



### **DOYLE Leroy A.**

Private, Co M, 106th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division

KIA 2 September 1918

Wall of Missing

Army Serial Number 1209017



Leroy Alonzo Doyle was born in Cementon, NY on 22 November 1898. The city was named after a large cement factory which provided work for the majority of its inhabitants. Leroy's parents Simon Doyle (a veteran of the Civil War) and Anna Miller were married when Anna was only fifteen years of age. The family had thirteen children of which at least four boys and one girl died very young. Anna also had a miscarriage when she was struck by lightning. At the time she died, only 4 children were still alive. Leroy was the eleventh in row. On the family photo, Leroy is the baby sitting on his mother's lap.



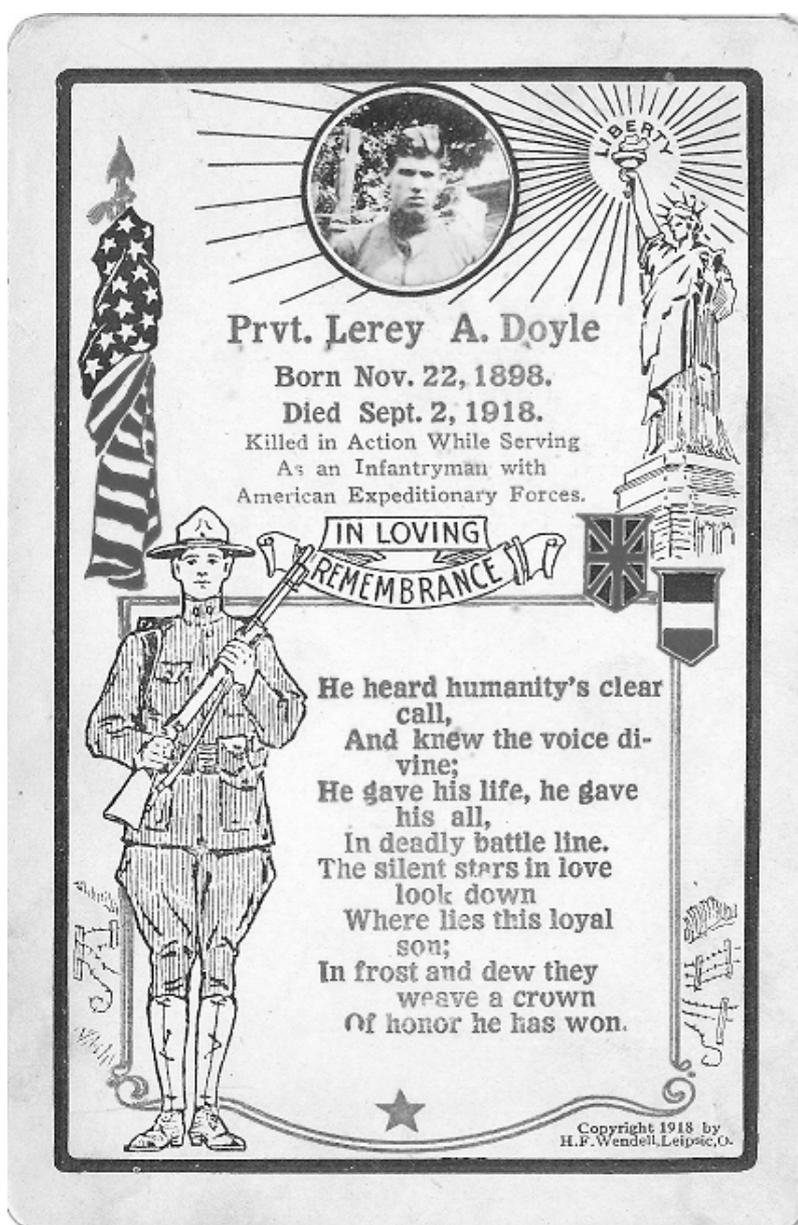
Leroy enlisted with the *New York National Guard (10th Infantry Regiment)* in Catskill on 8 May 1917 and with the establishment of the *27th Division* was assigned to the *106th Infantry Regiment*. Training and transfer to Europe were without problems.

