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| **V WAR REPORT** |
| **CATEGORIES** | **QUOTES** | **MEANINGS** |
| Skills | * “explained frankly”
 | Thanks to the category of skills, the reporter highlights the seriousness and sense of duty of Italian soldiers. Indeed they are connoted only with adjectives that allow the reader to get a positive idea of the soldiers at the front. They fight for their homeland, in extreme conditions and carrying out actions that make them, according to R.Kipling, one of the best armies. This category is closely linked to the category of actions. |
| Actions | * “Always awaiting troops”,
* “Our men fought for a week – mostly without water”,
* “Labour battalions dealt with the stuff”,
* “Other gangs mended shell-holes with speed; the lorries do not like being checked”,
* “The population was up the hill digging and blasting”, “they do everything without noise”
* “down to the wayside muleteer, white with dust […] winking the ladder-like mountain”,
* “or the single sentry lying-out like a panther”
 | The narrator uses the category of actions to add value to Italian soldiers at the front. In fact, stating that they fought “without water”, which had to move to difficult and dangerous places for example at the top of the mountains, R.Kipling exalts Italian soldiers. Through this category, the narrator attributes to Italian soldiers a portrait of people who work hard and in difficult conditions for a common purpose and all this allows us to understand the mentality of the soldiers: endowed with tenacity and sense of duty. |
| Narrator’s point of view | * “I should not care to be an Austrian with the Boche behind me and the *exercitus Romanus* in front”
* “incredible labour”
 | From the reading of the war report it turns out a positive image about the Italian soldiers and about the Italian Army. In order to convey to the reader this, R. Kipling sometimes makes a comparison between Italian soldiers and soldiers belonging to another army. For example, he named the Italian Army “the *exercitus Romanus*”. Doing that he wanted to exalt the Italian soldiers in refers to their origins (Roman Empire).Another way to exalt the Italian soldiers was in refers to their labour on the Front (The Trentino Front in this chapter). Indeed R. Kipling uses lots of positive adjectives in order to underline the greatness of The Italian soldiers’ work. For example, the word “incredible” was an exaggeration with the function of emphasizing soldiers ‘work engagement in a difficult setting. |
| Sense of duty | * “a balanced and elastic system, served by passionate devotion, which saves and spares in the smallest details”
* “D’Annunzio's poetry that has literally helped to move mountains in this war”
* “his foot softly following its cadence”
 | The reporter, R. Kipling, uses the category “sense of duty” to characterize the Italian soldiers.In order to do this, the reporter reminds to Italian poets, for example D’Annunzio or Dante. The reader can connote, by the category “sense of duty”, Italian soldiers’ values: they always work hard and honour their task. |
| Origins | * “the natural temperateness and open-air existence of the people”
* “when one looks at the faces of their generals, chiselled out by war to the very cameos of their ancestor under the Roman eagles, one inclines to the second”
 | The reporter, R. Kipling, characterized the Italian soldiers using the category of “origin”. In order to do this, he reminds to the “Roman eagles”, the Roman Empire. In this way, R. Kipling ennobles the soldiers and underlines their values, as determination, temperance, and nobility. |
| Comparison between other nations | * “Italy, too, has a larger number than most countries of men returned from money-getting in the western republics, who have settled down at home again”
* “like the French, they are logical and face facts to the end”
 | The first quote compares the return home of Italians abroad with the one of other people in their countries. From this comparison, the intelligent reader understands Italians are very patriotic according to R. Kipling. Indirectly, he also asserts in Italy there are few opportunities to make money compared to other nations. From the second quote, the intelligent reader understands R. Kipling considers Italians to be logical and persevering in their intentions, like the French. |
| Setting | * Mist wrapped the plateau we were climbing. The mountains had changed into rounded, almost barrel- shaped heights, steep above dry valleys. The roads were many and new, but the lorries held their pace […]
* […] Scotch moors, red uplands, scarred with trenches and punched with shell-holes, a confusion of hills without colour and, in the mist, without shape, rose and dropped behind us. They hid the troops in their folds - always awaiting troops - and the trenches multiplied themselves high and low on their sides.
 | The setting is characterized as a Romance picture. Indeed, the presence of “mist” conveys to the reader a sort of sense of mystery. The idea is reinforced when the narrator writes that the mist removes colour and shape from the hills. In addition, the use of word “confusion” makes clear in reader mind the difficulty of orienting oneself in such a setting. |

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