

Robert was born in Grafton on 6th October 1891, the son of Robert Collins and Margaret Collins, nee Frame. Robert had joined the NSW Police Force in 1913 and on his enlistment in the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 he stated that he was a Police Constable and single, giving his father at "Melrose", Oliver St, Grafton as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 18th Jan 1915 having completed 161 days service.

On 2nd March 1915 he enlisted into B Company, 17th Battalion, regimental number 527. He sailed with the battalion aboard the THEMISTOCLES, leaving Sydney on 12th May 1915 and after period of training in Egypt arrived on ANZAC Cover on 20th August and remained there until evacuation in December.

On 19th August 1916 he was promoted corporal and was wounded on the Somme on 9th November resulting in his evacuation to the UK aboard the ST GEORGE and admission to the 3rd Western General Hospital. On 4th May 1917 he boarded the RUNIC and arrived back in Sydney on 6th July where he was discharged, medically unfit, on 19th August.

He was granted a pension with effect from 11th August 1917 and voluntarily surrendered this pension benefit on 10th April 1918.

In 1920 Robert married Helena Mary Haron who died in 1926. He then married Gwen Jones in 1931.

Robert remained in the NSW Police and was a Sergeant when he died at Parramatta in 1944. He had completed 31 years' service with the Police.