

GUN EXPLOSION AT PORTSMOUTH.

By a gun explosion which occurred in the Spitbank Fort, Portsmouth, yesterday, Sergeant Henry Attrill, 67th Company Royal Garrison Artillery, was killed, and Gunner William Collins, 67th Company Royal Garrison Artillery, was badly injured. Another gunner was also slightly hurt.

About 8 o'clock in the morning firing was taking place from the fort, which has been mobilized for the annual test of the defences during the past few days. A gun missed fire, and Sergeant Attrill, with several men, proceeded to the detonator. While they were doing this the explosion took place. Sergeant Attrill, who was standing nearest the breech of the gun, was blown into the well of the fort and killed instantly; his legs were shattered and the lower part of his body much mutilated. Gunner Collins was badly burned and also sustained other injuries. The other gunner, whose name has not been disclosed, was but slightly hurt. The injured men were removed to the Alexandra Military Hospital at Cosham and the body of Sergeant Attrill was taken ashore to await the inquest. Attrill was a married man, but leaves no children.

The official report states that owing to a gun explosion No. 93154 Sergeant Henry Attrill, 67th Co. R.G.A., was killed, and No. 33981 Gunner William Collins, 67th Co., R.G.A., was injured. One other man was slightly hurt.