

CAPTAIN COMMANDER MICLESCU GHEORGHE, KNIGHT OF THE ROMANIAN WINGS

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DOI: 10.19062/2247-3173.2021.22.24

Abstract: *Descendant of a large family of Moldavian boyars, Lieutenant Commander Miclescu Gheorghe represents in the history of Romanian aeronautics a complex personality, the spirit of the perfect soldier, endowed with an boundless love of country and people, tireless in his desire to improve continuously, his career beginning as cavalry, later aerial observer and pilot, specializing as a fighter pilot.*

With an exceptional training, with studies and specializations at the great aviation schools in France, England, Germany, fearless and bold defender of the sky of his homeland Romania, he participated in all the battles for the defense of airspace in the Second World War, the liberation of Bessarabia and the defense of the Black Sea airspace, the defense against the Anglo-American bombings, the fight against the German bombings of Bucharest.

Through the position he held as commander of Hounter Group in the operations on the front, he gave an admirable personal example to his comrades through his courage, patriotism and spirit of initiative.

Keywords: *fighter pilot, flight, courage, patriotism, erudite, daring.*

1. INTRODUCTION



The origin of the Miclescu family is a topic in full debate, the most distant member of the Miclescu family being considered Dragomir Albu, contemporary with the dismount of Dragoș Vodă, originally from Maramureș [1].

Original family from Călinești village, Botoșani county, with an old tradition, but which, perhaps, does not sound as well known, in our memories, as the Cantacuzino or Rosetti family.

The Miclescu family, a family of Moldovan boyars, gave the country many high-ranking governors, lawyers, heavy politicians, metropolitans, and large landowners.

"If Romania is conceived as recent and revolutionary, its less exalted makers have been writing history through their ambitions and pride for many centuries. As Radu Miculescu recalls: "We are here before the dismount". In the story of the mansion from Călinești and of the successive generations of boyars who inhabited it, there are several pages of history, spent at a distance worthy of the much too passionate scene of the modern Kingdom of Romania, but very important for those who want to understand the shadows. and the shadows of an official history" [2].

The prominent representative of Miculești was "*pan Giurgiu staroste*" or "*Giurgiu de la Frătăuți*", a member of the Royal Council (1404-1409), under the reign of Alexandru cel Bun and his sons, Iliș and Ștefan [3]. Another important member of the Moldavian nobility, Gavril Miculescu, held various important positions in the royal divan (postman, grand cupbearer, vornic, staroste, logophat), under the rulers of the Cantemir family, Constantin Duca, Mihai Racoviță, Nicolae Mavrocordat, Grigore Ghica. The Miculescu boyar family is also mentioned in the work "*Descriptio Moldaviae*" [4], written by Dimitrie Cantemir.

Like any famous boyar family, the Miculești had their own coat of arms, about which Octav George Lecca said: "*this coat of arms recalls the fortress of Hotin, where once there were Castilians and where tradition says that a Miculescu defeated the Turks*" [5].



Source: (https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Familia_Miculescu)

In 1842, General Mavros [6] (Gheorghe Miculescu's great-grandfather), he hosted the secret society "Brotherhood" at his home [7], which included the revolutionaries Ion Ghica and Nicolae Bălcescu, a place where the Pasoptist Revolution was prepared, which opened the way for the Romanian people to modernity.

Among the personalities who opposed the reform of Alexandru Ioan Cuza regarding the secularization of monastic fortunes was the high prelate, deputy in the Ad-hoc Divan in 1857, supporter of the Union, of a recognized morality and love of country, Metropolitan Sofronie Miculescu. He was humiliated from the metropolitan seat, was arrested while serving the holy liturgy and sent, under the escort of the gendarmerie, into exile at the Slatina monastery [8].

Another eloquent example of the importance of this boyar family is another member, Ioan G. Miculescu (1857-1920), the father of Captain Commander Gheorghe Miculescu, a scholar with a law degree at the "Academy of Nancy" in France, where he had a colleague and friend, the future Prime Minister of France, Raymond Poincaré.

