

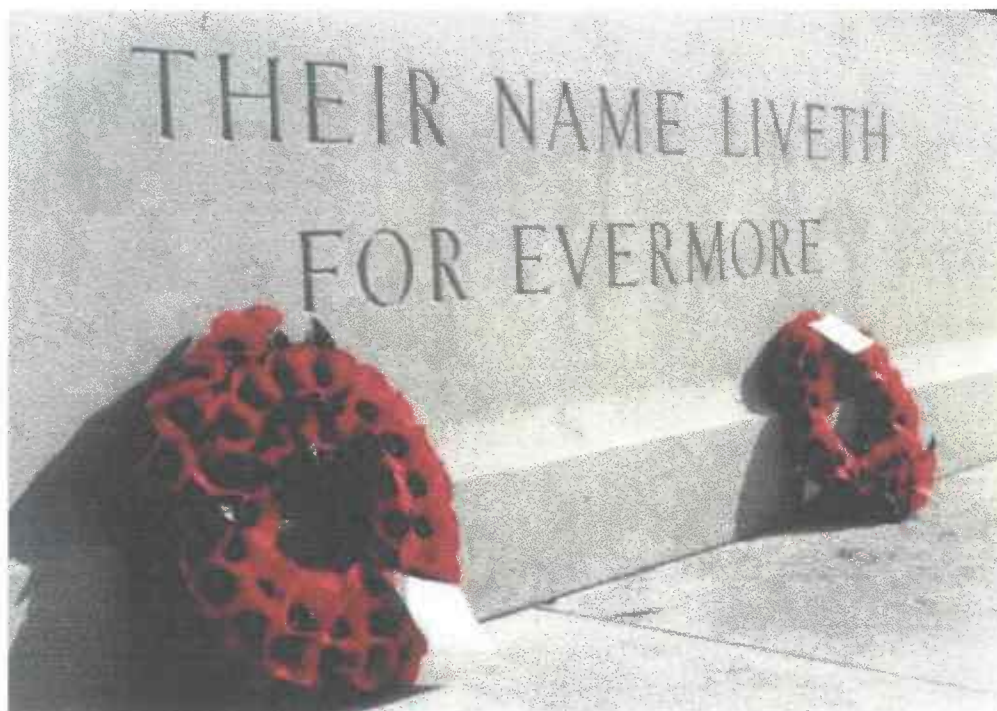


In Memory of

Private L GENERY

*6th Bn., Somerset Light Infantry
who died on Thursday, 21st March 1918.*

*Remembered with honour
ST. SOUplet BRITISH CEMETERY, Nord, France.*



*In the perpetual care of
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

In Memory of**L GENERY****Private****8324****6th Bn., Somerset Light Infantry****who died on****Thursday, 21st March 1918.****Commemorative Information****Cemetery:**

ST. SOUPLET BRITISH CEMETERY, Nord, France

**Grave Reference/
Panel Number:**

III. B. 14.

Location:

St Souplet is a village about 6 kilometres south of Le Cateau, which is a small town approximately 20 kilometres south-east of Cambrai. St Souplet British Cemetery lies to the south-west of the village after the village of St. Benin.

**Historical
Information:**

St. Souplet village was captured by the American 30th Division on the 10th October, 1918. The American troops made a cemetery of 371 American and seven British graves on the South-West side of the village, on the road to Vaux-Andigny; and a smaller British cemetery was made alongside. The American graves were removed after the Armistice, one being taken to the British cemetery with the seven British graves; and other British graves were brought in from other burial grounds and from the battlefields. There are now nearly 750, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, one-fifth are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 55 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves could not be found. The cemetery covers an area of 2,504 square metres and is enclosed by a stone rubble wall. The following are brief particulars (including the numbers of British graves and their dates) of some of the cemeteries from which British graves were brought to St. Souplet: BOHAIN BRITISH CEMETERY (34, and one American and eleven German, Oct.-Nov. 1918), at the South-East end of the village, behind the Hotel Dieu. Bohain was taken by the 6th Division 9th Oct., 1918. CREVECOEUR-SUR-L'ESCAUT CHURCHYARD (8, and one Italian, 1917-18, all buried by the enemy). ESTREES COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (Aisne) (6, March, 1918). FESMY CHURCHYARD (18, 1914 and 1918, all buried by the enemy). Fesmy was defeated by the 2nd Munsters Aug., 1914, and captured by the 1st Northants Nov., 1918. LANCHY CHURCHYARD FRENCH MILITARY EXTENSION (3, March, 1918). L'EPINE-DE-DALLON MILITARY CEMETERY (or ST. QUENTIN-ROUPY ROAD GERMAN CEMETERY). MAROILLES COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (6, Nov., 1918, and Nov., 1919, all buried by British). MONTBREHAIN COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (6, 1917-18) NOYELLES-SUR-L'ESCAUT GERMAN CEMETERY (10, May-Sept., 1917), close to the Communal Cemetery. OISY CHURCHYARD (one, Aug., 1914) ORIGNY-STE. BENOITE GERMAN CEMETERY (23, March-April, 1918), a permanent cemetery at the South-East end of the village. OVILLERS OLD

COMMUNAL CEMETERY, SOLESMES (30, Oct. Nov., 1918, buried by the 38th Division in the North-East corner). PREMONT COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (22, 1917-18). ST. MARTIN MILITARY CEMETERY, ST. QUENTIN (134), a great permanent cemetery of over 8,000 graves on the West side of the city, begun in 1914 and extended after the Armistice. ST. SOUPLET COMMUNAL CEMETERY (10, 1917-18). SAULZOIR COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION (one, Nov., 1917, and 33 buried by the 4th Division Oct.-Nov., 1918). SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (7, 1918; two buried by Germans and five by British). TROISVILLES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION (18, Oct., 1918), made by British troops. URVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY (14 of 14th (Light) Division, March, 1918), a large Franco-German cemetery North of the village. Urvillers was the scene of fighting in Aug., 1914 and March, 1918.

Display Record of Commemoration

No. 8324, Pte. LEONARD GENERY

Leonard Genery was a son of Benjamin and Ada Genery, born in Weeley, Essex, in 1890. One of five brothers, who served in the First World War. The Genery family were living near Sawyers Farm in 1918.

Leonard enlisted into the army in London, giving his residence as Ardleigh, Essex. He served in the Somerset Light Infantry with the service No. 8324, (his brother Benjamin, who also died, had the No. 8325).

The 6th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry was formed at Taunton, Somerset in August 1914, as part of K1. The 6th Battalion was part of the 43rd Brigade, 14th (Light) Division. The Division was deemed fit for overseas service and sent to France on 21st May 1915, although the lack of infantry and artillery ammunition stopped them from going to the front for a while.

The 14th division took part in the spring and summer actions in and around Hooze, 1915, this was the first time that the Germans used flamethrowers against British Troops. The Division saw action in most of the major battles of the war including the Somme 1916, the Arras offensive, 3rd Ypres (Passchendaele) and 1st Somme 1918.

The 6th Somersets were in the front line along with the 8th and 9th Battalions, Kings Royal Rifle Corps. They were holding a front about 2.5 miles long on the morning of 21st March 1918. There was a thick fog and after the enemy artillery barrage, the Germans attacked with a force out-numbering the British troops 4 to 1, and most of the front line was overwhelmed by 9am, with the whole forward zone overwhelmed by noon. Most of the troops were killed by the barrage, or the attacking Germans, with a good number taken prisoner in the fog.

It was on the 21st March 1918 that Leonard was killed in action and was buried in St. Souplet British Cemetery, France, grave No. III.B.14

Leonard was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War and Victory medals.

