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The Unknown Soldier

In the present text I’m going to analyze seven documents respect the Unknown Soldier: “The Tomb of The Unknown Soldier”, “The Unknown Soldier Of World War I, Great Britain”, an article written by “Mail Online”, “The Unknown Warrior”, “The Unknown Soldier: History”, a collection of documents by the “Imperial War Museums” and an article called “Unknown Warrior” that is found on the official site of Westminster Abbey.

Thanks to these article I am able to give value to the ritual of the Unknown Soldier and to reconstruct his history.

First of all, I’m going to explain The Unknown Warrior’s meaning: “he was one who give his live for the people of the British Empire”. Therefor he is an unidentified British soldier killed during the First World War.

After that I’m going to explain The Unknown Warrior’s origin.

The idea of the Unknown Soldier’s war memorial was came into the world thanks to the Reverend David Railton because he wrote, in 1920, to the Dean of Westminster proposing that an unidentified British soldier from the battlefields in France be buried with a ceremony in Westminster Abbey. This unidentified British soldier took the name of Unknown Soldier.

After that I’m going to explain The Unknown Soldier’s journey from France to England.

General L. J. Wyatt was put in charge of the selection of the body.

On 7 November 1920, in the St. Pol cathedral, Wyatt selected at random the general one to become the Unknown Soldier of the Great War from the bodies of British soldiers that were exhumed from Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres.

The chosen body was transferred to the pine coffin and, on 8 November, was sent to Boulogne.

After that two British undertaker placed the coffin inside a casket of English oak, in which there was an inscription: "A British Warrior who fell in the Great War 1914-1918 for King and Country”.

The body was placed on a French wagon drawn by six horses and did a mile - long cortège in the city.

On 10 November the body was travelled from Boulogne to Dover by a ship, the HMS Verdun.

Almost all the town’s shops had closed to allow they workers to witness the arrival of The Unknown Warrior.

After the ship’s arrival, the coffin was travelled to the train station.

And, after that, the train departed out of Dover to arrive at Victoria Station, in London.

In conclusion, The Unknown Warrior’s body was carried to Westminster to celebrate, on 11 November, his funeral. The Royal Family participated in the ceremony.

In the following week to the burial 1,2 million people visited Westminster Abbey.

Thanks to this history I am able to give a definition of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: it refers to a monument in dedication to the services of all soldiers killed in the Great War.

In all the documents that I analyzed the writers use a journalistic language to explain the facts in a simple and objective way. In fact the authors don’t write any personal opinion of the events.

However this way to communicate the facts doesn’t involve the reader to inform about other informations of the Unknown Warrior.

In conclusion, in my opinion, thanks to the articles that I analyzed I am able to say what is the Unknown Soldier and its function.

I think that the memory of the Unknown Soldier is a very important thing because all the soldiers didn’t fight only for themselves but for their family, their friends, their mates and all the other people and we must thank them for our liberty.