

Ernest was born in London in 1882, the son of William and Louisa Breeze. At some stage he migrated to New Zealand where, in 1901, at Dunedin, he married Mirabel Goudie. Their first child, Mable Aotea was born in Dunedin in 1902, after which they moved to Queensland and had two more children, Basil Goodwin, born 1905 and Winifred Gabrielle born 1907. It would appear the family separated, with Mirabel and the children returning to Dunedin and Ernest moving to Sydney.

On 11th August 1914, Ernest joined D Company, AN&MEF stating that he was a Commercial Traveller and that he was single. He gave his daughter, Mable as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 4th March 1915, term expired, having served 206 days.

On 12th August 1915, he joined the 15th Reinforcements of the 3rd Battalion, regimental number 4753. On 15th Feb 1916 a warrant was issued for his arrest as a deserter and on 1st April he was discharged – “Not likely to become an efficient soldier.”

On 28th August 1917, he again joined the AIF, this time as part of the 21st Reinforcements of the 17th Battalion, regimental number 7170. This time he stated that he was a journalist and that he was married (living apart). He again gave his daughter Mable, at 24 High St, Dunedin, as his next of kin.

On 31st October 1917, he left Sydney aboard the EURIPIDES, arriving in Devonport on 26th December. After training he landed in France and joined his unit on 1st April 1918. On 13th May 1918 he was wounded at Sailly-Le-Sec, near Hamel, receiving multiple gunshot wounds,. The battalion diaries say that on that particular day some 4 ORs were killed and 11 wounded.

He was evacuated to the UK and on 15th September he returned to Australia on the AROWA and was discharged, medically unfit, on 7th May 1919.

Ernest died on 17th August 1921 and is buried at Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney.