



GENERAL AVIATOR ALEXANDRU SAHINI – DOCTRINE WRITER OF ROMANIAN MILITARY AERONAUTICS –

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General aviator Alexandru Sahini was a complex personality, unjustly not promoted in the history of Romanian Aviation, but an iconic figure in the history of air force. He took part, at the beginning of his prestigious military career, as an artilleryman, in World War I, was a fighter aviator, commander of Flotilla 1 Bombardment in the campaign to liberate Basarabia and conquer Odessa. Later, he filled important leadership positions in the higher structures of the Romanian Military Aeronautics, in World War II. Aviator General Sahini Alexandru imposed himself as one of the most important doctrine writers, in the inter-war period and during the Second World War, of the fifth branch, in order of appearance, by scientifically, originally and innovatively defining the role, place, missions, procedures of use in combat, and by leading this field in full process of development in the Romanian Armed Forces.

Keywords: aeronautics, aviation, troops training, air branch, air mission, air observer.

BIOGRAPHY AND EDUCATION

Endowed with special courage of assuming responsibility and great sense of honour, remarkable intelligence and sound judgment, General Aviator Alexandru Sahini travelled the tumultuous 20th century with modesty, determination, loyalty, dignity and integrity, having his merits recognised as a professional, exceptional military commander in times of war, as well as a well-known doctrine writer of the Romanian Military Aeronautics.



He was born on 24 July 1897 in Botoşani, from Romanian parents, his childhood being overshadowed by a dramatic family situation. His mother, Elena Sahini, born in Țigău-Galați in 1875, would leave her three children, Alexander being the eldest, at the age of 27. His father, Dumitru Sahini, born in Galați, in 1862, also had an unfortunate fate. Second lieutenant in the engineering branch, specialised in constructions, was retired in 1906, with the rank of lieutenant, for invalidity acquired during the military service, following a work accident during building barracks. He was left alone with his three young children, led an extremely difficult life as a pensioner and left this world in 1920¹.

He attended the primary school in 1904-1908 in the cities of Bârlad and Galați, the first three classes of the secondary school at the “*Vasile Alecsandri*” High School in Galați, and the fourth secondary class at the Military High School in Craiova. In the summer of 1915, he graduated from the Military High School in Iași.

¹ Arhivele Militare Române/Romanian Military Archives (AMR), 1116 *Collection*, no. 15437 – Alexandru Sahini, p. 122.



The very good results obtained in the study subjects, the correct and disciplined behaviour enabled him to attend, starting 1 October 1915, the prestigious School of Artillery, Engineering and Marine Officers in Bucharest, from which he would graduate, given the conditions of the ongoing world war, after only one year, on 1 October 1916, being advanced to the rank of second lieutenant.

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The commander of the student battery noted the activity of the future officer with positive appraisals, which would later characterise his 32-year-old uninterrupted career: *“Very good memory. Very serious judgment. Good education. Hard-working, very willing to work, good comrade”*².

After graduation and promotion, he was assigned as commander of the cannon section at the 3rd Artillery Regiment, participating in the 1916 Campaign in the battles in Dobrogea and Muntenia, and in the Campaign in 1917 in the Battle of Mărășești.

Colonel Lupașcu, commander of the 3rd Artillery Regiment, wrote in the assessment of the officer: *“...in the battles of 1-6 August 1917, he fulfilled his duties skilfully, bravely and devotedly”*, for which he was proposed for promotion to the rank of lieutenant and decoration with the Order *“Crown of Romania with swords in the rank of knight”*. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant on 1 September 1917 and was decorated with the *“Commemorative Cross 1916-1918 with the Mărășesti ribbon”* and the *“Victoria” Interallied Medal*.

During the armistice period, in January-February 1918, he attended the Training School in Bârlad and in March-April, the Firing School in the same locality.

He participated with his regiment in the campaign in Basarabia, on the Dniester, for ousting the Bolsheviks, *“where he performed his duty plentifully”*³.

