**CADENARO Martina: David Railton and the Unknown Warrior**

Dal testo ricavare la visione della guerra e della pace

* <http://www.stjohnschurchmargate.org.uk/sjcmdrupal/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/David-Railton-and-the-Unknown-Warrior2.pdf>
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Railton>

Elements about the peace:

As a padre, David Railton would have buried the dead of his unit and it is also believed that he ministered to several men who were subjected to military executions. It was in the battlefield that he first considered the concept of the Unknown Warrior. In August, 1920 he wrote to Bishop Ryle, the Dean of Westminster, about the possibility of giving an unidentified soldier a national burial service in Westminster Abbey. In October 1920 Railton heard that his idea had been accepted by the Government. After that the general has chosen the corp of the Unknown Soldier, it was put into a train and as it passed through stations on the line to Victoria, crowds gathered on the platforms to witness the solemn event. The Unknown Warrior was accorded a hero’s burial in the Abbey on 11th November 1920 and the grave in the nave was filled with the French soil and later sealed with a slab of Belgian marble. Over the following three days, thousands of people came to the Abbey to walk past the grave. David Railton’s great idea had been endorsed by the nation’s leaders and was universally popular with ordinary folk.

Elements about the war:

When serviced at the front, David Railton, shared the life of the Tommies at the front and was awarded the Military Cross in 1916 for rescuing injured soldiers while under fire.But the trauma of the First World War had a great impact on David Railton. It was said that, unable to sleep, he would walk around Margate late at night before calling at the Police Station for a cocoa with the duty sergeant! He had great concern for these unemployed men and in January 1922, he wrote “May it be a brighter year for the present unemployed. Our statesmen and businessmen see more and more the need to solve this problem. But we must push them on and do all we can to save numerous men from going mad”. In 1916 Railton was an experienced and mature man in his thirties and was appalled at the sufferings and loss caused by the War. He later tried to explain why he had felt it was so important to commemorate the individual in this way