Reginald was born in Waikouaiti, New Zealand in October 1889. He enlisted on 12th August 1914 in the Army Medical Corps, AN&MEF stating that he was a Carpenter and Joiner by traded, single and gave his mother Mrs E.P. Bird, 142 St Albans St, Christchurch, as his next of kin. He also stated that he had served 4 and a half years in the NZ Medical Corps.

Reginald was promoted corporal on 16th November 1914 and returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 17th Jan 1915 having completed 190 days service.