Attracted by flying, he requested to pursue a career in aviation, being posted between 1 July and 1 October 1919 to Group 4 Aviation Instruction to attend the School of Air Observers. The qualifying note at the graduation of the school signed by famous Major Aviator

² *Ibid*, p. 7.

³ *Ibid*, p. 13.



Andrei Popovici, commander of the heroic 2nd Aeronautic Group Tecuci in the Battle of Mărășești, was eloquent for his further evolution in aviation: *“Healthy, intelligent, educated. One of the good students of the school of observers. He will surely be a good observer. Disciplined, clean and regular attire. Highly-educated. Good comrade, loved by the officers. I propose that he remains in aeronautics”*⁴.

After graduating the School of Observers, he continued his activity in aviation, being assigned to the Chișinău 1 Group Aviation, where he carried out with remarkable results the head of the photo-aerial section and the aerial observer positions. It is worth noting the appreciation of the commander of the 1 Group Aviation, the Romanian pilot with the pilot’s patent no. 1 in Romania, Major Aviator Ștefan Protopopescu: *“Nice, healthy and enduring build. High military education. Distinguished civic education. He performs his service with great consistency. Disciplined, serious, he is loved by comrades. He likes to fly and will become a valuable element in aerial observation”*⁵.

He finished the aviation work and, starting with 10 September 1920, he resumed his activity at the 3rd Artillery Regiment. According to the regulations, between 1921-1923, he attended the courses of the Special School of Artillery in Timișoara, at the end of which he was promoted to the rank of captain.

Until 15 May 1925, when he was posted to the Aeronautics Training Centre, the officer performed the position of battery commander in the 20 Howitzer Regiment with deployment to Chișinău, later to Călărași. The appreciations of his commanders were commendatory during this period also, the officer being noted for excellent training, discipline, responsibility and good comradeship, his departure being felt as a heavy loss for the unit.

He worked in the Aeronautical Training Centre as commander of the reconnaissance squadron, teacher at the infantry and reconnaissance course at the Air Observers School, being appreciated as a good and promising officer.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 14.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 15.



At the establishment of the Command of the Schools and Aeronautical Training Centres, the officer was assigned to the position of head of the training bureau, becoming “an invaluable help in completing and guiding the works in their beginnings. His distinguished qualities, solid knowledge and his perfect way of performing his service rank Captain Sahini Al. among the eminent military and aeronautical officers”⁶.

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For all his beautiful qualities and fruitful activity that ranked him among the elite officers of the aeronautics, the commander recommended him to attend the Superior War School and the course for senior officers.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITY

Being a staff officer with real military qualities, in addition to the duties of his basic function, he also carried out education and training activities as a teacher at the Preparatory Officer School and the Aeronautical Training Centre, and an aerial missions instructor at the Observatory School, given that he was a perfect air observer and very well prepared for tactical and strategic missions, excelling in air navigation, also trained for night air missions.

On 12 September 1932, the officer graduated from the Preparatory Course for senior officers from Făgăraș, the commission noting the excellent level of specialised technical knowledge, as well as the tactical one for the use of aeronautics in relation to the other branches, which led to the successful passing of the tests.

After completing this course, he continued his activity performing multiple functions within the Aeronautical Training Centre, from that of director of the Directorate of Studies, where he was remarked quite exceptionally, given the scientific value of his works, but also by the methods used and their clarity, director of the School of aerial observers, where by determination, will, competence and extraordinary work power he did impressive things, managing, during two and a half months for this school, to train 30 pilot officers to become air observers and, at the same time, teacher and lecturer at all the schools of the Aeronautical Training Centre, where, due

⁶ *Ibid*, p. 28.

to his knowledge in different fields, he was confirmed as one of the best teacher in that branch.

For his merits, on 1 January 1934, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, continuing his activity within the Aeronautical Training Centre and performing the duties of commander of the Specialty Group, director of the Directorate of Studies, director of the School of Air Observers, director of the School of Information for Aeronautics, professor in aeronautics management courses, aviation intelligence and reconnaissance missions, general tactics, weapon tactics, where he distinguished himself by the thorough professional training, being considered an officer who honoured his military branch and uplifted his prestige⁷.

