

Cecil was born at Dulwich Hill in 1893. On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in the AN&MEF stating that he was a Railway Engine Cleaner. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service.

On 12th May 1915 he enlisted in the AIF as part of the reinforcements for the 4th Field Company Engineers, regimental number 4096 and left Australia for the middle East on 25th June 1915 as a sapper. He was taken on strength by his unit on Gallipoli on 3rd September 1915 and after the withdrawal was remustered a driver on 1st February 1916.

He moved to France and on 25th August was transferred to the 12th Field Company of Engineers and then to the 6th Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company on 11th August 1917. He was evacuated to England on 10th February 1918 with Gastritis.

On 25th May 1918 he married Olive Dorothy Hutckins at St Margarets Church, Ashton.

Cecil left England aboard the LANCASHIRE on 7th Feb 1919, disembarked in Melbourne on 24th March and was discharged as medically unfit on 27th July 1919.