

John was born at Picton, New Zealand on 25th June 1891, the son of John Basil Gudgeon and his wife Augusta Matilda Avice, nee Cooke. John's father died on 31st October 1891 when John was just four months old.

In 1906 he joined the Bank of New Zealand and in 1910 was an Assistant Bills Clerk with that bank at Palmerston North.

He came to Australia with the bank and on 11th August 1914 enlisted in C Company, AN&MEF stating that he was single and giving his mother at 444 Madras St, Christchurch, as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915.

John returned to New Zealand and on 23rd August 1916 he joined C Company, 20th Reinforcements, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, service number 34666. He was appointed lance corporal on 29th October 1916 before departing Wellington on 7th December and arriving in Devonport on 18th Feb 1917. He received a gunshot wound to the arm on 19th October 1917 and after recuperating he was assigned to HQNZEF where on 1st March 1919 he was promoted sergeant.

He arrived back in NZ aboard the REMUERA on 5th May 1919 and was discharged, term expired, on 5th June 1919.

On 19th October 1920 he married Mildred Trolove in Christchurch.

On 11th December 1941 he enlisted as a sergeant and served in New Zealand being discharged as a WO2 on 13th May 1943.

John died on 11th November 1968.