

POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Jméno a příjmení studenta: Eduard Pareis
Název diplomové práce: The Presence and Motives of the Aboriginal Soldiers in the Canadian Military in the Second World War
Vedoucí diplomové práce: Regina A. Helal, M.A.
Oponent diplomové práce: PhDr.Christopher Koy, Ph.D.

I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění: 1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem

In general, Mr Pareis's main research questions as stated in the Introduction (p9) were answered. The last question concerning the treatment of Aboriginal veterans, however, deserved more space and elaboration. It is truly shocking that these former soldiers were not able to attain benefits available to all others who had served in WW2.

II. Struktura práce: 1. Logická, jasná a přehledná

III. Práce s literaturou: 2. Velmi dobrá práce s adekvátními prameny v patřičném rozsahu

The literature dealing with this topic was indeed hard to come by, as I can personally attest. The Canadian government did not keep ethnic breakdown for WW2 soldiers. Hence the topic itself has been under-researched. The Research Section of the Museum of War in Ottawa admits as much, and they had even asked me if they could have a copy of Mr Pareis' thesis. For Eda it was therefore imperative that he buy his own books and search online. In this respect he was able to assemble an impressive array of sources.

IV. Prezentace a interpretace dat: 2. Velmi dobrá prezentace dat, úspěšný pokus o jejich interpretaci

More statistical charts and/or tables could have been compiled, relating to a/ profiles of the individual soldiers, b/ comparisons with regular soldiers, c/ breakdown of duties performed by the Aboriginals, etc. Excellent graphs on pages 33 and 34, are not attributed. The post-war fallout is not adequately dealt with.

V. Formální stránka: 1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům

VI. Jazyková úroveň práce: Velmi dobrá

Overall, the level of English is very good which makes the thesis highly readable. The sentences are short, the syntax in order, and there are practically no repetitions (of words or sentences). There are occasional slipups, however, chiefly concerning verbal constructions: *it is worth to say* (p24), *it were* (p49), *the situation has changed* (p36), *stopped to give* (p14), etc., but these are in no way distracting.

VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu: 1. Velmi vysoká

VIII. Přínosy práce: 2. Práce je v daném oboru přínosná, ale neobsahuje originální a nová zjištění

Vyjádření vedoucího diplomové práce:

This was an original topic which was hard to research due to meagre resources being available. Mr Pareis has tackled his tasks admirably, albeit he was even forced to delve into his own pocket so as to obtain the relevant literature. The descriptions of individual battles, such as the D-Day invasion, could have been much shorter, but there was definitely a justification for describing in detail the Aboriginal military involvement in the conflicts of the previous two or three centuries. The whole thesis rests on an impressive array of sources, assembled as already stated with great difficulty. Mr Pareis demonstrated that he was able not only to summarize what he had been reading, but also interpret the facts, and state his own opinions where appropriate.

Práce splňuje základní požadavky kladené na tento typ prací, a proto ji doporučuji k ústní obhajobě.

Navrhovaná známka: výborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. There is little in the way of explaining what the so-called *residential schools* were and their impact on young Aboriginals (whether positive or negative). Could you elaborate on this topic a bit?

2. Could you explain the situation the returnee soldiers found themselves in after the war? Why were they not able to obtain the same veteran benefits as the regular Canadian soldiers? What was the impact of this basically racist approach, and what have been the repercussions?

Podpis vedoucího diplomové práce/opponenta diplomové práce*: 

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