Given the demonstrated competence, from 1 July 1936, he was posted to the Cabinet of the State Undersecretary of Air for the position of chief of the Bureau 3 Training and the general activity of the Aeronautics, as well as the assistant of the head of the cabinet. Thanks to his intelligence, professional training, experience gained in the aeronautical field, he dealt with the general problems of the aeronautics with unmatched competence.

During this period, he was appointed by the Undersecretary of the State of the Air and the commander of the Air Forces to take part in the commission for approving, following the flight tests, the tactical use of the triple PZL reconnaissance aircraft and IAR 37, mission that was fulfilled with full competence. At the same time, at the request of Royal Highness Prince Nicolae, he acted as adviser for the tactical use of the assault squadron, with which he took part in the royal manoeuvres of 1936.

He was promoted to the rank of Captain Commander “BY CHOICE”, carrying out, during 1936-1938, positions in the upper echelons of the aeronautics, respectively head of the General Secretariat Service at the Ministry of Air and Navy, director of the Directorate of Studies at the Command of the Schools and Centres of Aeronautical Instruction, second commander at the Aeronautical Instruction Centre.

A valuable and high-energy officer, he carried out additional teacher missions in different disciplines from the courses organised within



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⁷ *Ibid*, pp. 29-38.



the centre, he led the commissions for the commissioning of the IAR 37 reconnaissance aircraft, IAR 38 surveillance and SET K7 aircraft, was an active presence in the pages of the *Aeronautics Magazine (Revista Aeronauticii)*, worked as a mission instructor at the War School and the Air Observer School, executing 80 hours of flying time⁸.

As of 15 August 1938, the officer was selected, given his moral and professional qualities, to attend the courses of the Italian Air Warfare School, which he graduated from on 5 May 1939. The results obtained, although the officer did not know the Italian language at his departure, increased the country's prestige abroad, and the characterisation and appreciation of the commanders of this school only confirm the excellent appreciation that the officer has enjoyed throughout his military career⁹.



After returning to the country, based on the experience gained abroad, he was concerned with and proposed the implementation of the experience gained in the training of senior aeronautical officers in the Romanian War School.

⁸ *Ibid*, pp. 39-41, 43-44.

⁹ *Ibid*, p. 45.

He continued to serve as the commander of the Aeronautical Training Centre commander, supported his activity with conviction and competence, activated, with remarkable teacher talent, at all the courses and schools that operated within the unit.

Being promoted again, Commander Alexandru Sahini was appointed on 01.11.1939 as the commander of the Aeronautical Training Centre, and thanks to his exceptional professional training, inclination for study and, especially, the experience gained during the period in which he activated within this structure, he distinguished himself from the beginning as a great lider¹⁰.

After the Soviet ultimatums at the end of June 1940, given the proven experience in applications and manoeuvres, starting on 29 June, the officer was appointed to the position of chief of staff at Focșani 4th Air-Army Command. Although newly recruited, in the evacuation operations of Basarabia, he immediately oversaw the missions he carried out with energy and authority, watching over the discipline, morale and instruction of the subordinate units¹¹.

After the end of his command, during the period 01.11.1940-01.04.1941, the officer was assigned to the Second Air Region Bacău, in the position of second commander, and starting with 01.04.1941, he was entrusted with the command of Flotilla 1 Bombardment Brașov.

Before entering the war, as a flotilla commander, he worked with great skill, perseverance and devotion for the moral and professional training of the war personnel, ensured the implementation of the plans of operations and mobilisation for preparation for war, he coordinated the procurement of the necessary technique and materials, actions that would materialise in the bright actions of the unit in the aerial actions for Basarabia and the conquest of Odessa¹².

