

Operation Cowboy

Junior Individual Documentary

Sophia Winters

Process Paper: 395

I chose to do the National History Day project over Operation Cowboy. I knew I wanted to do something horse related when I learned about the project and I found that many people were not aware of this event in history. After debating between this topic and various other equine-related events, I chose operation cowboy because it seemed to best fit the theme. I started my research with a book. *The Perfect Horse*, by Elizabeth Letts. It had the most detailed account of what happened. I had read the book before but I read it again to mark important details and events as well as to refresh my memory. I then turned to online sources. Unfortunately, not a lot of information exists about this topic so some extra research was required. I started coming across news articles that were very helpful and photographs from the event. Finding an interview was also a struggle. I made was able to contact the author of *The Perfect Horse*, Elizabeth Letts, but she was on tour for a new book she is writing. She was able to connect me with someone whose father had been on the mission. Maureen Quinlivan-Nolen was very helpful and agreed to answer my questions. We emailed a couple times before she emailed me her response to my questions. She was also able to provide a picture of her and a picture of her dad. After the majority of my research was done I realized I needed to finalize my decision on what form of presentation I would choose. I chose to do a documentary because aside from horses, film editing is a major interest in mine. Proceeding with a documentary allowed me to do a video project about horses, which combined my two biggest interests. I was also able to find lots of photographs and usable video footage which would have impacted my decision.

Operation Cowboy strongly relates to the theme: Triumph and Tragedy. Operation Cowboy allowed American Soldiers to save hundreds of priceless horses. The Horses would have most likely been killed and eaten if the American Army had not been able to save them. This can be seen as a triumph. Unfortunately, many of these horses were stolen from their home countries and would never return because it was too dangerous. This side of the story can be viewed as a tragedy.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Alois Podhajsky on a Lippizaner. *Let It Be Carried*, nechsenest.cz/2011/02/alois-podhajsky-o-trestu-a-pochvale/. Accessed Feb. 2019. This picture shows what Alois Podhajsky looked like. It also helped show the style of riding he did and the tack he used. This picture also shows a lippizaner horse in the middle of doing a dressage move which also helps convey the style of riding.

Archive Rudofsky / Hans Brabenetz. Propferd,

www.propferd.at/main.asp?VID=1&kat1=96&kat2=643&NID=666. Accessed 24 Feb. 2019. It shows Hubert Rudofsky with the arabian stallions Lotnik ox and Miecznik ox in Hostau. It shows how the horses were handled and what they looked like.

Austria Map. Mostly Physics, www.mostlyphysics.net/blog/2013/05/06/moving-to-vienna-for-a-postdoc-vp1. Accessed 24 Feb. 2019. Map. It gives people an idea of where Austria is and I was able to point out certain places where events took place. It helped me better understand where the horses were and where they were moved to.

"Captured Film -- Germany Invades Poland 1939." *Youtube*, uploaded by King Rose Archives, 17 Jan. 2013, www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw2PenZYBuw. Accessed Feb. 2019. This shows Germany's invasion of Poland. It shows what it would have been like to be there. It helped me understand what was going on when the horses started to be captured.

Elizabeth Letts. www.elizabethletts.com/behind-the-scenes/. Accessed 24 Feb. 2019. This website provided a total of 7 images. The images vary in what they depict. Some are pictures of the horses kept at Hostau. Others are of the people that took care of the horses and the people that risked their lives to save the horses.

Fairbanks Daily News WW2 newspaper. *Archives*, www.archives.com/genealogy/newspapers-world-war-2.html. This is a picture of a news paper from ww2. It helps convey the breaking news of World War 2.

Federacja. Pedegru, www.pedegru.com/animal/federacja. Accessed 23 Feb. 2019. It shows one of the horses from the polish stud farm. This horse foaled a well known horse from the farm named Witez II. She also foaled other very prized arabians. This helped me understand the way theses horses looked and how they were treated.

562 Rifle Regiment during a March. RT, www.rt.com/op-ed/316751-poland-russia-ww2-monuments/. Accessed 22 Feb. 2019. This site provided a picture of the Soviet union. It shows a troop marching. It helped me understand the Soviets and how they were getting to Hostau as well as what it may have looked like once they arrived in Hostau.

