

John was born in Pyrmont in 1878, the son of James Ellis and his wife Sarah Ann, nee Burns. He served with the NSW Medical Team, Imperial Draft Contingent in the Boer War in South Africa, number 801. His father died in 1903 and on 12th August 1914 he joined the Army Medical Corps, AN&MEF stating that he was a Male Nurse and single, giving his mother at Albert St, Lilyfield, as his next of kin.

He was promoted corporal on 12th August 1914 and, in a letter to the Red Cross dated 19th December 1914, he stated that he was in charge of the Garrison Hospital at Kavieng and Superintendent of the Native Hospital. On 1st Feb 1915 he was promoted sergeant and returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 31st March 1915 having completed 232 days service.

On 14th April 1915 he joined the AIF as part of the 3rd Australian General Hospital Reinforcements and on 1st May was promoted Staff Sergeant. He left Sydney on the 15th May aboard the MOOLAN for Suez where he remained until moving to France in September 1916. On 18th May 1917 he was transferred to the 3rd Field Ambulance and joined his unit in France on 23rd April.

On 18th October 1917 he was taken ill (Pyrexia?) and returned to the UK where he was admitted to the Norfolk War Hospital. He rejoined his unit on 1st August 1918. John left the UK aboard the KILDONIAN CASTLE on 2nd March 1919 arriving back in Sydney on 9th May and was discharged from the AIF on 8th Feb 1920.

On 1st August 1928 he was appointed an Attendant at the Liverpool State Hospital, resigning from that post on 21st October 1937

John died at the Graythwaite Red Cross Home on 3rd September 1945.