Ioan Miculescu, *Jean* as he was known, but also under the name given by his contemporaries, „*the boyar from Călinești*” [9], he held important positions in the judiciary, later becoming a lawyer, conservative politician, deputy, playwright, publicist, polyglot, being fluent in Latin, French, English and German. In 1900, Titu Maiorescu appointed Jean Miculescu Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice, being appreciated by IG Duca and Nicolae Iorga who characterized him as „*om cu vastecetiri*” [6].

He was decorated by King Carol I with national orders and medals, including the Star of Romania in the ranks of officer and commander, thus predestining the career of his son, Gheorghe Miclescu. Also, Alina Miclescu, mother of Capt. Gheorghe Miclescu was a friend and confidant of Queen Maria of Romania” [10] who visited several times the Mansion from Călinești, the residence of the Miclescu family. Both spouses died in 1918.

Jean Miclescu's eldest child was Radu, born in 1893, who had a remarkable military career, mobilized on the front as a Red Platoon commander in the Battle of Oituz, where he was seriously wounded. received several decorations for his bravery. Subsequently, he was appointed commander of the 8th Calarasi Regiment. In 1968, General Charles de Gaulle, President of France, during a state visit to Romania, asked to meet with former colleagues at the „École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr” [11], including Colonel Radu Miclescu.

2. CAPTAIN COMMANDER MICLESCU ION GHEORGHE

The one who would become Captain Commander MiclescuGheorghe , better known as George Miclescu, descendant as we anticipated from the branch of the great ruler Stephen the Great, on various lines of descent in the family tree of the Miclescu family, was born on April 14, 1908, in Bucharest, Ilfov County, baptized in the Orthodox religion.

Gheorghe Miclescu married on April 26, 1934 Magda Elena Tzaicu, with marriage certificate no. 359 of April 26, 1934, following the marriage a boy was born, Miclescu Radu Alex, born on June 23, 1936.

Miclescu Gheorghe was raised in a trilingual family environment where parents, grandparents and children spoke perfect French and German, in addition to the Romanian mother tongue, without omitting English, which is usually used in government contacts.

The Miclescu family was surrounded by intellectual and cultural emanations everywhere, even the children's governesses were German speakers.

Having an increased appetite for learning, the teenager Miclescu Gheorghe graduated from the Theoretical High School of 8 classes in 1922, in France (Sorbonne) [12], where he spent the whole time as a host at Anatole France.

On December 13, 1922, Gheorghe Miclescu passed all the exams and was admitted to the Military Infantry and Cavalry School in Bucharest.

Ever since the Cavalry School, Miclescu Gheorghe was characterized, as follows “*his civic education is distinguished, his military education is impeccable. Very intelligent, has good judgment and memory. He is serious, calm and conscientious in carrying out the tasks assigned to him, always showing a lot of good will and determination*” [13].

He distinguished himself as a good student, possessing real qualities to become a skilled instructor and a perfect cavalry officer. As mentioned by the commander of the troop corps, the student Miclescu had, *a pleasant physical appearance, an implicit, healthy demeanour, showing compassion and camaraderie towards his colleagues*” [13].

At the same time, the commanders characterize him in the service rating as “*a good hunter, a good motorist, he has his own car that he drives personally*”, he has a “*very chosen general culture, up to date with everything that is new and useful in civic life*”, “*Military education in great progress, being a platoon commander in the machine gun squadron, as a liaison officer, he showed a rare energy, a good rider and a projectile launcher*” [13].

He adapted very quickly to the military rigors of a knight, graduating from the prestigious Military Cavalry School "King Ferdinand I" on July 1, 1924, with the rank of lieutenant, according to High Decree no. 2220 and the Agenda no. 340 and assigned to the 6th Roșiori Regiment from Tecuci. In the qualifying sheet at the graduation of the military school, the commander of the educational institution noted: "He has a loyal and chivalrous character. He is a very good comrade and animated by generous feelings for good deeds. Good performer in all categories of training, being passionate about weapons".

