

Gunner W.J. Moses, RCA – 3rd November 1918 (Age 27).

**348453 - Gunner Walter James Moses - 121st Siege Battery
Royal Garrison Artillery.**



There are two Commonwealth War Grave Commission memorials in the St James' Church churchyard, marking the burial place of two soldiers from WW1. Gunner Moses' is one of them.

We have been unable to establish how he died other than it was when home on leave on 3rd November 1918 aged 27.

Walter was born at Rudry Mill on 8th November 1891 to Lewis Moses (born 1863) a Corn Miller & Farmer and Mary Ann Moses (born 1861). He had an older sister, also called Mary Ann (born 1885) and an older brother, Aaron John (born 1889). The household also had a servant/agricultural labourer, Joseph Henley (born 1882).

It is not clear when Walter joined up but the 121st Siege Battery was raised on 22nd March 1916, so likely at some point after this.

In the months leading up to August 1918, Walter's battery had been involved in dealing with the German Spring Offensive which began on 21st March. The 9.2 inch howitzer's of the battery were involved in fairly short range fighting and much artillery was lost during the Great Retreat.



Men of the 121st Siege Battery moving a 9.2 inch howitzer .

In August, as part of the counter offensive, the heavy artillery was positioned as far forward as possible moving up behind the advancing infantry.

As the regimental historian relates, 'The guns of Fourth Army demonstrated, on 23rd October, the crushing effect of well-co-ordinated massed artillery. They simply swept away the opposition'. After a pause to regroup and reconnoitre, IX Corps stormed across the canal on 4th November (the Battle of the Sambre). After that the campaign became a pursuit of a beaten enemy, in which the slow-moving siege guns could play no part.

We imagine that Walter was given leave after the guns had played their part at the end of October.

As noted, we can find no record of how Walter lost his life while at home on leave but he is buried in St. James churchyard according to his war service.

