

Joseph was born in Narrandera, NSW on 3rd September 1892, the son of William and Martha Bell. He enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 and stated that he was single, a signalman with the NSW Railways and gave a J Lawkin of the Globe Hotel, Bathurst, as his next of kin.

Joseph returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 18th Jan 1915, term expired, having completed 161 days service.

On 15th September 1915 he enlisted as a trooper, part of the 12 reinforcements of the 7th Light Horse, regimental number 1616. On this occasion he gave his father C/- SV Bell, Arianah Park, NSW, as his next of kin. He sailed with the reinforcements aboard the PERSIC, departing Sydney on 10th Jan 1916.

Not long after arrival, he was transferred as a driver to the 6th Light Horse. On 4th April 1917 he reverted to a trooper at his own request and was appointed Lance Corporal on 30th August 1918 and promoted Corporal on 7th Feb 1919. He left the Middle East aboard the PRINZ LUDWIG on 9th July 1919, arriving back in Australia on 8th September 1919. Joseph was discharged on 2nd April 1920.

John was Mentioned in Despatches (MID) in 1920.

Joseph enlisted again on 12th August 1942, serving as a private with the Volunteer Defence Corps, service number Q142905, until discharged on 9th Jan 1945.