In his new capacity as an officer, commander of a cavalry platoon, Lieutenant Miclescu Gheorghe confirmed the appreciation of his teachers and commanders during his military studies, constantly evolving and asserting himself as a very skilled officer [13].

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Subsequently, between 01.08.1924 and 01.10.1926, he was seconded to the 8th Roșiori Regiment in the Botoșani garrison, where, wanting to improve, he began to study diligently to fulfill a dream, that of becoming a military pilot.

Starting with 11/14/1926, Lieutenant Miclescu Gheorghe was admitted to the Piloting and Training School Courses, in his qualification sheet for the period 01.11.1926 - 31.10.1927, the commander of the Aeronautical Schools and Centers, Colonel Stoicescu, mentioning the following about the lieutenant Miclescu: "*Healthy, resilient, he tolerated the School regime well. Although a cavalry officer brought his knowledge closer. An officer with a chosen culture and education, conscientious, hardworking, good and full of flying energy, he deserves to be promoted in his seniority*" [13].

On April 1, 1928, he was moved from the 8th Roșiori Regiment, by High Decree no. 763 and the Agenda no. 242, following a predetermined course for exceptional pilots, Pilot School, Battle Flotilla, Buzau Training School, Special Aeronautical School.

In the Qualifying Sheet, corresponding to the period 01.11.1927- 31.10.1928, the commander of the Schools, mentioned the following: "*Pilot 1927, came to the Flotilla on April 1, 1928, from the Pilot School and on May 22 left for Buzău from where he returned on September 3. Patented Fighter Pilot. Healthy and resilient. With high school education in France (Sorbonne). Conscientiously at work and with a love of fighter pilot weapon. It flies correctly, precisely in motion and without brutalizing the plane or engine. Total flight hours for 1927 - 1928, 64 hours*" [13].

After graduating from the Warfare Training School in the Buzau garrison, between May 31, 1928 - September 3, 1928, Lieutenant Miclescu was praised in the Certificate of Skills for Fighter Pilot, as follows: "*Calm and with a lot of cold blood, heart and with a lot of love for flying; Definitely a great driver to rely on. Outstanding landings in terms of safety and finesse. Relaxed and confident in movement, supple and fine. He noticed the consistency and regularity of his flights. Weighted and yet very calm, it meets all the qualities of a great class pilot. Fighting always constant and admirably executed*" Flight training for the fighter jet was conducted on Fokker D11 and Spad 61 aircraft. [13]

This educational-applicative journey was crowned with the promotion to the rank of lieutenant on 01.10.1928, based on the High Royal Decree no. 2294.

In the Qualifying Sheet, corresponding to the period 01.11.1928 - 04.06.1929, the commander of the School stated "*Physically healthy - pleasant appearance, intelligent officer, with a beautiful general and military culture at a high level. Chosen character - very good with people. Perfectly trained, he is one of the well-prepared pilots for the war. I think he will also be a valuable officer who will honour the army.*

Healthy and resilient - withstands the demands of a confrontation. Disciplined, serious, modest, and very well developed. Good comrade, he really likes flying and especially aviation.

He flies correctly, calmly, meticulously on the fighter jet, he performed during the raids carried out during this year, he is a pilot who can be counted on" [13].

Later, after graduating from courses and specializations, Lieutenant Miclescu stopped his secondment and returned to the Battle Flotilla.

