

Ingleby Cross War Memorial – south face inscription

TELL ENGLAND YE WHO MARK THIS
MONUMENT
FAITHFUL TO THE END WE REST
CONTENT

Several similar versions can be found on war memorials in England and in France but an exact match has not yet been identified.

The inspiration for the words may have come from the following book:

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tell_England)

Tell England: A Study in a Generation is a novel written by Ernest Raymond and published in February 1922 in the United Kingdom about the First World War and the young men sent to fight in it.

The book's name might be inspired by the famous epitaph to King Leonidas and his men, erected at Thermopylae: **Go, tell the Spartans, stranger passing by/ That here, obedient to their laws, we lie.**

The name comes from a poem that is inscribed on the grave of one of Edgar and Ray's friends, and is presumably also inscribed on Edgar Doe's, given that he asked Ray to do so. The quote reads: **"Tell England, ye who pass this monument, We died for her, and here we rest content."**

Examples of words on other war memorials:

(Source: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=75024>)

Posted 09 May 2007 - 07:59 AM

The following inscription appears among others in the WWI Memorial Hall at Liverpool's Town Hall: **"TELL ENGLAND THAT WE DIED FOR HER AND HERE WE REST CONTENT"**

I thought this must be a quotation and looked for its source. This led to a curious tale. Ernest Raymond, an English novelist who died in 1974, included in his "Tell England" (1922) a passage where some schoolboys visited Gallipoli and found this epitaph on the grave of British officers. James Morris, in his book "Farewell the Trumpets", wrote of his travels in South Africa and of finding at Waggon Hill Cemetery near Ladysmith a similar inscription on a memorial to the Boer War: **"TELL ENGLAND, YE WHO PASS THIS MONUMENT WE, WHO DIED SERVING HER, REST HERE CONTENT."**

Both inscriptions are echoes of words by a Greek poet Simonides (who died in 468 BC) who praised the Spartans killed at Thermopylae, translated by Mackail for the Penguin Dictionary of Quotations

as:

**GO, TELL THE SPARTANS, THOU WHO PASSEST BY,
THAT HERE OBEDIENT TO THEIR LAWS WE LIE.**

The elaborate WWI memorial in Lord Street, Southport, has a different version of the lines:

**"TELL BRITAIN, YE WHO MARK THIS MONUMENT,
FAITHFUL TO HER WE FELL, AND REST CONTENT."**

Two questions: can anyone identify the monument or grave in the Dardanelles where Raymond may have picked up this epitaph? Are there any other versions of the source?

Daggers

Posted 10 May 2007 - 06:30 PM

Daggers,
A slight variation.

George Musgove Cartmel - Lieutenant 205th Sqdn. Killed 6th April 1918. Millencourt Communal Cemetery, Somme.

All ye that pass this way tell England that he who lieth here rests content.

I have a picture but unfortunately pre-digital. The lad was 19, I've often wondered how content he'd have actually been.

Regards,
Spud

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Tyson_Smith)

Extracts:

The War Memorial at Southport

The wording on the south face of the northern colonnade reads:

"TELL BRITAIN YE WHO MARK THIS MONUMENT"

That on the north face of the southern colonnade reads

"FAITHFUL TO HER WE FELL AND REST CONTENT"