

**A PRISON
CHAPLAIN
ON DARTMOOR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649201709

A prison chaplain on Dartmoor by Clifford Rickards

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CLIFFORD RICKARDS

**A PRISON
CHAPLAIN
ON DARTMOOR**

THE
MIND
AND
MORALS



THE CHAIN ROOM, DARTMOOR PRISON

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

A PRISON CHAPLAIN ON DARTMOOR

BY
THE REV. CLIFFORD RICKARDS, B.A.

WITH FRONTISPIECE.

LONDON:
EDWARD ARNOLD.
1920
(All rights reserved)

70 .VIMU
AMBOHIAO

IA664
I3 R5

C. R. A.

PREFACE.

IN writing the following reminiscences of my twenty-five years' experiences in the Prison on Dartmoor I have had two objects in view: first, to interest my readers and excite their sympathy for a class of men who, although they are criminals, are not without their good points, as some of them have recently shown by their conduct in the late war. I was talking lately to an officer who was engaged in much of the heaviest fighting, and he told me that he had two ex-convicts in his company who were conspicuous by their bravery and readiness to volunteer for any dangerous duty. My second object is my own pleasure in recalling and transcribing the various incidents which, although now ancient history, are still vivid and interesting to me, as I hope the reading of them may be to others. They are all at least true, and if there are no revelations of secrets hidden behind prison walls it is simply because no such secrets exist, or if they do they are unknown to me.

For twenty-five years, day by day, and often all day long, I was in and out of the prison, in

closest contact with warders and prisoners, and only on two or three occasions did I witness anything that called for interference. Sometimes the tact and good temper of the warders under most trying and provocative circumstances was surprising ; but let the men speak for themselves in the following pages.

A very learned lawyer, on leaving the Law Courts, used to say, " That poor wretch who has just been sentenced might have been a better man than I if he had had my opportunities ; " or, as our great poet writes, " If we all had our deserts, who would escape the whipping ? "

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. FIRST IMPRESSIONS - - -	9
II. THE PRISON OF LONG AGO - - -	31
III. VISITORS—THE DAILY ROUND - - -	40
IV. NOTABLE PRISONERS - - -	65
V. DISCHARGES—HOSPITAL—CHAPEL SERVICES - - -	100
VI. ESCAPES - - - -	157
VII. PUNISHMENTS - - - -	198
VIII. PRISON LIFE—THE PRISON FARM - - -	212
IX. EX CONVICTS - - - -	223
X. A MIDNIGHT ADVENTURE - - -	228

