UNKNOWN SOLDIER - France

The Unknown Soldier is a dead soldier in a war whose body has not been identified, and it never be identified. His tomb is a symbolic burial representing all those who have died in a conflict and that have never been identified. Tombs of this type are generally place where the official ceremonies, the anniversary of the end of the war, are commemorated all those who died in that war. One of the oldest tombs of the Unknown Soldier is in France under the Arc de Triomphe and was made on the 11 November 1920 in honour of the unidentified dead of the First World War.

The idea of ​​the realization set off by a speech at the cemetery of Rennes on the 20 November 1916, François Simon, the president of the local branch of association founded in 1887 to preserve the memory of the dead of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 evokes the idea before " open the doors of the Pantheon in one of the dead fighters valiantly for their country and the army ".

After the armistice on the 11 November 1918, which put an end to the conflict in the Great War, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate unanimously it decided to accept the Panthéon the remains of an unidentified soldier. But associations of former soldiers prefer to be honored in the Arc de Triomphe.

Auguste Thin, a soldier second class of 132 th Infantry Regiment, was instructed to choose the Unknown Soldier. Eight bodies of unidentified soldiers , who served in the French army were unearthed in eight regions in which took place the bloodiest battles: in Flanders, in Artois, in Somme, in the Ile de France, in the Chemin des Dames, in Champagne ,in Verdun and Lorraine.

On the 9 November 1920, the eight oak coffins were transferred to the citadel of Verdun. On 10 November, Auguste Thin chose one of the eight coffins.

With the coffin military transport came under the Arc de Triomphe on the 11 November 1920, but only 28 January 1921 was buried.

Since on the 11 November 1923 under the Arc de Triomphe is an eternal flame was lit up again every day at 18:30 to remember the fallen of all wars.