

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is the problematics of the military camps of Christian armies in the Central Europe between 1550–1650. We focus on the camps of the Habsburg Monarchy and German lands, yet some space is given to the situation in Poland and Hungary. The introductory chapters consist of a characterization of the source material and an overview of the present state of research. Furthermore, excursions into several topics related to the military camps of the early modern period are made. Thus, characterizations of the crucial war conflicts of the period, contemporary strategies and tactics, principals, composition and equipment of the armies, of the ranks, and of the life of soldiers are provided.

The core of this work is an interpretation and comparison of treatises written by military theorists, who dealt with the problematics of camps, namely of the works by Jan Tarnowski, Guillaume du Bellay, Leonhardt Fronsperger, Lazarus von Schwendi, Giorgio Basta, Johann Jacobi von Wallhausen, and Raimondo Montecuccoli. Additionally, an analysis of the military orders of the Roman emperor Maximilian II and of the Swedish king Gustav II Adolf is supplied, followed by memoirs and diaries of soldiers of that era, and contemporary literary fiction.

Although the thesis includes brief characterizations of lodgings in cities and villages, the main focus lies on military field camps. It is described, which places were considered suitable for setting up the camps, how the camps were built and divided into smaller parts, and how the soldiers and the tross were accommodated. Furthermore, the way the camps were fortified, is analysed, as well as the organization of patrols. The question of the provisioning and the role of the tross in the camp is also dealt with. The last section of this thesis provides insight into the life of soldiers in these camps, seen from the perspective of the prescribed norms as well as of the personal experiences of the soldiers.