

Master Thesis Proposal
Charles University
Faculty of Social Sciences
International Area Studies: Central European Comparative Studies

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Topic: Integration and Everyday Life of Italian Refugees Exiled to Northern Bohemia in the First World War – A Microhistorical Look at the Daily Experience of Sannicoló in Jablonné v Podještědí

Research Question: How did Sannicoló's reality of being an Italian-speaking refugee exiled to the northern Bohemian city of Jablonné v Podještědí in the First World War compare to the collective experience and to the Austro-Hungarian efforts on internal migration?

Hypothesis: By comparing Sannicoló's diary of his everyday life in Jablonné v Podještědí with the overall knowledge of the Italian-refugee situation, it can help determine the level of successful integration with the local population. To understand the amount of success, the basic necessities – food, housing, and clothing – along with leisure activities – fairs, walks, work, religious identity – will be looked at.

Outline:

Introduction

Chapter One – Changing Situation in Austria-Hungary: looks at the Empire's situation before the war and at the outbreak of the war, to place the issue of the presence of refugees within the Empire.

Chapter Two – Situation in Italy Upon Entering the War: looks at the Italian side upon the outbreak of war, to understand the position of the Trentino region with regards to responsibility, loyalty, or allegiance.

Chapter Three – Evacuation and Transportation from Trentino to northern Bohemia: discusses the initial interactions with locals at the moment of evacuation and their transportation to the final destination, with a first study of Sannicoló's entries of his travel from Trentino to Jablonné v Podještědí.

Chapter Four – Food, Housing, Clothing: gives a look at Sannicoló's experiences when obtaining the basic necessities guaranteed to refugees, and discusses the interactions with the local population throughout his stay in Jablonné v Podještědí, and whether a change in interactions eventually came about.

Chapter Five – Ethnolinguistic Tensions, Interactions with Locals, and Religious Identity: gives an overview on potential engrained Czech-German tensions over the borderland region, and takes a closer look at Sannicoló's comments on witnessing tensions between himself and the locals, or among the locals, to see if identity – nationality or religious – brought about conflict during his time in exile.

Chapter Six – Leisure and Thoughts on War: regards Sannicoló's entries about taking walks, attending fairs, and other activities, to estimate the amount of freedom allotted to the Italian-speaking refugees in Jablonné v Podještědí, and whether these moments brought about negative interactions with the local populations.

Conclusion – looks at the level of integration for Sannicoló's case as having been overall successful with the local population, and his time in Jablonné v Podještědí as

generally positive. With the war affecting everyone, the natural growing distress with the scarcity of basic necessities did not mean particularly negative treatment for Sannicoló and his fellow Italian refugees.

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