

Herbert enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914. He stated that he was born in Kensington, England, was 33 years of age, a station overseer and single. He gave his brother, A Edward Collins, Sun Life, London, as his next of kin. He served as a Lieutenant in the Boer War as part of the South African Irregular Forces and as Adjutant with Robert's Horse.

He was promoted to sergeant on 120th October 1914 and then appointed 2nd Lieutenant on 20th November and placed as Officer in Charge of Native Police on 22nd May 1915 after being promoted Lieutenant. He remained in Rabaul after the AN&MEF returned to Australia eventually returning in July 1915.

He was given a commission as Lt in the 30th battalion on 30th August, remaining in Australia until this was reminted on 1st December 1915.