

Gunner WILLIAM JOHN SILVER

William, was born in about 1887 in Walcote, to William, an agricultural labourer, and Annie Silver, and worked as a groom before the war. He was the elder brother of George Silver, who died on the Somme. Two other brothers, Edward "Teddy" and Thomas, also enlisted but survived, although injured. William and Amy, married in 1914, had 4 children, Harold, Margaret, William and Alfred, known as Jack.

He enlisted in June 1918 and was posted to the 217th Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery which was equipped with larger weapons than the Royal Field Artillery. Some were the first to be hauled by motor tractors and some were so large they could only be deployed on railway tracks. The RGA grew into a very large component of the British forces. Their heavy, large-calibre guns and howitzers, positioned behind the front line, had immense destructive power. They were often supported by the Royal Flying Corps with a system using wireless telegraphy to help the artillery hit specific targets.

He survived the war but died of pneumonia on 3 December 1918 aged 31. He is buried at Tournai Communal Cemetery at Hainaut, Belgium.



*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*