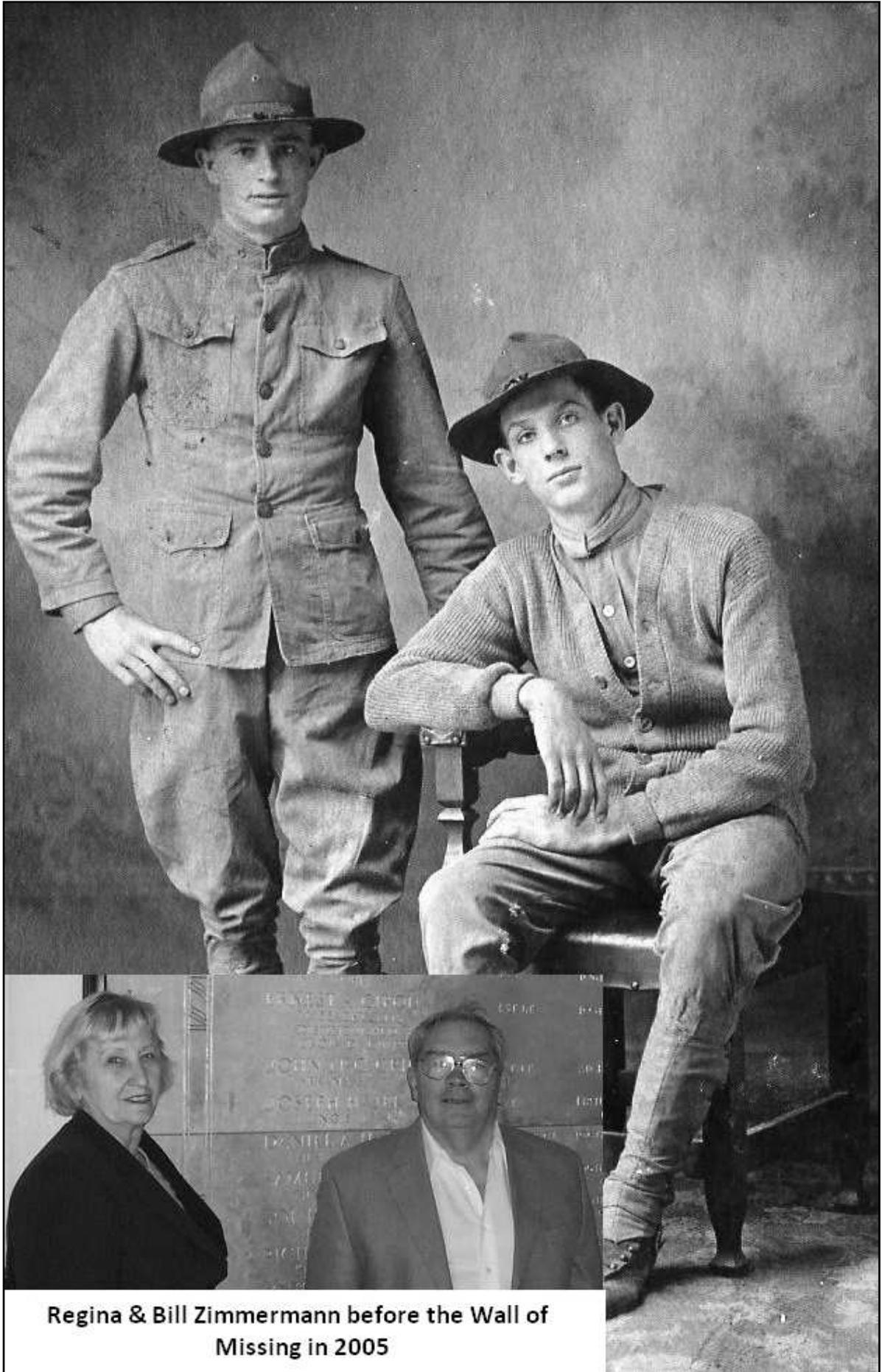
His nephew Clarence Gardner (photo with insert), with whom he had grown up and joined the service together, was with Leroy at the time that he was mortally wounded. This happened just a few hundred meters from where the monument, dedicated to the 27th and 30th Division, now stands. Clarence was also wounded (machine gun fire) and had suffered from gas. It was thought that he was also killed in action as they found both his identity tags. Simon en Anna, who had raised Clarence, received a letter from a nurse that Clarence was alive and being treated in a hospital. Some time later they received an official government telegram, apparently unaware of his hospitalization, indicating that he had been killed in action.

A *Graves Registration* document found in the burial file of Clement Yates indicated that three men of *Company M* were listed as missing. Two had been killed in France on 29 September, one on 2 September. At that time the Division was still in Belgium. There was only one unknown from Company M who was buried at *Lyssenthoek Military Cemetery*. Why the link wasn't laid with Leroy remains a mystery as all the information found was on one and the same document. It also appears that in 1919, many researchers didn't know that France and Belgium were different countries (as on some documents Belgium was indicated as a department of France) nor did they compare files to check on possible similarities. If they had, they would have discovered that Leroy was buried at *Lyssenthoek* in XXXII.C.XXX. That is why he is one of the missing now buried with a marker "Known But to God". We can even assume that he is one of the four unknowns in row 4 of Plot A between Clement Yates and William Doherty.

He is also remembered on the *WW1 Memorial* in Catskill. He was only 19 and so one of the youngest soldiers buried at Flanders Field.

Clarence returned home where in January 1918 a little girl had been born. Leroy's mother waited for Clarence as she preferred him to give a name. The girl was named Helen. In 2005, Helen's daughter, Regina Zimmermann and her husband Bill visited *Flanders Field Cemetery* and the vicinity around Ypres where Leroy had been killed. Upon their return they sent an application to the authorities in New York to obtain the New York Medal, an award that Leroy should have received posthumously after the war. This was presented to them by the Senator of New York. However they were unable to obtain the Victory Medal.





**Regina & Bill Zimmermann before the Wall of Missing in 2005**