By the Order of the Air Combat Group, annex to the Order of the Air Force Command no. 3032 of 15 May 1941, Flotilla 1 Bombardment moved operatively into combat disposition with the following organisation and deployment:

- command of the flotilla – on the Buzău field;

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 46.

¹¹ *Ibid*, p. 46.

¹² *Ibid*, p. 47.



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- Group 1 Bombardment Savoia, with Squadrons 71 and 72 Bombardment (detached from Flotilla 2 Bombardment) – on the Pogoanele field;
- Group 4 Bombardment P.Z.L. 37 Los, with Squadrons 76 and 77 Bombardment – on the Buzău field;
- Group 5 Heinkel 111 H3 Bombardment, with Squadrons 78, 79 and 80 Bombardment – on the Zilișteea field;
- Squadron 82 Bombardment Bloch 210, resubordinated to Flotilla 2 Bombardment – on the Sihlele field¹³.

Based on the Operational Directive no. 34 of the chief of the General Staff of the Air Fighting Group (valid from the beginning of the hostilities) of 17 June 1941, of the Order of Operations of the Commander of the Air Fighting Group of 18 June 1941 and of the Telegraphic Order no. 1010 of the General Staff of the Air of 22 June 1941, at 00.00, ordering the commencement of the war missions with the crossing of the border starting at 04.00 hours, Flotilla 1 Bombardment attacked the aviation fields and other important targets in Basarabia¹⁴.

The operational record of the Flotilla 1 Bombardment between 22 June 1941, at the outbreak of the holy war for the liberation of Basarabia, until 16 October 1941, when the last resistance was liquidated in Odessa, was impressing:

- 225 bombing missions executed;
- 2,055 hours and 10 minutes of war flight executed;
- 1,315,816 Kg. of bombs thrown at the enemy;
- 26 enemy planes shot down in the air;
- 82 enemy planes destroyed on the ground;
- performing major damage, aerodromes, railways and stations, columns, agglomeration of troops, artillery positions and attack dispositions, ports and enemy ships, which decisively facilitated the success of the offensive operations of the Romanian Army at the crossing of the Prut and the liberation of Basarabia,

¹³ AMR, 708 Collection, *Copy of the Historical Register of the Flotilla 1 Bombardment*, file 407, f. 59; 8564 Collection, *Copy of the Operational Journal of the Air Fighting Group of the Campaign of 1941*, file 803-1, pp. 3-4.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 8564 Collection, *Copy of the Operational Journal of the Air Combat Group from the Campaign of 1941*, file 803-1, pp. 4-14.

the passage of the Dniester and the liberation of Transnistria, as well as the conquest of Odessa¹⁵.

In the Order of the Day no. 25 of 1 November 1941, when the flotilla returned with its units in the Braşov barracks, commander Alexandru Sahini gave high praise to all subordinates, commanders, officers, non-commissioned officers, warrant officers and soldiers of all ranks, who were equally involved in the beautiful balance of the first activity the holy war of the nation, a balance with which Flotilla was to enter the history of the Romanian Aviation and Army, in which the first and most glorious pages were to be inscribed with letters of gold and blood. By this Order of the Day, it was ordered to inscribe the Flotilla 1 Bombardment among the heroes and evoke the glorious names, at all the general assemblies and solemnities of the Flotilla, of the 11 officers, 4 non-commissioned officers, 5 warrant officers and 18 radio sergeants and machine-guns killed and disappeared at the enemy, who contributed to the greatest extent, through the sacrifice of life and blood, offered bravely and generously, to the glory of the Fatherland and unity¹⁶.

At the same time, after reading the order of the day, in an emotional speech, this elite commander presented his belief in the actions taken during this period: *“When I received the flag of Flotilla 1 Bombardment in front of you, I swore on the flag that I will be one with the flotilla that I will bring to glory: God Almighty helped me and you all to fulfil our oath, by completing the glorious activity of preparing, conducting and executing the war operations, which blessed even more and adorned with glory the flag of our Flotilla”*¹⁷.