As a result of the outstanding results, the most deserving officers were seconded for specialization and training in renowned military schools in Western Europe, in this position being Lieutenant Miclescu. Thus, between 1931 and 1932, he attended aerial observatory courses and obtained a license from the „*Lecole Militaire de L Aeronautique Versailles*” in France. Miclescu enjoyed a real appreciation among his French colleagues, being a fluent speaker of the French language, but also through the chosen education he possessed, becoming an exceptional air and cultural ambassador of Romania in the French capital. [13]

After completing his studies in France, Lieutenant Miclescu was seconded, starting with 15.10.1932, to the "Mircea Cantacuzino" Aviation School" [14], where, once again, he distinguished himself by his high qualities as a fighter pilot. The distinguished aeronaut managed to pass on his aeronautical knowledge to future pilots who will later take part in defending the freedom of Romania's airspace in the Second World War [15].

After completing his secondment to the Cantacuzino Aviation School, Miclescu continued his training as a fighter pilot in the Battle Flotilla, until 12.11.1933, when he passed the admission competition at the School of Aerial Observers within the Training Centre of Aeronautics, obtaining the certificate of qualification of Air Observatory.

On 16.12.1934, after taking the special flight tests, Lieutenant Miclescu Gheorghe was declared Pilot category III.

In the period 1935-1936, he will continue his activity in the Special Squadron of the Battle Flotilla, being appreciated by his superior for his "*great intellectual capacity and the work force he shows, ... guarantees that the officer will soon become one of the squadron's commanders. Tireless on the Airfield, he led with great intelligence and perseverance the completion of the training of the new pilots in the Flotilla*" [15].

For the remarkable activity carried out, on 16.10.1936, Lieutenant Miclescu was promoted to the rank of captain and promoted to the command of the 1st Bombardment Squadron.

In 1937, when the Battle Flotilla was transformed into the 1st Hunting Flotilla, he took command of the Special Squadron, where he distinguished himself by the outstanding results obtained in training and applications. He performed very well in combat, asserting himself through authority, methodical work, fairness, and conscientiousness.

Participant in the Battle of the Royal Maneuvers in August 1938, he was praised by his commanders for his "*conscientious exercise of his command, is authoritarian and imposed on his subordinates, knows how to organize his work and plans his actions in the smallest detail. accept unclear situations and improvisations*" [15]. For special merits he was rewarded with the decoration of the Romanian Crown in the rank of Knight, by the High Royal Decree no. 1843/938, published in the Official Gazette no. 106/1938.

In the position of Squadron Commander, he manifested and was appreciated as having a "*vast general culture, intelligent, easily assimilates professional knowledge, has developed a great sense of honor and duty. Calm temperament has a lot of energy and strong will. He has initiative and a great sense of procedure. He is methodical in his work, he acts with vigor, he knows how to organize his work and especially he knows how*

to stimulate his subordinates, he is a good coach "[15]. At the same time, he was commissioned by the commanders to carry out air transport missions on the route Bucharest - London.

At the beginning of 1939, Captain Miclescu was awarded the Honorary Service for 25 years of service, by the High Royal Decree no. 648/939 of 06.02.1939, and after graduating the Information course, on 23.03.1940, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant aviator commander based on the High Royal Decree no. 886 of 23.03.1940, published in the Official Gazette no. 79/1940 [15].

Characterized as "*an officer with a lot of heart, having a dignified and modest character, ... passionate about flying*" [15] On June 1, 1940, he was appointed Assistant Commander of the 1st Fighter Fleet.

Due to the aviator's participation in the suppression of the legionary rebellion in January 1941, the family of Lieutenant Commander Miclescu was threatened with reprisals by supporters of this movement.

3. ACTIONS ON THE FRONT IN WORLD WAR II

Near the start of the war for the liberation of the lost territories in the summer of 1940, Lieutenant Commander Miclescu was mobilized on 29.06.1940 and appointed commander of the 5th Hunting Group, within the Air Combat Group, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal High Decree no. 2195/1940.

For the high deeds of arms, by the High Royal Decree no. 1861 of 06.07.1941 was decorated with the Order "Aeronautical Virtue" class Golden Cross, and by the High Royal Decree no. 1952 from 01.08.1941, Star of Romania with Swords and ribbon of Military Virtue class V [15].

