

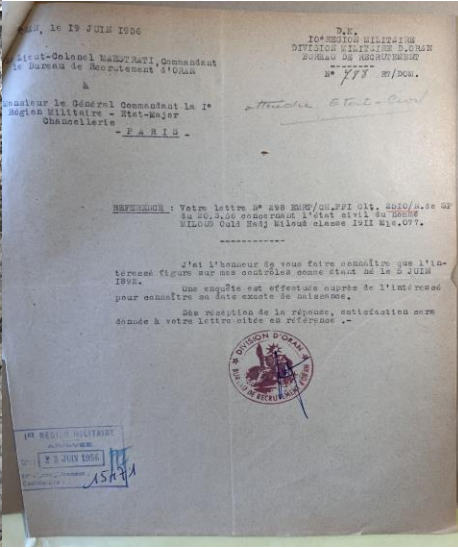
Laidlaw Programme Reflective Report

Scholar Report

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Title of Scholarship Project:	"Mapping colonial subject in the French Resistance"

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(Pictures from: the Residential in Selside, in the archives Chateau de Vincennes, and the Laidlaw Network)

How is the research work you have been undertaking impactful or important?

This has been impactful to bring out narratives about the French resistance, and not just data. The stories were destined in this research to be communicated through creating comprehensible maps that would summarise through the fact files created, the overall main facts and historical marks left by these soldiers, for instance their addresses/ neighbourhoods of where they used to live. This work has been impactful at a personal level to help me strengthen my trustworthiness while performing the tasks mentioned, for instance by setting goals while progressing within the research to complete the tasks set in time such as 'finishing a set number of dossiers within a day in the military archive of Vincennes', 'visit this set number of addresses by this day during my 5 days stay in Paris'. As a consequence of this, I had to be on top of my organisation and therefore noticeably I have improved my time keeping and punctuality, demonstrated for instance when keeping on top of my emails and frequently updating with my academic supervisor to exchange suggestions with her.

Also, this has been important because it perfectly reflected my desire to grow and be prepared for future professional opportunities, whether they will be academic or not. I have a strong desire now to join the army or cadets within the foreseeable future, and this research enabled me to start to have a look at and get used to the different regiments and grades found within the military career. Unveiling this unknown part of history to myself and getting to understand how to communicate it to transfer curiosity to the public has been inspiring. For instance, throughout this research, I have shared on multiple platforms such as my personal Laidlaw network, LinkedIn and Instagram the experience acquired and the highlight moments, such as visiting 'Argenteuill' one of the neighborhoods that I have tracked as an address of a few Algerians ex-soldiers. Due to being proud of these achievements obtained throughout this research, I desired to share and not keep them to myself, therefore overcoming my reservedness in regard to the celebration of attainments. I have deeply enriched my cultural and geographical knowledge through the investigations taken on countries like Algeria, and Madagascar. This was important to widen my geographical knowledge and permit me to reflect on further questions such as: how the presence of colonial subject within the French resistance, has been impactful towards the migration flows within certain neighbourhoods where soldiers used to live in. As a result, boosting my inquisitive thinking even more and overall, positively my self-esteem too through this work.



(Pictures from the Residential in Selside, during the climbing activity)

What impact has conducting this research had on you?

I will reiterate this opportunity as the best independent and professional experience of my life. Working in collaboration under an experienced academic such as Nina, was beneficial to my confidence and journey of growth due to the skills obtained within the process while learning from her. For instance, when she would set detailed instructions on what to do, I was able to practice the skill of being attentive. This was an opportunity to know how research can be conducted and following my supervisor's directions, I was made secure in learning how to apply the skills obtained, professionally too such as the teamworking, reliability and hard work. Nevertheless, conducting majorly this research in French was an encouragement to elevate my fluency with the language, for instance when entering the archive and confidently register and explain the reason behind the visit in French. Being a language student requires practice and this research through such opportunities was able to give me many occasions to practice. Additionally communicating with my colleague Phoebe, it has fostered in me better collaboration skills and as a result we became comfortable to express our opinions and be open to hear each other's suggestions.