By the Order of the Day no. 42 of 20 October 1941, the commander of the Air Fighting Group, General Constantin Celăreanu, after evaluating the first air campaign to the east of Prut, finalised with the defeat and the dismantling of the Bolshevik hordes, after being chased away from the land and sky of Basarabia, thanked the commanders, the fleets, the entire personnel and the troops, Flotilla 1 Bombardment being the first mentioned among the component units¹⁸.



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¹⁵ *Ibid*, 708 Collection, Copy of the Flotilla Historical Register 1 Bombardment, file 407, p. 61.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, pp. 61-62.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, pp. 63-64.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, 8564 Collection, Copy of the Operational Journal of the Air Combat Group from the Campaign of 1941, file 803-1, pp. 241-242.



The qualification sheet for this period prepared by the commander of the Air Force Group emphasised in the highest degree the merits of the flotilla commander in obtaining these exceptional results: *“For these facts, the Flotilla 1 Bombardment was cited by numerous orders of the day of the Army, the Air Force Group and the head of state. Colonel Sahini understood and served to his subordinates the most beautiful example of energy and spirit by bravely facing the missions carried out at the head of his bombing formations, especially in the attacks of 15.VII, 2.VIII, 11.IX on the targets and columns of the enemy. For his bravery and the way he led the fleet, he was decorated by the 4th Army and the Grand Headquarters. I characterise him: very good aviation officer with exceptional merits on the front”*¹⁹.

For all these merits, in addition to the decorations granted, he was proposed to be granted the Order “Mihai Viteazul” 3rd class.

PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMITMENT

To benefit from the experience accumulated in the functions performed in the aeronautical education institutions and on the front, as commander of a large air unit, Colonel Alexandru Sahini, during the period 1 December 1941-20 September 1943, was assigned to the position of Head of the 5th Section Instruction from the General Staff of the Air. During this period, he continued to affirm his theoretical and practical ideas regarding the doctrinal issues of the Romanian Aeronautics in the specialised publications, he was concerned with the instruction of the units, especially those destined for the front, by drawing up successive orders of instruction, regulations and provisions resulting from the activity on the front or from the experience of the German aeronautics, organised various schools of training and improvement of the staff to fill the deficiencies.

In the management of aeronautical training, he was always present in units, near his comrades, being particularly concerned with the moral element, the troop education, discipline and order.

On 20 November 1943, he was promoted to the position of commander of the Command of the Schools and Aeronautical Training

¹⁹ *Ibid*, 1116 Collection, no. 15437 – Alexandru Sahini, p. 103.

Centres, a position filled until 20 December 1944, when this command, which managed with high professionalism, responsibility and devotion the excellent preparation aeronautical personnel for times of war, was unfairly abolished²⁰.

In the characterisation for this period, it is noted the superior dedication of the officer to address with realism the problem of the aeronautical military education in conditions of war, aiming from the beginning to achieve the proposed purpose, respectively *“raising the intellectual level of the teachers and students, raising and strengthening their morale, staff discipline: in a word he aimed to put quality first”*²¹.

The documents of planning, organising and conducting education in subordinate schools are significant for innovative thinking, promoted principles and practical solutions to ensure the success of aeronautical units in air operations

Thus, according to the Directives for the operation of the Aeronautical Schools and Centres²², the aeronautical schools and centres were defined as *“training units, specially constituted, framed and equipped in order to form elements of all kinds, necessary for the classification of aeronautical units and formations, in the sense that the elements formed correspond completely to the requirements of the professional functioning of the weapon, in the respective function”*²³.

These had a decisive role in the constitution of the air branch, from a moral point of view, through the air spirit cultivated here, which propagated at the level of the air branch, but also through the professional one, due to the value of the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills acquired during the schooling, then spread to the units and formations of the branch, along with the graduates.

All these features, through the *“products”* resulting from the activity of these educational institutions, determined the qualitative and quantitative value of the air branch or its POWER.

The system of preparation and improvement through the education programs adopted by the Aeronautical Schools and Centres



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²⁰ *Ibid*, f. 63.

