

RAYNER HARVEY JOHNSON was the son of Alexander William and Caroline Johnson of Ditton Hill, Surrey. He was born at Surbiton on January 5, 1897, and was for some time at Shrewsbury House School, Surbiton. Entering Grafton House in May 1911, he was at Oundle until the summer of 1914, proceeding later to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He was given a commission in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, and went out to the Western Front in June 1915. He was attached to the 112th Heavy Battery, and at once went into the firing-line. On August 1, 1915, he was posted to the 111th Heavy Battery, with which Battery he remained until appointed to the command of the 122nd Heavy Battery (June 1918).

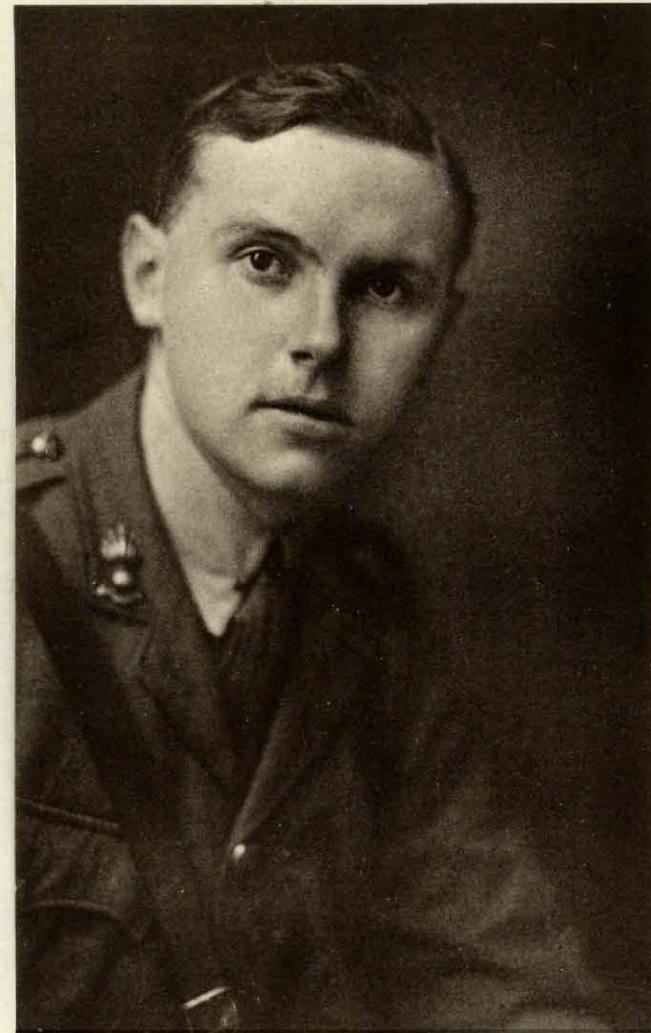
He was appointed Observation Officer to his Battery, February 27, 1916; promoted acting Captain, December 7, 1916; acting Major, January 29, 1917, and substantive Lieutenant, July 1, 1917.

The 122nd Battery had the distinction of being the only Heavy Battery on the Western Front which was mentioned by number in despatches.

The Commanding Officer of his Brigade (under whom he served from the Spring of 1916 to the Spring of 1917), wrote: "I considered him the best officer I had." He was killed on September 27, 1918, during the battle of Cambrai, while making a forward reconnaissance. He was awarded the Military Cross on January 1, 1918.

An Officer of the 111th Heavy Battery wrote: "Johnson made himself felt in the 111th Heavy Battery. He was a big part of the Battery; all loved him."

An Officer of the 122nd Heavy Battery: "When we learnt that we were to have a new Major we wondered whether we should get a man who would lead us in a way worthy of the past history of the Battery, but it soon became evident that we had got our work cut out if we were to be worthy of the Major we got."



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