

Leslie was born in Hurstville, NSW, on 7th October 1893, the son of Frederick and Eva Bennett.

He enlisted in F Company, AN&MEF and stated that he was a labourer and single. He gave his mother at "Maple Farm", Dorrigo as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th Jan 1915 having completed 161 days service.

He returned home and then on 17th September 1915 enlisted at Armidale as part of the 13th Reinforcements of the 7th Light Horse, regimental number 402. He departed Sydney aboard the AENEAS on 20th December 1915 and taken on strength with the 7th Light Horse on 17th Jan 1916 at Mahdi, Egypt. On 27th March 1916 he was transferred to the 10th Field Artillery and posted to the 110 Battery as a gunner.

On 5th June 1916 he left Alexandria with his unit, landing at Marseilles on 13th. On 17th October 1917 he was gassed and evacuated to the UK, rejoining his unit on 13th March 1918. He was again wounded by a gas shell on 17th October 1918 and was evacuated to the UK where he remained until returning to Australia on the ORONTES, leaving England on 20th December 1918 and arriving home on 3rd February 1919. He was discharged as medically unfit on 13th April 1919, with "Effort Syndrome".

Shortly after the outbreak of World War 2, he enlisted in the CMF and was posted to the 2nd Garrison Battalion as a Lance Sergeant, serving from 16th Jan 1941 till 27th Jan 1945, service number N79375. During that period, he also spent just over a month in the RAN at HMAS Kuttabul, service number 1013.