

La Medaille Commemorative des Batailles de la Somme 1914-18 et 1940



An unofficial French Commemorative Medal awarded to veterans of the Battle of the Somme who became members of the Ceux de la Somme Association located in Peronne. The criteria for award of the medal was membership of the Association and proof of service the veteran had seen service on the Somme. It became available during the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in 1954.

The medal is made from bronze with a silk ribbon. The ribbon is yellow with a central blue stripe. The medal has the bronze assay mark of the Paris mint on the edge and the signature of M Delannoy.

The obverse has two soldiers from antiquity facing right with their cloaks flowing behind them and a shield in one hand and a javelin in the other. There is a French cockerel on the first shield and the British lion on the second, at the top there is a figure lying down with a water jar above them, symbolising the River Somme. It is inscribed "BATAILLES DE LA SOMME JVILLET-NOVEMBRE MCMXVI" (*Battles of the Somme July-November 1916*).

The reverse is a simple inscription "COMBATTANTS DE LA SOMME 1914-18-1940" translating as Combatants of the Somme 1914-1918-1940.

Only those who were able to prove that they had been physically present and had participated in any of the battles that occurred in the Somme region from 1914 to 1918 were allowed into the association. Membership was extended to those who had opposed the German invasion of the Somme region in 1940.