**ANALYSIS OF THE PEOPLE’S PILGRIMAGE**

The text ‘the People’s Pilgrimage’ holds some relevant information and ideas about the relationship people had with the Unknown soldier. This text makes the intelligent reader understand the strong bond that united the English people with the Unknown soldier of a same nationality. The Unknown soldier is a dead soldier whose identity is unknown.

The English one was unearthed and chosen in France, transported to Victoria Station in London, following a great Pilgrimage to its last destination (Westminster Abbey).

Very accurately, the text conveys the global response that such a global war (WW1) had provoked. The text pays attention particularly to the numbers of people involved in the Pilgrimage. Right from the start, it is said that the streets were passed through by queues of people who paid their respects for the Unknown soldier, the man who gave his life for them. Expression like ‘huge’, ‘thousands and thousands’, ‘column’ underline the massive crowds of people who, with diligence, took part in that rite.

The Pilgrimage lasted for about 2 days (Friday, Saturday) but it continued also the following days, just to underline the importance that the Unknown soldier recovered for the people.

It goes without saying that those many people laid so many flowers, wreaths and bouquets in the area near the Cenotaph, that it became almost impossible to walk around. After two days there were about 100,000 wreaths over there!

This conveys the common national feeling that the Unknown soldier had brought: the text underlines the moral and affective aspects of the Pilgrimage. It indeed involved all the bands of the population: the more elderly, women, children, orphans, bereaved and not, even wounded men took part in the ceremony.

The text makes the reader understand of what great importance was to participate and people felt the need and the desire to be there. In some cases, people had to renounce because of the impossibility to reach the places of the Pilgrimage! In many others, people came from Scotland, Wales (very often they have never been in London).

But all of them were respectful, they wore in black and stayed in silence. This is very important because the colour black hints at a funeral – it was more like a special funeral, whose mourners are the whole English population -, thus the necessity to stay in silence for 2 minutes during the rite (one minute for the dead and one for the wounded). This argument makes the intelligent reader understand the meaning of the word ‘Pilgrimage’: although the soldier was no religious authority, the ceremony became something holy, on a higher level of importance.

Such great numbers of people were reached in a few days (1 million and half), crowds lengthened even if it rained, people continued to visit the Abbey also the following day; the traffic was to be stopped for a week to let space for this solemn ceremony.

So, in conclusion, the Unknown soldier Pilgrimage was the biggest of any time and it goes without saying that its realization came from the change of the mentality in the people of each European country: war was no more worshipped, it was denounced, thus the importance to celebrate its own Unknown dead soldier. People could finally mourn on someone who could be their son, father or relative.

But the events connected to the Unknown soldier were not only moral and religious: this Pilgrimage was another time exploited for political reasons: thus the diatribes between the American and the English Unknown soldier.