

Henry L Leaman

498299 Sapper Royal Engineers  
1<sup>st</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> S.M. Field Company

Born 1886 Dawlish



Fourth child of William T and Ellen Leaman of Gas Works, Dawlish. William was born in Plymouth and Mary in Marychurch, Torquay. Sisters Louisa E, Mary E and Evelyn M.

Brothers Chas EJ, Stephen, and Alfred

1891 The family lived at the Gas Works, Dawlish, where William was a stoker  
Lived in Bristol

1901 Family still same address. Henry, 15, is a Groom domestic.  
Stephen, 14, is a Grocers errand boy.

1909 Henry married to Blanche Irene Jefferies (born Bedminster, Bristol)

1911 Henry works as Railway Engine Stoker with G.W.R.  
They have a 10month old daughter Hilda Blanche.  
Address: 10 Gooden Street, Knowle, Bristol

Enlisted: Bristol

Died 21 December 1916, age 30. Died of wounds. France/Flanders

Victory medal



British medal



Buried: Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension K.15

Aveluy is a village in the Department of the Somme, immediately north of Albert. Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension contains 613 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 26 of the burials are unidentified and three graves, the exact locations of which could not be found, are represented by special memorials. The extension was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.



## COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

Army Form W. 3372.

## GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Third Area Serial, No. W/ 780  
REPORT No. I.

SCHEDULE No.

IS-0.36.c

COMMUNE: - AVELUY

PLACE OF BURIAL AVELUY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION

Map Reference 57D.W.I7.a.3.5.

This Cancels Report I Schedule IC. -25C AND 1/51

The following are buried here:— Third A.S. No 4200-4224.

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<del>Plot I Row K.</del> (Cont'd)						
I/6 Gordon Hrgs	<i>late</i> 265681 10991	✓ MCGREGOR ✓	Pte. J.M.	22-12-16	E	Gr. I4 ✓
I/3 Fld.Co.S.M.R.E.	4341	✓ DOMAN ✓	Spr. F.	21-12-16	Gru } ✓	I5 ✓
-Do-	3477	✓ LEAMAN ✓	Spr. H.	-Do-	Gru } ✓	I5 ✓

**Preparation for the Battle of Arras 1917**

From October 1916 the Royal Engineers had been working underground, constructing tunnels for the troops in preparation for the Battle of Arras in 1917. Beneath Arras itself there is a vast network of caverns called the boves, consisting of underground quarries and sewage tunnels. The engineers came up with a plan to add new tunnels to this network so that troops could arrive at the battlefield in secrecy and in safety. The size of the excavation was immense. In one sector alone four Tunnel Companies of 500 men each worked around the clock in 18-hour shifts for two months.