**La Grande Guerra a piedi**

**“La Grande guerra a piedi” is a report written by Nicolò Giraldi and published in 2004.**

**It shows his trip on walk through the lands which were the areas interested into the first great war: the First World War. The places explored by Giraldi go from London to Trieste. In particular he crossed seven European countries during two months: from May to July. He decided to complete such trip alone, with few things with him to better live his experience; to meet people who are still and indirectly getting in touch with war testimonies and to bring alive the memory of his grand-grandfather. His one, of the same name, was an Austro-Hungarian infantryman which was send from Pola to the Eastern front (in particular in “Galizia”) and then he was imprisoned by Cossack.**

**He walked from the Charing Cross station of London to the harbour of the ex-Austro-Hungarian empire of Trieste, walking through Thomas Beckett’s grave at Canterbury Hills; he crossed the English Channel, the Flanders, the Somme and Verdun woods in France. Then he walk through the Bavaria in southern Germany, the Tyrol, the Dolomites and the Carnial Alps, arriving at Caporetto, at Isonzo, at Carso. He also used the website** [couchsurfing.com](http://couchsurfing.com/) to find all the accommodation he needed during his trip.

Furthermore, what inspired Nicolò Giraldi to do the trip was a lecture of an English writer and traveller: Patrick Leigh Fermor. So he built his path with the intention not to commemorate soldiers died on trenches and generally during the conflict because, as he said, ther is nothing to commemorate; but to live in a way or another, the First Warld War experience.

**Important to notice and remember Paolo Rumiz’s quotation: "In his trip between two eras, Giraldi performs the only possible choice: he evokes people died instead to commemorate. He calls into question all the slain, and he tries to talk to them. He goes beyond a book of history. He strives to hear first to understand. His boots become those of his grand-grandfather, and so the mud, rain, thirst, the food that contains the flavor of all the places."**

**These last words are the same that can summarize Giraldi’s experience or better are the ones that what he understood from his experience: walking through seven nations, the nations of the conflict, from L0ondon to Trieste is a way to taste calmly the significance war have had and has nowadays. Another aspect which astonish Giraldi, was the absence of graveyards which effectively “contain” soldiers bodies: anyway he visited many “military cemetery” in which there are a lot of white crosses in memory of them. In addition he “met” big monuments that symbolize war heroes.**

**The intelligent reader can make a comparative analysis: Giraldi doesn’t want to commemorate as Carol Anne Duffy doesn’t but they don’t in a different level. Anyway both want to criticize war: Giraldi does looking and reflecting on what one can see now ( take as an example the National Children Football Aliance); Duffy does considering the past also going to a veteran of the First World War and remembering the two ones who died recently.**

Considering the poem and its analysis, the reader can identify five key-words for war: mud, graveyards, memories, hunger, truce.