

John was born in Dubbo, NSW, on 14th Feb 1882, the son of John Diehl and Rubeina Watson Diehl, nee Ross-Smith. In 1904 he married Adelaide Lilly Reid and on 11th August 1914 he enlisted in D Company, AN&MEF, stating that he was a tramway conductor and giving his wife, at 72 Dowling St, Paddington, as his next of kin.

Whilst in Rabaul he worked in the Government Printing Office and returned to Sydney and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 15th March he joined A Company, 20th Battalion, regimental number 178 and embarked with the battalion aboard the BERRIMA on 25th June 1915. The battalion landed on Gallipoli on 26th August 1915 and John was evacuated on 8th September suffering from dysentery and was admitted to the 4th Auxiliary Hospital in Alexandria. He was repatriated to Australia aboard the NESTOR, departing Suez on 12th Feb 1916.

On 26th July 1916, after recovering, he rejoined and was part of the 15th Reinforcements, 20th Battalion departing Sydney on 9th September 1916 aboard the EURIPIDES, arriving in Plymouth on 26th October.

John rejoined his battalion in France on 17th December but was again hospitalised on 22nd May 1917 with Nephritis and Bronchitis. He was evacuated to the 3rd Southern General Hospital and was then again repatriated to Australia, this time in the DEMOSTHENES, departing England on 27th July 1917.

He was discharged, medically unfit on 19th November 1917.

In 1925 he was the Licensee of the Australian Hotel, Ballina which burnt down that year. He had applied to rebuild it and subsequently sold the premises in 1931.

On 29th December 1940 he joined the Army, service number N79563, and was a Lance Sergeant in the District Accounts Office on his discharge on 12th July 1944.

John died on 16th May 1959 at Concord, NSW.