²¹ *Ibid*, f. 51.

²² AMR, *Command of the Schools and Aeronautics Centres* (hereinafter, C.S.C.Aer.) Collection, Education Department, file no. 198, p. 2. See also Colonel (AF) Jănel Tănase, *Transformations in Military Aviation Education for the Training of Air Force Personnel* (1 April 1912 – 1 August 2003), Editura UNAp “Carol I”, București, 2011, p. 152.

²³ *Ibid*.



The system of preparation and improvement through the education programs adopted by the Aeronautical Schools and Centres required the logical and deductive combination of the theoretical courses with the practical applications on the ground and in the air, without neglecting the military training, after a judicious dosing that had to be carried out in successive stages.

required the logical and deductive combination of the theoretical courses with the practical applications on the ground and in the air, without neglecting the military training, after a judicious dosing that had to be carried out in successive stages: in the beginning the emphasis on military education and training, with the alternation of theoretical courses with practical applications, in the second stage of theoretical courses and practical applications, through alternation with military training, the last stage in preparation consisting mainly of practical applications and the reduction of theoretical courses, military instruction being maintained until the end of schooling²⁴.

Considering this desideratum, the limitations imposed by the possibilities of the Romanian state at war, the main effort of Colonel Sahini and the decision-makers were channelled to the Aviation Schools, the only ones able to ensure the training of the navigating personnel for the war, which, by the nature of the functions performed, represented the fighting element, with increasing losses.

In the turbulent times of war, they were called, having responsibility for the youth selected for the air branch, to ensure its education and training, which would be required, through subsequent activity in units, as the soul and body of this branch, consisting in the moral elites, intellectuals and professionals of the nation.

The special war situation, characterised by the insufficient resources available, required the adoption by the educational institutions of a behaviour that manifested itself at the national level *“to strive to do everything we can with what we have, thinking of our own skills and without expecting anything from anywhere”*²⁵.

In the difficult situation in which they worked, the aeronautical schools and centres assumed a great historical role, these educational institutions being at the forefront of the hope of the Romanian air force and nation²⁶, the value of the concept of aviation education during the war being validated by the exceptional preparation of the personnel assigned to the units on the front and from the defence of the territory.

For all these achievements, Colonel Alexandru Sahini was promoted to Air Force General on 23 March 1944. As commander

²⁴ *Ibid*, p. 26. See also Colonel (AF) Jănel Tănase dr., *op. cit.*, p. 163.

²⁵ *Ibid*, p. 44 and *op. cit.*, pp. 163-164.

²⁶ *Ibid*, p. 55.

being deployed with the subordinate schools inside the country, he led the operations of subordinate units for disarming German troops after 23 August 1944.

On 20 December 1944, Squadron General Alexandru Sahini took over the command of the Aviation Training Centre, a newly established educational institution by unifying all the schools that had previously operated, with sections for officers, non-commissioned officers, specialisation, shooting and bombing²⁷.

For the meritorious results obtained in his activity in time of peace and in the two world wars, the officer was decorated with significant orders and medals, Romanian and foreign ones:

- Commemorative Cross 1916-1918 with Mărășești ribbon – 1918;
- “Victoria” Medal – 1918;
- Crown of Romania, 5th class – 1926;
- Aeronautical Virtue “Golden Cross” class – 1931;
- Aeronautical Medal, 3rd Class – 1935;
- Star of Romania, 5th class – 1935;
- Crown of Romania, 4th class – 1937;
- Star of Romania, 4th class – 1941;
- Crown of Romania, 3rd class – 1941;
- Aeronautical Virtue “Knight” class, with swords – 1941;
- The Iron Cross, 2nd Class – 1941.

Between 1 April and 1 December 1945, he held the position of commander of the 3rd Air Region, and subsequently, until 9 August 1946, director of the Materials Directorate in the State Undersecretary of Air²⁸.

