

## **Private Samuel Edward Tanser**

**Regimental number: 203553**

**1<sup>st</sup> Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment**

**born: 1898 - died: 11 July 1918**

Private Samuel Edward Tanser, born in the summer or autumn of 1898<sup>1</sup> in South Kibworth, Leicestershire,<sup>2</sup> was the son of William and Sarah Tanser.<sup>3</sup> His father, William Henry Tanser, was born in about 1873 in South Kibworth, the son of Edward and Emily Tanser.<sup>4</sup> His mother, the former Sarah Jane Garner, was born in about 1866 also in South Kibworth,<sup>5</sup> the daughter of William and Ruth Garner of South Kibworth.<sup>6</sup> William and Sarah were married in about 1895 near Lutterworth, Leicestershire<sup>7</sup> and had four children: Evelyn Jane (born in 1896),<sup>8</sup> Samuel Edward, Elsie Emily (born in 1901)<sup>9</sup> and Frances E. (born in 1913).<sup>10</sup>

In 1901, his father was a groom and gardener living on Welford Road, South Kibworth, next door to Sarah's uncle, Samuel<sup>11</sup> – the younger brother of Sarah's father.<sup>12</sup> By 1911, his father was a cowman on a farm in South Kibworth and Samuel was in school.<sup>13</sup> His eldest sister, Evelyn, was working as a live-in domestic servant for a local farmer.<sup>14</sup>

Samuel was still living in South Kibworth when he enlisted in the Leicestershire Regiment in Rugby, Warwickshire.<sup>15</sup> At the outbreak of the war, there were two Battalions in the Leicestershire Regiment. By the end of the war, the Regiment had expanded to nineteen Battalions.<sup>16</sup> Samuel served in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Battalions.<sup>17</sup> When he died, he was with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion.<sup>18</sup>

On 11 July 1918, he was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to his abdomen.<sup>19</sup> While 11 July had been a quiet day for his unit, the previous evening there had been a thirty-minute barrage of German light shells on the front line, with direct hits on the trenches, which had killed one non-commissioned officer and one Other Rank and wounded five others.<sup>20</sup> Perhaps Samuel was one of these. He died at the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS the day that he was admitted and was buried the same day – just months before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>21</sup> The chaplain J. K. Tibbitts presided over his burial in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row E, Grave 19). Samuel was a member of the Church of England. Since no next-of-kin was identified, the chaplain notified, by letter, the adjutant of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Samuel's death.

Samuel was one of 22 admissions to the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS on 11 July and one of 39 who died at that CCCS in July.<sup>22</sup> Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.<sup>23</sup> This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

Samuel was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 15 May 2015), entry for Samuel Edward Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, Inferred County: Leicestershire, Volume: 7a, Page: 2

<sup>2</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 15 May 2015), entry for Samuel Edward Tanser

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 May 2015), entry for William H. Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, ED, institution, or vessel: 18, Piece: 2489, Folio: 158, Page Number: 13

<sup>5</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 May 2015), entry for Samuel Edwd Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, Sub-registration district: Lutterworth, ED, institution, or vessel: 9, Piece: 2950, Folio: 101, Page Number: 9, Household schedule number: 78

<sup>6</sup> "1871 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 May 2015), entry for Sarah H. Garner, Registration district: Lutterworth, Sub-registration district: Lutterworth, ED, institution, or vessel: 18, Household schedule number: 72, Piece: 3222, Folio: 34, Page Number: 12

<sup>7</sup> "England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1916-2005," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 May 2015), entry for William Henry Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, Inferred County: Leicestershire, Volume Number: 7a, Page Number: 9

<sup>8</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 18 May 2015), entry for Evelyn Jane Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, Inferred County: Leicestershire, Volume: 7a, Page: 1

<sup>9</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 18 May 2015), entry for Elsie Emily Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, Inferred County: Leicestershire, Volume: 7a, Page: 3

<sup>10</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 May 2015), entry for Frances E. Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, Inferred County: Leicestershire, Volume: 7a, Page: 1

<sup>11</sup> "1901 England Census," entry for Samuel Edwd Tanser

<sup>12</sup> "1841 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 May 2015), entry for William Garner, Registration district: Lutterworth, Sub-registration district: Lutterworth, Piece: 598, Book: 7, Folio: 6, Page Number: 6

<sup>13</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 May 2015), entry for Samuel Edward Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, Registration District Number: 398, Sub-registration district: Lutterworth, ED, institution, or vessel: 10, Piece: 189111

<sup>14</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 20 May 2015), entry for Evelyn Jane Tanser, Registration district: Lutterworth, Registration District Number: 398, Sub-registration district: Lutterworth, ED, institution, or vessel: 10, Piece: 18911

<sup>15</sup> UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919,"), entry for Samuel Edward Tanser

<sup>16</sup> "A Short History of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment," *The Royal Leicestershire Regiment* (<http://www.Royalleicestershireregiment.org.uk/history-of-the-regiment/?P=2>; Accessed 20 May 2015)

<sup>17</sup> "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 May 2015), entry for Samuel Edward Tanser

<sup>18</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 625

<sup>19</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 625

<sup>20</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 12 March 2015), entry for Leicestershire Regiment, Sub Unit: 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Piece Description: Piece 2690/2: 1/5 Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (1915 Mar - 1919 May), Piece Number: 2690

<sup>21</sup> The record "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919" indicates that he died on 9 July 1918. However, both the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station journal and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records indicate 11 July. "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 15 May 2015), entry for Tanser, Samuel Edward, Service No: 203553

<sup>22</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* ([http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html&r=1&f=G](http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G))

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<sup>23</sup> "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

<sup>24</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 15 May 2015), entry for Samuel E. Tanser