coordinators: Professor Valentin Ciorbea, His Holiness Dr. Emilian Lovișteanu, Commander Dr. Marian Moșneagu, who collaborated with prestigious researchers for articles and studies. The work summarizes the General's *Memoir*, personal documents, manuscripts, information from the tracking dossier, other relevant documents and photographic images.

We mention that in 2013, the National Defence University "Carol I" made the bust of the general and placed in a place of honour. General Paul Teodorescu is included in the commanders' gallery, and an amphitheatre of the prestigious institution is named after him.

In 2013, a group of scholars, at the suggestion of the author of the present study, established with the blessing of the Archbishop of Râmnic, Archbishop Gherasim, and the constant support of the His Holiness Emilian Lovișteanu, vicar bishop, the "Research Centre for the Collaboration of the Orthodox Church with the Romanian Army General Paul Teodorescu", located at the Dintr-un Lemn Monastery. The Centre regularly publishes the *Mission* journal and annually organizes the National Symposium "The Church and the Army. Traditions of Collaboration"³⁶. The journal and the centre as well as the scientific manifestation operate under the aegis of the Academy of Romanian Scientists and the Archbishopric of Râmnic.

In the *Centenary of the Great Union*, judging briefly from a historical perspective on the personality of General Paul Teodorescu, we conclude unequivocally that history has put him in a well-deserved place among the great values of the Romanian people of the 20th century. His complex and creative personality has guided knowledge with the instruments of historical research not only of the two fundamental institutions of the Romanians - the Church and the Army - but also of various other fields.

³⁶ Valentin Ciorbea, *Generalul adjutant Paul Teodorescu (1888-1981) – 130 de ani de la naștere* in „Misiunea”, Vth year, no. 1(5), 2018, p. 51.