His unit totalled 2,000 hours of combat flight with outstanding results [15].

One of his comrades-in-arms stated that Lieutenant Commander Miclescu "*was so polite in his position as commander that he sometimes gave the impression that he was amused as a scientist, but with a sense of humor, who liked to be surrounded by people.*" [16].

During the participation in the air campaign for the liberation of Bessarabia and the conquest of Odessa, the 5th Hunting Group totaled a number of 2000 flight hours in combat missions with remarkable results [16].

Through the Agenda no. 304/1942, on July 5, 1942, Miclescu was appointed second commander of the 1st Fighter Fleet Base, also exercising the position of Commander of the 3rd Fighter Group.

For his skill, King Michael decorated him with the "*Golden Cross of Aeronautical Virtue*" by High Decree no. 1932 of 1942, „*for the skill with which he led the action of the Hunt that had it subordinated, ensuring in the best conditions the protection of the sensitive points. He has carried out numerous interdiction missions at sea, as well as several missions to protect ship convoys at sea. By conducting these actions, the unit under his command shot down seven Soviet bombers. 2 enemy seaplanes that had attacked a convoy of ships shot down in flames 35km from Constanța*" [13].

In 1942, on a mission to study in Germany, he was decorated by Adolf Hitler with the high distinction, the Iron Cross class II.

Through the Agenda no. 421/1942 was appointed to the command of Group 1 Hunting, and for the determination and heroism with which he fought to command his unit to defend the capital and important economic objectives on the national territory against Anglo-American bombing, along with German aviation, was decorated and with the Order "German Eagle" class II [15].

In the heroic battles of defending the airspace of Bucharest lt. cdor. Miclescu selflessly and bravely flew a Messerschmitt Typhoon plane [13].

Between 18.11.1943 - 06.04.1944 to return to the command of Group 5 Fighter, following that, between 06.04.1944 - 02.12.1944, to occupy the function of tactical assistant of the commander of the 1st Fleet Fighter, so that later, in the next 3 months, to hold the position of commander of the 1st Fighter Fleet Base.

On 22.07.1944 for his deeds of heroism Gheorghe Miclescu by High Decree 1028/1944 and OZ Nr. 222/1944 was promoted to the rank of captain-commander.

Between August 23, 1944, and September 1944, he fought, together with his comrades, against the German bombing of Bucharest and Ploiești.

Until the end of the war and later he was seconded to the General Secretariat of the under secretariat of State for Air, a detachment ended brutally on 22.08.1946, when he was forced to hand over the position of second commander of the 1st Hunting Flotilla and based on the Royal High Decree no. 2498/1946 was placed in reserve [13].

3. AFTER LEAVING THE ARMY

After the forced transfer of the officer to the reserve, the Stalinist regime imprisoned both Gheorghe Miclescu and his son, Radu Miclescu, and was also forced to divorce his wife in 1952. Magda Miclescu was repeatedly harassed and threatened by the repressive security forces eventually succumbed to the pressure and committed suicide in 1953.

In his memoirs, Ioan Dragoș Stinghe, an aviation officer in the 1941 class, stated that, after the war, he met his former commander on a construction site where he worked as a day labourer, however, he remained unchanged, with the same nobility in conduct, with the same good mood. "[16].

In 1992, **Captain Miclescu Ion Gheorghe** died, Romania's sky losing one of its important defenders.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Hailing from a boyar family who practiced xenodochia, evergetism, calophilia, reader of churches (the church from Cervicești and the one from Călinești), lovers of country and nation, who had hoisted in their place of honor the flag of Moldova on the Mansion from Călinești village, Captain Commander Miclescu Gheorghe did not give up the holy legacy of his predecessors and made unimaginable sacrifices to defend his nation and country from all those who came to subjugate it and to all foreigners who wanted to invade it be they Russians, Germans, English, Americans.

This exceptional soldier teaches us an invaluable lesson in patriotism and sacrifice, being appreciated by both subordinates and commanders.

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