



**We rest here content**

**The monuments and headstones of the  
Imperial Light Horse Regiment**

Compiled by Robin Smith

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We Rest Here Content



**FOREWORD**

*We Rest Here Content* is not the history of the Imperial Light Horse Regiment — that was written by the regiment's Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant George Fleming Gibson and published in 1937 as *The Story of the Imperial Light Horse in the South African War 1899-1902*. Gibson was one of the original members of the 1st LLH, and was present at many of their engagements. There seems to have been some kind of exclusivity to membership of the 1st LLH, for he makes no mention at all of the 2nd Regiment! *The Story of the Imperial Light Horse* is written largely with first-person accounts and covers all the engagements of the 1st LLH, and more.

*We Rest Here Content* approaches the subject of the LLH from a different viewpoint. Gibson reproduced the report of C. EB, Secretary of the Imperial Light Horse Memorial Committee, which lists the memorials and headstones that were erected in all four of the old provinces of the Union of South Africa from 1903-05. We, that is, myself and Robin Smith who has compiled and edited all the material, set out some years ago to establish the whereabouts of all of these. Each and every one that still exists has been located and photographed.

Some narrative is necessary and the Light Horse Regiment is in possession of an unpublished manuscript which has been edited and presented here exactly as it was originally written. The author is unknown but was clearly an Australian for there were many Australians in the two regiments. When once our book is published we hope that the identity of the author will come to light. His principal source was the Kari-Davies Papers in the archive of Museum Africa in Johannesburg. We freely acknowledge that this account is deserving of publication.

*We Rest Here Content* has been some years in preparation. I have few reservations in endorsing it as a worthwhile addition to our store of knowledge about the Imperial Light Horse Regiment.

Under the Crossed flags,

Heinrich E. Janzen (Lt Col)  
Officer Commanding — Light Horse Regiment

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We Rest Here Content

**The Epitaph**

"Tell England, ye who pass this monument,  
We, who died serving her, rest here content."



This inscription has evolved from the original Greek text in Herodotus. Simonides, a Greek lyric poet, composed a well-known epigram, which was engraved as an epitaph on a commemorative stone placed on top of the burial mound of the Spartans at Thermopylae. According to Herodotus, the historian of the Greco-Persian wars, 300 Spartans died defending the pass at Thermopylae against overwhelming odds. The epigram was a message to the Spartans from their king, Leonidas, who was killed in the battle. The translation according to William Lyle Bowles reads:

Go tell the Spartans, thou who passest by,  
That here, obedient to their laws, we lie.

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