

# Homework for 09.02.2017

## ACTIVITY I

### The history of the unknown soldier

The purpose of the documents is to inform the reader about the events all around the history of the Unknown Soldier. The language used is formal, simple and free from any comment made by authors.

The ideal reader expects to get information about how the idea of the Unknown Soldier was born, its main events and its importance nowadays so the ideal reader must be one that is interested in the history of the First World War.

If it had not been for Reverent David Railton's discovery of a makeshift grave marked by a rough cross across which somebody had written (an unknown British soldier), probably no ritual about the Unknown soldier in Great Britain would have taken place.

David Railton, a Reverent who took part in WW1 in France, was pushed by the sensibility towards the people who lost their parents and friends at the front and proposed the idea of building a symbolic burial that could represent all the men who died in the first World War. His proposal was accepted by the Dean of Westminster, Ryle and encouraged by the Prime Minister Lloyd George.

One of six bodies with no name of dead soldiers found in France was chosen by the Brigadier Wyatt and then placed in a coffin; afterwards it was transported to England: escorted with some ships, it arrived at Dover when it received a 19-gun Field Marshal's salute.

Successively, the coffin arrived finally at London, passing through its roads and Whitehall- the site of the Cenotaph- up to the West part of the nave of Westminster Abbey, where it was definitely placed.

Its placement on 11 November 1920 was followed by lots of hymns and rituals, also with the presence of the King and his family.

On the grave an inscription was written: "A British Warrior Who Fell in the Great War 1914-1918 for King and Country. Greater Love Hath No Man Than This."

In the first weeks the Abbey was visited by a large number of people and became highly popular : the unknown soldier tomb's purpose was to represent and commemorate any British soldier fallen during the War and ease the pain of their living friends and parents. The unknown soldier's tomb became very important because it represented one of the first pacifist memorials that had been built in that time.

Indeed, till that period, only war memorials that glorified war were erected: their aim was to encourage the enrolment of many soldiers into an army. But after the Great War – a War that saw massive devastation and loss of life- people began to build pacifist memorials with the intent of denouncing war and commemorating the many fallen. The unknown soldier is an example and from these documents the intelligent reader can understand the importance that memorials and the unknown soldier's tomb have had because they represent an important part of our history.

The message the intelligent reader can understand reading the documents is that war is never a good way to establish a winner in a conflict because the only thing war can bring is death. So, they built a monument to remember to all the people the fear and the pain that forebears have suffered and to invite all the people to fight against the war.