

Harold was born in Windsor, New South Wales in 1895, the son of Algernon J and Florence E (nee Shanks) Ahearn. He enlisted into the Army Medical Corp of the AN&MEF on 12th August 1914. He stated he was a packer by trade, single and gave his mother, at Broad St, Sth Randwick, as his next of kin. He also stated that he was previously with the Army Medical Corps, presumably with the CMF.

Harold returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having served 205 days.

On 8th March 1916, he enlisted with the 9th Field Ambulance, regimental number 11896. On 1st May 1916 he embarked aboard the BENALLA, arriving in Plymouth on 9th July. Before leaving for France, Harold was promoted to Corporal on 7th August 1918 and on 23rd Nov 1916 he arrived in France.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Photo taken at Lark Hill, Salisbury Plain prior to going to France. Harold is in the front row, third from left proudly showing his new Corporal Stripes.

On 25th May 1917 Harold was appointed Lance Sergeant.

Harold left the UK aboard the KONIGEN LUISE on 21st June 1919, arriving in Sydney on 16th August, and was discharged on 30th September 1919.

In 1920 Harold married Ivy Stockdale at Randwick. Their first son, Donald Algernon Joseph Ahearn was born on 27th June 1921. Donald joined the RAAF at the outbreak of World War 2 (service number 422032) and was a Flight Sergeant, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner aboard a Mitchell attached to the RAF 226 Squadron, when he was killed over France on the night of 18th/19th June 1944.

Another son, Harold Norbert Ahearn was born on 25th April 1924 and also served in world War 2, in the Royal Australian Navy, from 24th November 1941 till 3rd May 1946, service number S6137.

Harold died on 31st December 1956 and is buried at the Waverley Cemetery.