



‘When You See Millions of the Mouthless Dead’ by Charles Hamilton Sorley

When you see millions of the mouthless dead
 Across your dreams in pale battalions go,
 Say not soft things as other men have said,
 That you’ll remember. For you need not so.
 Give them not praise. For, deaf, how should
 they know
 It is not curses heaped on each gashed head?
 Not tears. Their blind eyes see not your tears
 flow.
 Nor honour. It is easy to be dead.
 Say only this, ‘They are dead.’ Then add
 thereto,
 ‘Yet many a better one has died before.’
 Then, scanning all the o’ercrowded mass,
 should you
 Perceive one face that you loved heretofore,
 It is a spook. None wears the face you knew.
 Great death has made all his for evermore.

‘Nameless Men’ by Edward Shillito

Around me, when I wake or sleep,
 Men strage to me their vigils keep;
 And some were boys but yesterday,
 Upon the village green at play.
 Their faces I shall never know;
 Like sentinels they come and go.
 In grateful love I bow the knee
 For nameless men who die for me.

There is in earth or heaven no room
 Where I may flee this dreadful doom.
 For ever it is understood
 I am a man redeemed by blood.
 I must walk softly all my days
 Down on my redeemed and solemn ways.
 Christ, take the men I bring to Thee,
 The men who watch and die for me.

I chose these poems and this picture because in that cemetery, the Canadian War Cemetery, only 636 of 1731 soldiers could be identified. Both of the poems have titles that give the idea of men without a name and a voice. I also chose this picture because the poem called ‘When you see millions of the mouthless dead’ gives such a strong image of many soldiers dead and that picture shows a great amount of graves, which are mostly nameless. I felt that the cemetery and the town of Ieper honours the soldiers, for example in the cemetery there was a big stone that said ‘Their Name Liveth For Evermore’, which strongly honours the soldiers that died for their country and especially the ones who could not be identified and the ones who were not found.