At this stage of his career, he continued to show the same moral and professional qualities. The most significant chief of the Air Staff, General Ermil Gheorghiu, a great personality of the Romanian Military Aeronautics, aviator fighter, air observer in the First World War, commander of the Air Fighting Group in the operation at Stalingrad, 1942-1943: “General Sahini is zealous and passionate in the assigned tasks; he cares for the morale of the subordinates whose value he respects to the maximum. The reports he makes in order to solve



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²⁷ *Ibid*, 1116 Collection, no. 15437 – Alexandru Sahini, p. 54.

²⁸ *Ibid*, p. 63.



“General Sahini is zealous and passionate in the assigned tasks; he cares for the morale of the subordinates whose value he respects to the maximum. The reports he makes in order to solve their problems in this regard prove his understanding and courage. He has not been shy about telling the truth; he did it more boldly than any other. He travels to the units, gathers the staff, speaks them out of conviction, supports them. He fulfils his mission with all the responsibility he is capable of. He is a good Romanian and he does everything he can for the good of the institution. I appreciate him: too good a general officer.”

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All these assessments seem to be antithetical, and may therefore strengthen them, with the reports identified in the archive documents, in fact the intelligence notes of the new authorities established in Romania regarding the activity and personality of the general:

- 1945: *“General Sahini Alexandru, Commander, 3rd Airline Region – Possesses a great deal of refinement – saboteur of all the problems of renewal and reconstruction on the new democratic bases. Faithful to the reactionary forces he works with in the shadows. Very hostile, he instigates officers against others”³⁰.*
- 1945: *“General Esc. Sahini Alexandru Comander, 3 Aerial Regiment, skilful man who simulates being comfortable with any leadership regime. He is basically a conservative of traditional principles – the hierarchy of ranks, not values. He is completely detested and deeply fraternises with most of the profiteers. He is convinced and declares that it will not remain so – good times will come. **He is not for us**”³¹.*
- 1946: *“General Av. Sahini S.S.A. – Attended on 10.04.1046 the conference the United States Aviation Technical Organisation held by 2nd Lieutenant (r.) Oroveanu Matei at the Aero Club. He has allegedly submitted a protest memo to the National Peasants’ Party for being left without commission”³².*

²⁹ *Ibid*, p. 54.

³⁰ *Ibid*, p. 126.

³¹ *Ibid*, p. 125.

³² *Ibid*, p. 127. The available framework constituted the institution created at the demobilisation of the Romanian Army after the war. The personnel who could not or should not be included in the new units established after the war, in accordance with the provisions of the Armistice of 12 September 1944 and subsequently, of the Paris Peace Treaty of 10 February 1947, were kept within the available time frame for a year, after which, according to needs, they were either re-assigned or placed in reserve, as was the case with the vast majority of officers who fought in the east.



The General's correct attitude determined the reaction of the new authorities. On 9 August 1946, he was transferred to the Army Available Staff Corps, and after one year, he was not re-recruited, although he had important ideas about the solutions necessary for the reorganisation of the Aeronautics after the war, being placed in reserve on 9 August 1947.

But what needs to be noticed in a very special way and that ennoble this complex personality of the Romanian Military Aeronautics is his published activity, dedicated to solving stringent doctrinal problems regarding the use in combat, in its entirety or its components, of the air branch. His main approaches were hosted to a large extent in the specialised magazines of the branch, but also in the conceptions, manuals, regulations, orders, provisions founded by General Aviator Alexandru Sahini. Here is a collection of the most important ones, but the complete list is very long:

- *Commander of the Army Corps Aeronautics*³³;
- *Some opinions on the establishment and deployment of the Army Corps Aeronautics*³⁴;
- *Coordination of the Army Corps Aeronautics work*³⁵;
- *Aeronautics – means of intelligence*³⁶;
- *Operation of the Aeronautical Information Bodies*³⁷;
- *Exceptional Intelligence Aviation Missions*³⁸;
- *Air link missions*³⁹;
- *Assault aviation*⁴⁰;
- *Accompanying missions in combat*⁴¹;
- *Tactical conditions and technical characteristics of the Aviation Material*⁴²;
- *Air Policy*⁴³;

What needs to be noticed in a very special way and that ennoble this complex personality of the Romanian Military Aeronautics is his published activity, dedicated to solving stringent doctrinal problems regarding the use in combat, in its entirety or its components, of the air branch.

