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A Partisan for Freedom Dies

Gen. Radescu, Former Romanian Prime Minister,
Fought Tyranny of King Carol II, Hitler and Stalin

An unassuming and little-known hero died last month in a modest apartment in New York. He was Gen. Nicholas Radescu, one-time chief of staff and Prime Minister of Romania. He had tried to lead head on the Communist onslaught of his country and lost because the West could not support him.

But he did compel the Russians, who at that time, early in 1944, attempted to establish puppet governments in their satellite lands through "popular movements" to come into the open and use their own military forces and direct political pressure to achieve their goal. This happened under the nose of their American and British allies.

Radescu was typical of millions of people who are now under the Soviet yoke. He came of peasant stock, entered his country's military academy before World War I and fought for democracy and against dictatorship. He fought the crimes of King Michael II, known in the "land of the Romanians" as distinguished himself and rose to the rank of major general.

Radescu was loyal to his country and to his king until Carol II was bitten by the dictatorial bug in 1933. Radescu, who had been side-by-side with Carol's father, resigned from the army in protest against the undemocratic ambitions.

Carol's dictatorship ended in disaster in 1940 when Hitler was at the height of his power. In his drive to forestall his ally, Stalin, in the drive for the Balkans, Hitler forced upon his Romanian puppets a Nazi-like government with Gen. Antonescu as prime minister. The nominal ruler of Romania at that time was neither Carol's successor, young King Mihai, nor his prime minister, Antonescu, but the Nazi "special envoy," Baron von Killinger who un-

dertook to suppress all opposition to his master in Berlin. Radescu, then a private individual, wrote Von Killinger a sharp open letter which earned him 18 months in a concentration camp.

When Romania surrendered in 1944 and turned the army against the former Nazi master, Antonescu, tells and Radescu was made chief of staff of the army. He worked in the closest collaboration with the representatives of the Western powers. He avoided

Eventually, when Marshal appointed him prime minister in a coalition government representing Romania's various parties, mainly the Agrarian, Peasant and Labor parties, he was faced with a difficult situation. He fled from the country at the start of the war. But his principal concern was the integrity of the land which he had seen plundered. How to make Romania a state

Radescu resisted and attempted to keep these efforts to a minimum. Early in 1948 a putch was organized by the Communist "armed" Russian troops in Bucharest to lead a military leader in an attempt was made to install the prime minister, who had refused to become a Soviet tool. The putch was suppressed. Radescu had the temerity to ignore the Soviet censorship. He broadcast an dramatic appeal to the Romanian people urging them to stand behind their national government and bitterly denouncing "the godless men" who wanted to steal the country from their own people.

This brought Comrade V. Thinsky post-haste to Bucharest where he saw King Mihai and ordered him to dismiss his prime minister instantly and appoint in his place a Moscow puppet. The king refused, relying on the friendliness of the American and British repre-

sentatives in Bucharest. But when he was given a two-hour ultimatum, he yielded. He could not do otherwise. V. Thinsky's orders were backed by Russian tanks and machine forces against which the Western diplomats were as powerless in Romania as King Mihai himself.

After nearly two years of police surveillance, Radescu managed to escape and came to America in 1947 determined to continue the fight from here. He succeeded to get a passport and to begin keeping with the American government's requirements.

It is unfortunate that most small prizes do not forget to honor their home-land. They are they. This is the Romanian whose name has been Red

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Radescu, a staunch fighter for freedom, typifies the tens of millions of freedom-loving people who are now enslaved by the Russians. He died in obscurity and in poverty but with an unbroken spirit.