

Ernest was born at St Helier on the Jersey Islands on 11th July 1882, the son of Arnold Neale and his wife Mary Ann, nee LeRay.

He spent 12 years in the Somerset Light Horse, from 24th April 1899 to 23rd April 1911, the first 8 as full time and the remaining 4 in the Reserve.

In the 1911 census he is shown as boarding at a residence in St Marys' Hampshire where his employment is recorded as "ships cook".

On his enlistment in the AN&MEF he stated that he was Labourer and single. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

He returned to England and on 20th April 1915 he enlisted in the 11th Hants Regiment, regimental number 17316 and proceeded to France on 18th December 1915.

On 27th May 1918 he transferred to the Labour Corps and assigned a new regimental number, 581358.

He was demobed on 16th March 1919.