

George was born at Balmain on 13th May 1879, the son of George James Finlayson and his wife Mary Jane, nee Powell.

George joined the NSW Permanent Cavalry in 1900 and on 15th March 1901 he left Sydney with the 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles, service number 172, for South Africa. The 2nd had a preference for – “trained men who were good shots and good riders”. The age limit was 40, height 5ft 6 inches and above and single. He was promoted Quartermaster Sergeant.

When the 2nd left Capetown for return to Sydney, in May 1902, George elected to stay and transferred to the 3rd NSW Mounted Rifles and was promoted Lieutenant. He remained in South Africa until peace was declared in June 1902, leaving Durban on 12th July 1902, and arriving home on 11th August.

He enlisted in D Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a station manager and single, giving his father at “Allington”, Berrima, as his next of kin. At his medical it was noted that he had a bullet wound inside right knee. Whether it was a result of action in South Africa is not known.

Whilst in Rabaul he was appointed Sanitary Inspector and returned and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service. For his work in New Guinea he was awarded the French Medal of Honour with Swords, Silver.

On 12th April 1915 he joined the AIF as part of the 4th Reinforcements, 35th Battalion as a 2Lt and attended the 1st Officers School at Duntroon. He left Australia aboard the BORDA, leaving Sydney on 17th October 1916. On 1st June 1917 he transferred to the 67th Battalion and promoted Lieutenant on 25th June. He transferred back to the 35th on 5th September.

On 13th June 1918 he suffered a fractured collar bone (accidental) whilst at Villers Bretonneux. He was appointed adjutant on 15th October and left the UK aboard the OVITA on 23rd June 1919, arriving in Sydney on 9th August. His appointment to the AIF was terminated on 16th September 1919.

He died at Heidelberg on 24th April 1936.