

Private Samuel Summerton

Regimental number: 715203

“D” Company, 26th Battalion (New Brunswick Regiment), Canadian Infantry

born: 26 December 1893 - died: 25 September 1918

Private Samuel Summerton was born on 26 December 1893 in Portugal Cove, Newfoundland,¹ the son of John and Margaret Summerton.² His father died before Samuel was married in 1916 and his mother probably remarried because she was called Margaret Daw and was living in Kelly Cove, Newfoundland, when Samuel enlisted in 1915.³ No additional information was found about his birth family.

Samuel enlisted in Sydney, Nova Scotia on 3 December 1915 at the age of 22. He was an electrician, measured 5' 5½" and had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He was a Roman Catholic.

Seven months later, on 10 July 1916, Samuel married Mary Ann Susan Grant, age 19, in Truro, Nova Scotia.⁴ Susan was the daughter of Seward T. and Caroline Grant.⁵ Seward was a tailor, who enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (Regimental number: 715202) just four days after Samuel, at the age of 36. He enlisted on 7 December 1915 and served in the 25th Battalion. On his marriage register, both Samuel and his wife were identified as members of the Church of England.

In the latter half of September 1918, the 26th Battalion was on the Front Line and had been trying to establish new posts, during which several Other Ranks were killed or wounded.⁶ On 25 September, they suffered heavy counter-attacks, resulting in heavy casualties. Perhaps Samuel was one of these. He was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 25 September 1918 with shrapnel wounds to his legs, right arm and scalp.⁷ Unfortunately he was dead on arrival.⁸ He was buried the following day at Duisans British Military Cemetery (Grave 69, Plot 6, Row H) with the chaplain W. Fisher presiding.

Duisans British Military Cemetery is located in Etrun, near Arras, in France. The first burials took place in the cemetery in March 1917.⁹ The 1st CCCS arrived at the beginning of September and was stationed near Duisans for two months in the autumn of 1918.¹⁰ A total of 75 patients died at the 1st CCCS in September 1918.

His next-of-kin was his wife, who was living in Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia when she was notified of his death.¹¹

Samuel's father-in-law, who enlisted at the same time as Samuel, survived the war, and returned to Canada in 1919.¹² He had been treated for a number of illnesses during the war, including recurring bouts of trench fever, piles and an interconnective tissue injury to his knee. He died in 1935 in the Nova Scotia Sanatorium of pulmonary tuberculosis.¹³ His death was deemed to be due to his military service. He was buried in St Mark's Cemetery in Coxheath, Nova Scotia.

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¹ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 13 January 2016), entry for Samuel Summerton

² Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics

(<https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com/ItemView.aspx?ImageFile=43-866&Event=marriage&ID=173995>; accessed 13 January 2016), entry for Mary Ann Susan Grant, Registration Year: 1916, Book: 43, Page: 866

³ "Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 13 January 2016), entry for Samuel Summerton

⁴ Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics, entry for Mary Ann Susan

⁵ *Ibid.*; "1901 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 13 January 2016), entry for Susan Grant, Province: Nova Scotia, District: Cape Breton, District Number: 28, Sub-District: Sydney (Town/Ville), Sub-District Number: Z-4

⁶ "Grandson Michael's Guide to the LAC War Diaries," *Canadian Great War Project*

(<http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/warDiaryLac/wdLacP08.asp>; accessed 14 January 2016)

⁷ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2016), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 673

⁸ "Canada, CEF Commonwealth War Graves Registers, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 13 January 2016), entry for S. Summerton

⁹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org; accessed 7 October 2015)

¹⁰ "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=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G;

accessed 17 June 2015)

¹¹ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 673

¹² "Soldiers of the First World War," *Library and Archives Canada* (www.lac-bac.gc.ca, accessed 24 January 2016), entry for Grant, Seward Thomas, Reference: RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3737 - 10, Item Number: 426652

¹³ "Canada, War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914-1948," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 14 January 2016), entry for Seward T. Grant, Service number: 715202