German cavalry horses walking. *Histomil*, histomil.com/viewtopic.php?t=2253&start=160. Accessed 24 Feb. 2019. This picture shows the german cavalry. It helps me understand what it was like to be in the german cavalry at the time. It also shows what horses they used.

"German Troops and Horse-drawn Wagons." *Youtube*, uploaded by Okrajoe, 5 Jan. 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=8BwBzuAsbeo. Accessed Feb. 2019. This video showed the German army. It showed how horses were still used in the army. It depicted horses pulling wagons filled with soldiers, weapons, and suplies. It helped me understand how horses were treated and what work they were required to do. This also helps me understand why the cavalry needed so many horses.

Germany Attacking Poland. Amazing Facts in Photos, calto.info/topics/ww2-nazi-germany-attacks.html. Accessed 22 Feb. 2019. The newspaper shows a headline reading: HITLER OPENS WAR ON POLAND. This shows that it was a big deal.

Hank Reed inspects Lipizzaner in Hostau. *Daily Mail*, www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5968191/How-Lipizzaners-horses-saved-Nazis-Russians-allied-forces-Second-World-War.html. Accessed 23 Feb. 2019. It shows Hank Reed inspecting a Lipizzaner in Hostau. It helps me understand how important these horses are that they would go through them and inspect all of them to try and get them back to their home.

Hitler commits suicide newspaper. *Deseret News*, www.deseretnews.com/article/865579300/This-week-in-history-Adolf-Hitler-commits-suicide.html. Accessed 25 Feb. 2019. This is a newspaper about Hitler's death. It helps convey that Hitler's death was breaking news and keeps viewers interested.

Horse Dante XX. Rimondo, en.rimondo.com/horse-details/21721/Dante-xx. Accessed 24 Feb. 2019. This is a picture of a Thoroughbred from 1942. It was not one of the horses taken to Hostau but did provide a reference for what a Thoroughbred horse from that time would look like.

Hubert Rudofsky sitting in office. *CNN*, edition.cnn.com/2016/09/02/sport/perfect-horse-world-war-ii/index.html. Accessed Feb. 2019. This showed what Hubert Rudofsky looked like. It also showed what his office may have looked like. The picture shows Rudofsky's passion for horses through all the horse-themed decor around and on his desk.

The Johannesburg Sunday Express reports the Sept. 3, 1939, declaration of war that began World War II. Britannica Kids, kids.britannica.com/students/assembly/view/191274.

Accessed 22 Feb. 2019. This is another newspaper from WW2. It shows the the second World War was breaking news.

Mares and Foals at the Piber Stud Farm. *Serendipity Rancher*, www.serendipityrancher.com/ee-lipizzaner.htm. Accessed 24 Feb. 2019. It shows were the Lipizzaners were bred and the horses that were bred there. It conveys the life style that these horses lived in before the war. They had big pastures filled with beautiful horses.

Ofir (1933). *Pedegru*, www.pedegru.com/animal/ofir. Accessed 23 Feb. 2019. This is a picture of Ofir, an arabian stallion. It shows people the kind of horses Rau was working with.

Senior American Commanders of the European Theater of World War II. *Wikipedia*, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Theater_of_Operations,_United_States_Army.

Accessed 23 Feb. 2019. This site provided a picture of commanders outside the European Theater of Operations headquarters. General George S. Patton, someone who helped save the horses, can be seen in the picture. This helped me understand were the headquarters were and who would be there.

"Spanish Riding School at Wembley (1969)." *Youtube*, uploaded by British Pathé, 13 Apr. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=k796P4SIZuQ. Accessed Feb. 2019. This video clips shows the lippizaner horses and riders from the Spanish riding school performing. This helps the viewer understand what the horses and riders did.

"Spanish Riding School Present Horse to U.S (1964)." *Youtube*, uploaded by British Pathé, 13 Apr. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLFFMsl6n2g. Accessed Feb. 2019. This also showed the lipizzaner horses performing. Alois Podhajsky was most likely in the performance as he was still head of the ridding school at the time. This video shows that the riding school returned to normal after WW2.

