

Raoul was born in Sydney on 3rd Feb 1894, the son of Frederick John and Alice Marie (nee Perdrix) Broomfield. On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in C Company, AN&MEF, stating that he was a Timber Cutter, single, and gave his father at 234 Barcom Ave, Darlinghurst, as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service. Whilst in Rabaul, he had the first of many brushes with authority, resulting him receiving 14 days field punishment in December 1914.

His next encounter resulted from his enlistment as part of the 7th Reinforcements of the 17th Battalion, AIF, on 29th December 1915, from where he deserted. He was discharged on 14th Jan 1916, “.. for begging alms and breaking leave.”

He then went to Melbourne where he enlisted again, on 9th October 1916, this time in the 9th Machine Gun Company. He sailed from Melbourne aboard the BALLARAT on 19th Jan 1917, arriving in the UK on 26th April 1917. Whilst on route, he was charged, firstly with being absent from guard duty, and secondly with being absent without leave. He received 168 hours and 48 hours detention for these misdemeanours.

Whilst in the UK he ran into trouble again. On 6th June 1917 he overstayed his leave pass and received 7 days confinement to barracks and then faced a court martial for being absent without leave from 25th September to 17th October 1917 where he was sentenced to 84 days detention.

He finally got to France on 5th December 1917 where he was taken on strength by the 21st Machine Gun Company, which was later redesignated the 1st Machine Gun Battalion. In Feb 1918 he contracted influenza and was evacuated to the UK, where he again when absent without leave, eventually rejoining his battalion in France on 5th October 1918.

Raoul returned to Australia in Jan 1919, aboard the ASCANIUS, spending much of the voyage in hospital suffering with malaria.

In 1920 Raoul married Norma Florence David. Norma died in 1931.

On 22 Oct 1940, Raoul enlisted again, service number N78336, and was posted to the 16th Garrison Battalion.

He died on 22nd May 1944 at St Vincent's Hospital.