³³ *Aeronautica*, Revista Subsecretariatului de Stat al Aerului, Year X, January 1936, pp. 35-40.

³⁴ *Ibid*, February 1936, pp. 36-47.

³⁵ *Ibid*, March 1936, pp. 36-49.

³⁶ *Ibid*, April 1936, pp. 18-23.

³⁷ *Ibid*, May 1936, pp. 42-57.

³⁸ *Ibid*, June 1936, pp. 41-45.

³⁹ *Ibid*, July-August 1936, pp. 79-81.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, October 1936, pp. 22-33.

⁴¹ *Revista Aeronauticeii și Marinei*, Year XI, October 1937, pp. 16-35.

⁴² *Ibid*, February 1937, pp. 60-87.

⁴³ *Ibid*, Year XIII, November 1939, pp. 3-23, December 1939, pp. 3-15.



- *Warfare lessons for bombardment aviation*⁴⁴;
- *About the Aeronautical Services*⁴⁵;
- *Air navigation protection*⁴⁶;
- *Principles of military air art*⁴⁷;
- *Assault aviation*⁴⁸;
- *Contributions to the Peace Establishment of the Aeronautics*⁴⁹;
- *The problem of aviation personnel*⁵⁰;
- *People's aviation*⁵¹;
- *Air Branch in Military Art*⁵²;
- *Directives for the operation of Schools and Aeronautical Centres*⁵³.

CONCLUSIONS

The exceptional personality of General Aviator Sahini was remarkably surprised and presented synthetically by the commander of the Royal Aeronautics at that time, General Aviator Gheorghe Argeșanu: *“Not concerned about materialistic problems, he is a completely poor general officer, he led a sober and perfectly honest life, managing to rise to a rarely encountered higher moral level”*⁵⁴.

The position of one of the most important doctrine writers of Romanian Aeronautics during the interwar period and the Second World War was reflected with bitterness, but dignity, in the final note of the autobiography drawn up for completing his retired General file, signed on 12 May 1951: *“I currently take part in the social and Party life (he was never a party member) as a peaceful, fair and honest citizen of the Romanian People's Republic, living within the general order and discipline and in compliance with the laws, after the fatigue of a quite difficult career of 32 years of work”*⁵⁵.

⁴⁴ *Ibid*, Year XV, November-December 1941, pp. 1830-1865.

⁴⁵ *Revista Aeronauticii*, Year XVI, July 1942, pp. 766-804.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*, October-November 1942, pp. 1209-1231.

⁴⁷ *Ibid*, Year XVII, April 1943, pp. 381-404.

⁴⁸ *Ibid*, Year XVIII, May 1944, pp. 351-418.

⁴⁹ *Ibid*, Year XIX, September 1945, pp. 41-51.

⁵⁰ *Ibid*, Year XIX, November-December 1945, pp. 14-42.

⁵¹ *Revista Aeronauticii*, Year XX, March 1946, pp. 1-7.

⁵² Library of the Romanian Academy, București, 1943.

⁵³ AMR, C.S.C.Aer. Collection, Education Department, file no. 198, p. 2.

⁵⁴ AMR, 1116 Collection, no. 15437 – Alexandru Sahini, p. 55.

⁵⁵ *Ibid*, p. 124.

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2. ***, *Aeronautica*, Revista Subsecretariatului de Stat al Aerului, Year X, January 1936.
3. ***, *Revista Aeronauticeii și Marinei*, Year XI, October 1937.
4. Comandor dr. Jănel Tănase, *Transformări în învățământul militar de aviație pentru pregătirea personalului aeronavigant (1 aprilie 1912 – 1 august 2003)*, Editura UNAp “Carol I”, București, 2011.



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