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| **V WAR REPORT** |
| **CATEGORIES** | **QUOTES** | **MEANINGS** |
| Skills | * “explained frankly”
 | The reporter highlights the seriousness and sense of duty of Italian soldiers. Indeed, they are connoted only with positive adjectives. They fight for their homeland, in extreme conditions and carrying out actions that according to R. Kipling make them one of the best armies. Their positive attitude is closely linked to the actions they perform. |
| 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 tells about their actions thus adding value to their activities at the front. He states they fought “without water” and moved to hard and dangerous places like the top of the mountains. Therefore, R. Kipling exalts Italian soldiers and portrays Italian soldiers like hardworking people willing to face whatever conditions for a common and shared purpose. All that consider one can understand how Italian soldiers are endowed with strenuous 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”
 | The war report provides a definite positive image of the Italian soldiers and the Italian Army. In order to convey such idea, R. Kipling also resorts to a comparison between Italian soldiers and soldiers belonging to other armies. For example, he named the Italian Army “the *exercitus Romanus*”. He exalts the Italian soldiers relating them with the ones of the Roman Empire.An additional means to exalt them is his reference to their labour at the Front (The Trentino Front in this chapter). Indeed R. Kipling uses plenty positive adjectives to underline the greatness of the Italian soldiers’ work. For example, he uses the word “incredible” with to emphasise the soldiers engagement and determination despite the difficult setting they have to face every day. |
| 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”
 | R. Kipling also highlights the “sense of duty” to characterise the Italian soldiers.In order to do this, the reporter reminds Italian poets like G. D’Annunzio or Dante. It follows that the reader can recognise their “sense of duty” and therefore ideals and values. Indeed, 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”
 | R. Kipling, characterized the Italian soldiers also referring to their “origin”. In order to do this, he reminds the “Roman eagles” of the Roman Empire thus magnifying their tasks and underlining their 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 Italian soldiers ‘return to their homes with the ones of other people in their countries. From the comparison, one can understand Italian soldiers are really perceived as patriotic. Indirectly, R. Kipling is also convinced in Italy there are few opportunities to make money when you compare them to the ones of other nations. From the second quote, the intelligent reader also understands R. Kipling considers Italians to have rational and persevering 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. To tell the truth, the presence of “mist” conveys a so sense of mystery to the scene. The idea is reinforced when the narrator adds the mist removes colour and shape from the hills. In addition, the choice of the word “confusion” makes the difficulty of finding a direction in such a setting clear and straightforward. |

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