Charles was born in 1876, at Serpentine Creek near Swan Hill, Victoria, the son of Charles Edwin Bolton and Julia Jane Bolton, nee Emmett. In 1899 he married Clara May Longley.

On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in the AN&MEF, stating that he was 33 years old (he was in fact 38), that he was a carpenter by trade and gave his wife, at "Ruapehu", Botany St, Waverley, as his next of kin. He stated that he had 4 years previous service in the 13th Australian Light Horse in WA and 1 year in the Troop Field Engineers.

Charles returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having served 206 days.

On 12th June 1915 he joined the 7th Light Horse and sailed for Suez aboard the SUFFOLK, departing Sydney on 28th July 1915. He landed on Gallipoli on 14th November 1915 and was hospitalised back in Cairo on 28th December with influenza, not returning to his unit until after the Gallipoli evacuation, on 13th Jan 1916.

On 20th April 1916 he was appointed Lance Corporal and promoted Corporal on 18th June. On 21st July 1916 he was diagnosed with a heart condition and returned to Australia aboard the BORDA.

He was discharged, medically unfit, on 14th Nov 1916 and was granted a Repatriation Pension.

Charles died on 15th September 1954