

John Henry Gent (Royal Field Artillery)

Birth date unknown—1918



Very little is known about John Henry Gent, since he cannot be found on the 1901 or 1911 census returns. John is recorded as living in Newark at the time that he enlisted.

He served as a gunner initially with the Royal Horse Artillery. The RHA, equipped with 13 pounder guns that could be dismantled and transported easily, was used to support the three cavalry divisions on the Western Front.

John then served with the Royal Field Artillery which was organised into artillery brigades each consisting of four batteries of six guns, three being equipped with field guns and the fourth with 4.5-inch howitzers.



John was killed on 27th May 1918 which was the first day of the German Spring offensive at the Third Battle of the Aisne. The battle began with a bombardment of allied lines from 4000 pieces of artillery that resulted in heavy losses for British forces.

He is remembered with honour on the Soissons Memorial. John was survived by his widow, Annie, and their children.