When Witez II Arrived in America after WWII. ArabHorse, www.arabhorse.com/arabian-news/when-witez-ii-arrived-in-america-after-wwii. Accessed 24 Feb. 2019. It shows people how horses were loaded and unloaded from the ship. This helped me understand how the horses were kept on the ship and how they might have been tossed about during the storm.

Witez II. *Wikipedia*, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witez_II. Accessed 23 Feb. 2019. This is one of the arabian horses from Poland that was taken by Rau to Hostau. This horse was a very promising stallion.

Secondary Sources

"Army Europe, Czech Republic celebrates 70th anniversary of Operation Cowboy." *U.S. Army*, 26 May 2015, www.army.mil/article/149164/army_europe_czech_republic_celebrates_70th_anniversar_y_of_operation_cowboy. Accessed 16 Feb. 2019. This provided information regarding operation cowboy. It talked about eh events that happened and the people that were there.

"Col. Alois Podhajsky, 75, Dies; Trained Lipizzaner Stallions." *The New York Times*, 24 may 1973. *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com/1973/05/24/archives/col-alois-podhajsky-75-dies-trained-lipizzaner-stallions-recounted.html. Accessed 20 Jan. 2019. This source provided information about Alois Podhajsky, head of the Spanish riding school at the time of WWII. It described some of his life achievements including how he helped save the Lipizzaner horses.

Czechoslovakia. *Britannica*, www.britannica.com/place/Czechoslovakia/media/149153/144914. Accessed 23 Feb. 2019. Map. It shows the country Czechoslovakia. It shows were the

horses were when they were in Hostau. It helped me understand how far they were taken from their home and were exactly they were taken.

Czech Republic. Britannica, www.britannica.com/place/Czech-Republic. Accessed 25 Feb.

2019. Map. It shows a map of the Czech Republic. This helped me understand the difference between Czechoslovakia and today's Czech republic in regards to borders and locations.

Davis, Susan. "Operation Cowboy." *Sports Illustrated*, 16 Oct. 1995. *Sports Illustrated Vault*, www.si.com/vault/1995/10/16/207260/operation-cowboy-in-1945-a-group-of-us-soldiers-liberated-375-lipizzans-from-nazi-captivity. Accessed 7 Feb. 2019. It provided a short summary of Operation Cowboy. It was written before the book *The Perfect Horse* , so there was less information and no pictures but was a much quicker and easier read. It also had helpful quotes.

Letts, Elizabeth. *The Perfect Horse*. Ballantine Books, 2017. This book provided a detailed, chronological description of the events of Operation Cowboy. It also gave descriptions of people. It was the most accurate and detailed source and provided many pictures.

Lipica. 2013, www.lipica.org/en/discover-lipica/history. This site provided a picture of the lipizzaner horses in a barn. That showed how they may have lived. It also described what happened the lipizzaners throughout history including what happened during World War 2. The website included how many horses from the Lipica breeding farm and what gender they were. It said when and where they were taken.

Perfect horse diagram. *Fallight*, www.fallight.com/entry/Conformation-and-Function-in-the-Riding-Horse. Accessed 23 Feb. 2019. This sketch shows what an ideal horse may look like. It tells the viewer what qualities might desired by horse breeders.

Quinlivian-Nolen, Maureen. E-mail interview. 1 Mar. 2019. This was my most helpful source.

She was able to answer my questions and elaborate on those answers. She told why she thought this was important, why these men would risk their lives, and so much more. She really helped me see the importance of the event.

"What Made German Dressage Great Part 6." *The Horse Magazine*,

www.horsemagazine.com/thm/2018/07/what-made-german-dressage-great-part-6/.

Accessed 20 Jan. 2019. This provided a credible and detailed account of Gustav Rau's life. It provided details about his early life and how he was brought into horses. It also had a few pictures of Rau and some horses he worked with. This source was very helpful in the beginning because my original project was going to be focused on Gustav Rau.

World Map Showing Poland. Kitchen Decor, kitchendecor.club/files/world-map-showing-poland.html. Accessed 24 Feb. 2019. Map. This map gives people an idea of where Poland is. It shows where some of the areas where horses were kept at the time.