

Arthur was born in Newtown, NSW, the son of Sydney H and Ann Ayres. He enlisted in the AN&MEF (F Company) on 11th August 1914, stating that he was a Pharmaceutical Chemist and was single. He gave his brother S Ayres, c/o John Bridge, Brisbane as his next of kin.

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

On 12th March 1915 he enlisted as part of the 3rd General Hospital Reinforcements with regimental number 4338. On 27th April he was promoted Corporal and sailed for Suez aboard the MOOLTAN on 15th May.

He was appointed Lance Sergeant on 19th May and promoted sergeant on 22nd December. On 27th Jan 1916 he transferred to the 2nd Auxiliary Hospital and on 25th Feb 1916 was promoted Warrant Officer. On 7th November 1916 he wrote to his CO; -

“Having lost both my parents leaving a sister partly dependant upon me, and since my departure from Australia trouble had arisen in reference to her guardianship so am desirous to returning to Australia on duty – Total service 26 months, 23 of which has been served overseas.”

Arthur's mother died in 1902 and his father in 1903. Arthur (15yo) and his two siblings, Sydney (14) and Jessie (12) had been under the guardianship of the family accountant who died in 1905, the guardianship having transferred to his son. Since they became adults, Arthur continued supporting his sister, Jessie, who subsequently married in 1919.

On 17th March 1917 he returned to Australia aboard the BELTANA, on “nursing duties”, arriving in Sydney on 15th May 1917. He was subsequently discharged as medically unfit due to rheumatism and malaria on 13th September 1917.

On 21st October 1918, Arthur attempted to re-join the AIF but was rejected on medical grounds. In the same year he married Eliza Bonnell and died as a result of Diabetes on 16th August 1927.