Abstract

This thesis deals with life of mercenaries during the Thirty Years’ War. It is focused on the situation in central Europe and especially in the Czech lands. The main part of the thesis concentrates on the appearance of military camps which is reconstructed based on normative sources, ego-documents, folk songs and period artistic literature, paintings and drawings.

To introduce the topic I describe various types of soldiers in the Habsburg army and the subordination of the army. One chapter is meant to work as a guide through the life of a mercenary – about his living in the army from his recruitment up to his discharge. We mention the material equipment and soldiers clothing as well. Women were a usual part of the army, therefore I also pay attention to them.

The main topic of the work is military camp, therefore a description of its appearance is given, describing the arrangement of all its parts. I mention tents, markets and inns. I also deal with camp life’s negatives, for example with diseases or activities condemned by the contemporary moral. Military law is briefly described as well. I also mention administrative officers who are responsible for the aspects of military life related to the camps.

In the end there is also integrated a chapter about the civilian view on mercenaries and the war terror.

key words: early modern period, Thirty Years‘ War, military, mercenaries, everyday life, camps