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Old Jack's Ghost Stories from England (2) sample  
NOT FOR SALE

## **OLD JACK'S GHOST STORIES FROM ENGLAND (2)**

Level 3- A2/B1 Intermediate (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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Old Jack's Ghost Stories from England (2)

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### Who is Old Jack?

Old Jack lives in the north of England. He is an old man now. He likes strange stories. He spends his days reading his books and visiting old places around the UK and Ireland. He likes to go to places where he can hear mysterious stories. He also likes to go to places with ghosts.

When Old Jack goes out, he sits quietly on buses, trains and in cafes. He listens to people talking. Sometimes, he hears some very interesting and unusual stories.

If you go to an old town in the north of England, and you see an old man, sitting very quietly and thinking very deeply, remember, this might be Old Jack. He will listen very carefully to your stories, but you won't know that he is listening. You will just think he is an old man sitting alone at the next table in the café or the pub. When he goes home, he will write the stories he has heard in his special ghost story book.

This is Old Jack's second book of ghost stories from England. It has six stories. Old Jack will tell you the six stories in his own words. He hopes you enjoy his mysterious stories, and he hopes that, if you visit England, you will go to some of the places in the stories, and return home with some interesting stories to tell your family and friends.

### 1. The Roman Soldier

#### Place: Chester, Cheshire

My first story is from the city of Chester, in North West England. Chester is a very old city. The Romans established it 2000 years ago. They called it *Deva*. The Romans built large walls around the city to protect it. The walls are still there.

I often go to Chester. I like to walk around the narrow city streets and sit in the very old pubs. I can hear many stories in these pubs. Of course, many of the pubs have ghosts.

Today, many tourists visit Chester. They like to walk around the old streets and along the river. They also like to walk along the old Roman walls. In the warm summer months, some tour guides in Chester wear Roman soldiers' uniforms. Tourists enjoy tours with these guides.

Now, let's go back nearly 2000 years. At that time, these walls were very new and strong. Roman soldiers guarded these walls all day and all night. An officer and seven soldiers lived in one of the guard towers. They had to protect a section of the wall.

The officer said to his men, "I will guard the wall during the early morning hours, when the night is at its blackest. You can all go to sleep."

So, in the early morning hours, the soldiers slept. They thought the officer was guarding the wall, but the officer was NOT guarding the wall...

While his men were sleeping, the officer left the wall to visit a local girl. So there was no one guarding the wall. The officer was with a girl, and the soldiers were sleeping in the guard tower.

One night, the local villagers made a plan.

It was a dark night. The villagers waited. They saw the officer walk out of the guard tower and down the steps. They watched him leave the wall. They waited a little longer. They heard snoring. Yes! The soldiers were all asleep!

Very quietly and carefully, they climbed the wall. They looked into the guard tower. All the soldiers were sleeping.

One of the villagers looked at the other villagers.

"Now! Kill them all!" he said.

The villagers killed all the sleeping soldiers. They took their armour and weapons, and ran away into the night.

A few hours later, the officer returned to the wall. He walked up the steps.

*That's strange, he thought. I can't hear any snoring.*

He opened the door of the guard tower. He saw blood everywhere.

"My men! My soldiers! They are dead! They are dead!" he cried. "It's my fault! It's all my fault! I should not have left them!"

The officer was so upset, that he took out his sword, put it against his stomach and fell onto it, killing himself...

So now, let's return to today... It is a cold winter's night, and the moon is bright in the sky...

-----END OF SAMPLE-----