

Builders and Martyrs of the Unification of Bessarabia with Romania



Marshal Alexandru Averescu (1859-1938)

Alexandru Averescu – who remained in history as Chief of the General Staff, who led the operations of the Romanian Army in the Second Balkan War, of the summer of 1913, as well as of the Second Army during the First World War – was born on March 9, 1859 in the locality of Babele, Ismail County (today in Ukraine).

In 1876, on request, he was incorporated as a private volunteer and assigned to a platoon in the military forces of the 5th Călărași Regiment. On September 4, 1878, he was transferred to the reserve forces, then reappointed as a sergeant to an order-keeping unit, after which, when the war with the Turks was over, he was decorated with the medals “Medalia comemorativă de campanie” and “Crucea Trecerii Dunării” and then he was discharged.

In 1879 he was reinstated in the 3rd Squadron of Călărași Constanța, and from 1880 he moved to Călărași 12th Regiment, from where he went to the Divisionary School of Officers, the Cavalry Weapon, which he graduated in July 1881 as valedictorian – a credit to which he owed his promotion as second lieutenant.

Between 1881 and 1884 he served in the 4th Army Regiment of Roșiori, as commander of the infantry subunit.

Between 1884 and 1886, after having successfully passed an exam, he attended the Upper School of War in Turin, Italy, and in April of the same year he was promoted to Lieutenant and enrolled in the 9th Regiment of Călărași, and 3 years later, in 1889, he was advanced to the rank of captain.

Since 1892, he served as teacher at the Infantry and Cavalry Officers School, while he was also in charge with the command of a squadron of students. In 1894 he was promoted to the rank of Major.

Between 1894 and 1895, he held the position of Director of the Superior War School, and between 1886 and 1899 he served as officer in the General Staff (a military echelon that during the war became Great General Staff and functioned as a distinct echelon within the General Headquarters, after the first echelon of the King and the Crown Prince).

Between 1895 and 1898 he was sent as a military attaché to Berlin, after which he returned home and was appointed commander of the 4th Roșiori Regiment, being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1898. And, less than two years later, on 10 May 1901 he was advanced to the rank of Colonel.

On April 15, 1904, he was entrusted with the command of the 1st Brigade of Roșiori, and on May 10, 1906 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. On March 13, 1907, he

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was named at the head of the War Ministry in the government led by Dimitrie Sturza, a position which allowed him to take measures to restore order following the peasant revolts that had swept the country.

In 1909 he was entrusted with the command of the 1st Infantry Division, and in 1911 he was appointed Chief of the General Staff, from which he was promoted to the rank of Major General in April 1912. In 1913, he implemented the Operation Plan “Hypothesis 1 bis” and, as Chief of the General Staff, he led the troops participating in the campaign in Bulgaria in the Second Balkan War, a campaign following which Romania obtained the Cadrilater, in Southern Dobruja.

During the First World War, he received the Command of the Second Army, which will be subordinated to the General Headquarters, which was headed by Army Corps General Adjutant General Prezan. On 1 January 1917 he was promoted to the rank of Army Corps General.

In the fall of 1916, he led the operations of the Group of Armies “General Averescu”, which resulted in the failure of Flămânda, and in the summer of 1917 he asserted himself especially in the Battle of Mărăști.

In January 1918 he was installed as President of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister), after the resignation of the Government of I. I. C. Brătianu, a position from which he would soon resign in favour of Alexandru Marghiloman. In April 1918, he left the army for good, dedicating himself exclusively to political life, but this would not bring him the expected satisfaction.

After his resignation he was appointed as ex officio Senator in the Parliament of Romania and became an Honorary Member of the Academy. In 1930 he was raised to the rank and dignity of Marshal of Romania. He died in 1938, at the age of 79, ill and disappointed.

History recalls him as “The Hero of Mărăști” and the general who – alongside King Carol I – achieved the union of the Kingdom of Romania with the counties of Durostor and Caliacra.

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