

Oswald was born in Paddington, NSW, on 11th Feb 1890, the son of William Reuben Hayes and his wife Annie Margaret, nee Smart. On 11th August 1914 he joined C Company, AN&MEF stating that he was a wool classer and single, giving his father at Caravan, Como, NSW, as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 7th March 1915 he enlisted in the AIF as part of the 5th Reinforcements, 1st Light Horse, regimental number 980. He sailed from Newcastle on 22nd May 1915 aboard the BAKARA and joined the 1st Light Horse on Gallipoli on 25th October. On 26th October he was appointed lance corporal and promoted corporal on 28th November. He arrived back in Alexandria on 27th December and was promoted Sergeant on 1st Jan 1916.

He was hospitalised with malaria from 7th April 1916 till 19th May 1916, and again from 4th August till 23rd August, this time with dysentery.

On 22nd Oct 1917 he was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant and on 3rd November he was wounded in the right leg. He was promoted Lieutenant on 23rd Jan 1918, returning to duty after his injury on 14th April 1918. Oswald suffered a number of bouts of malaria when after the final bout on 12th July 1918 he was returned to Australia on the LEICESTERSHIRE on 22nd Dec 1918.

He arrived in Melbourne on 22nd Jan 1919, made his way to Sydney where his appointment to the AIF was terminated on 17th March 1919.

In 1919 he married Eva Emily Campbell, whom he later separated from. He later moved to Perth where on cessation of employment on 2nd Sept 1949 he was granted a Service Pension. On 13th April 1944 he moved into "Sunset" Midlands, probably a serviceman's hostel where the Superintendent, John Bradshaw, became his trustee, Oswald having previously suffered a mild stroke.

Oswald died at "Sunset" on 12th August 1944 and is buried at Karrakatta Cemetery.