

THE PILOT TRAINING IN THE “MILITARY ROMANIA” JOURNAL

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Abstract: *The military aviation has always been an essential item on the board of political negotiators. The year 1945 was an unbelievable year for Romania, when the Americans and the British pilots attacking, day and night, the Prahova territory, a county in southern Romania. The best pilots were mobilized for our territorial defense.*

I found some notices about their training into the pages of the journal “Military Romania”, edited by the General Staff of the Romanian Armed Forces. It is a study written in October, 1945. The material presents the „problem of the pilot” in terms of social-political conditions existing in those years.

I have selected some important aspects from the point of view of training pilots in the conditions of the emergence of new types of planes.

Keywords: *airplane, military science, theoretical, pilot, training, “Military Romania” Journal*

Motto: „There is no curse in the sky. There, the destinies are fulfilled. The pilots don't live as they fly, but they fly as they are”.

Dumitru Berbunshi

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the aircraft built by Aurel Vlaicu to the current tactical drone “Patroller”, the military science brought in attend to the commanders a lot of studies about the aircraft types, used in the military confrontations. The war, of any its form, he raised questions and waited some solutions. Over time, the military science has come up with answers. Some of them are positive, beneficial for the victories. The others, unfortunately, they had a discontented ending.

The subject of *the pilot man*, as it is called by a professor at a Romanian aviation school, in 1945 – N.A. Saegiu –, has become fascinating at the same time with the bravery of aviation in the middle of the new conditions of the World War II. In aviation’ schools, the students learned about everything that could be learned about the airplane. However, there were many surprises that *“the nature, in its endless creation, can reserve to the pilot”* [2, 43]. The author tells us in his article about these unexpected situations. The article appeared after the end of the World War II. In my opinion, these situations can be considered as lessons that should be learned.

2. „THE MILITARY ROMANIA” – A JOURNAL OF MILITARY SCIENCE

When we refer to the military domain, we think to the ideas, concepts, and theories about the armed forces, about the war, about the military confrontation, and its institutions, that they have a well-defined role in the representation and promotion of national interests in relation with other states. The Romanian army institution is a component of the Romanian society.

There is the opinion that in the nineteenth century, were laid the foundations of a military thinking, as a concept regarding the national army. This was possible by acquiring and capitalizing on the democratic ideas, on the one hand, from the ideas of the revolutionary peacekeepers, from the progressive military reforms during the reign of Alexander Ioan I (Alexandru Ioan Cuza), when it is estimated that the theoretical activity was founded on the military field. On the other hand, it was a situation like a materialization of the experience gained on the battlefield and its transposition into basic principles of military science.

The Romanian military thinking has appropriated in its own way the fundamental principles of European military science, taking from it what was most relevant and worthy to follow, but which did not ignore our tradition, our history and our indigenous culture. Theoreticians such as C.N. Hârjeu, Al. Averescu, D.I. Cocorascu, N. Alevra have contributed, through their research and studies, to the foundation of the theoretical work in the military field, seeking *“the scientific solutions to the complex problems”* [2, p. XLI] in the “Military Romania” journal.

Many materials appeared into “Military Romania” that were presented the instruction and the technique in the army, starting from models existing in the military organization of other European states.

Thus, *“New Weapons, New People”* is an article about the plane and its utilization during the World War II. Although there was a state of war, people continued to write original materials, many of them were praised as real contributions to the journal's military concerns. In this context, the Editorial Board of “Military Romania” journal has been a real instrument in presenting the instructive and documented military works in order to be a moral support, an intellectual support for the army. There have been published the articles on education, politics, strategy, history, weapons and services, world war chronicles, and military geographic articles.

In the historical and political areal of the years 1945-1947, the functionally structure of the Romanian Army had various transformations, the produce of the *“democratization of the army”*. It was the Soviet period. The publication of the General Staff resisted and even managed to conserve, generally, the line to the editorial. This military body continued to be *“the basic structure of the army for the preparation of its war and its territory, too”* [1, p. 275]. It is being to plan and prepare the war plans as well as general rules among its tasks.

The article that I am referring is a lesson about the pilot's training. The author said: *“On the plane, the man is solitary. The first and most feared enemy of the pilot remains nature and, the same, his opponent. The pilot will have to live, work, feel, judge, in other words, behave as if supervised at every step, under the impetus of real values through which a man can truly be defined”* [2, p. 45].

The use of the plane means science, instruction, patience. A wrong means failure. That is why the author emphasizes the very important role of the pilot man. Inside a pilot, there must be a human being, not a robot. For this, the author believes that man must be trained, master the flight equipment, and know its technical aspects.

3. THE PILOT TRAINING – AN ACTUAL ISSUE

Science is an essential characteristic of our lives. It is what is left after you get to know something. It is an fundamental parts of any human existential process, hence the name *homo scientificus*.

We can talk about a knowledge society in which we have data, information, values, and representations. In this knowledge society, military science has acquired an integrating character. We can no longer speak about only a coalition or political-military alliance today, a preponderant and explicit study of military science, but its connection with other sciences in the social environment, the switch being shifted from the abrupt study of the principles of the armed struggle On the one of interdisciplinary, the movement of the methods used to the new existing technique, to what is new in the field of military art, regardless of its political, decisional, strategic, operative and tactical levels.

During the 153 years of his existence, the journal of the General Staff remains a page opened to all theoretical and applicative transformations by which the army had passed. The publication was the bearer of army leadership ideas.

Pilot training is a current issue. This was also important during the World War II, when the Romanian aviation had to resist the attack of the American and English pilots in Ploiești, near to Bucharest, a city rich in petroleum. The author points out that there must be a close relationship between the plane and the man: *“He needs to increase his intuitive acuity so as to cover a sphere of almost 400 meters diameter, which can not be done either on command or spontaneously, and the phenomena being neither voluntary nor usual”* [2, p. 44].

From 1945 to our days, the science has evolved considerably. The military field, too. A study of neurological doctors and engineers from Australia reveals the strong connection between a pilot’s mind and his plane. The idea of the researchers is for the pilot to controlling his airplane by a chip inserted into his brain. This will allow him to convey his thoughts through commands. This team believes these will a benefit to hunting pilots, for them efficiency: *“The army seems interested in the possibility for hunting pilots to control their planes directly through their thoughts instead of using their arms. The reaction of time would be reduced to millisecond”*, said Dr. Tom Oxley, the coordinator of this project [4]. Here are the thoughts of the author of the “Military Romania” journal become reality. He said that the society would go to a new man, a man with new ideas, in which the impenetrable could overcome the animal elements.

CONCLUSIONS

The article reveals the necessity to adapt the training of pilots to the new geopolitically and military context. I started from a text appeared in 1945 to show that such a concern was in the journal of the General Staff. The journal provided to readers the useful ideas on the training of officers, theoretical and practical aspects of military life and their education. In addition, it is being considered as a plea for pilots, for their profession, so beautiful, but so dangerous...

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