

Gunner Cecil James Tanner

87662 156th Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery



At the 1911 census Cecil was living with his parents at Lampole, Station Road, Overton. He signed up in September 1916. He died on 24th Oct 1918, aged 28.

On 2nd November 1918 **The Hants & Berks Gazette** reported,

***Death of Pte. C. Tanner.** – The sad news received on Monday of the death of yet another of the most promising men of Overton came as a great shock to the members of his large family and many friends. Pte. Cecil Tanner was on leave until about a fortnight ago and he went back apparently in the best of health and spirits. Immediately on his return he contracted double pneumonia and he died on Oct.24th. Before joining up he worked as a baker for Mr. A. Redstall, and was well liked by everyone. He spent the early part of the war in Malta and was subsequently drafted to the French front.'*

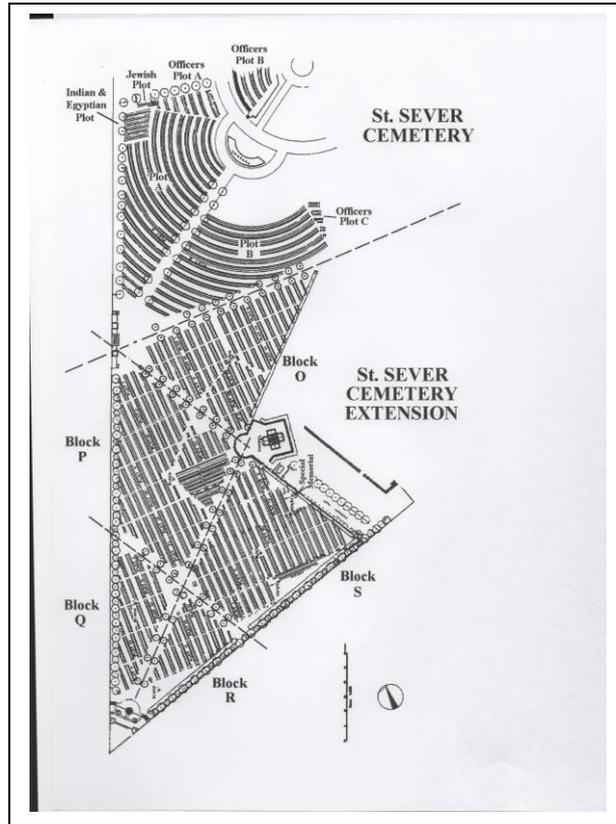
At the time of his death, Cecil was serving with the 179th Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery. He died at No 6 General Hospital, Rouen.

He was almost certainly a victim of the so-called 'Spanish flu' which first appeared on the western front in January 1918. It is thought to have been spread by the 96,000 Chinese workers employed by both British and French forces to dig trenches. At first it was a relatively mild disease but it became highly virulent between September and November 1918, most cases dying from bronchopneumonia. Its existence was censored by all the warring nations but was widely reported in Spain, giving the false impression that this was the source. Thousands of soldiers on both sides died of the disease and the pandemic may have hastened the end of the war.

Cecil is buried in St Sever cemetery extension, Rouen, grave reference S II FF19. Mrs. Sarah Tanner of Station Road, Overton, is named on the headstone document.



Cecil Tanner



Cecil was awarded the Victory and British medals.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
TANNER Cecil. J		R. G. A	Sgt	87662
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	RGA 147 ^B	4737		
BRITISH	- do -	do		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380

19/05/2017