John was born at Listowel, Kerry, Ireland on 7th May 1893. He enlisted in E Company, AN&MEF, on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a Steward with Adelaide Steamship Company, that he was single and gave his father Mr E Casey, Blackrock, Cork, Ireland as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired on 28th Jan 1915, having completed 171 days service.

On 1st March 1915 he enlisted in the AIF, joining the 19th Battalion, regimental number 507. He sailed for Suez with the battalion aboard the CERAMIC departing Sydney on 25th June 1915. He landed at Gallipoli on 19th August and was evacuated to hospital in Malta suffering from malaria and then returned to Suez on 4th Feb 1916 for evacuation to Australia, leaving Suez on 4th December 1916 abord the THEMISTOCLES, arriving back in Sydney on 2nd Jan 1917. He was discharges on 31st Jan as medically unfit with TB – "The result of active service… cold and exposure…"

John died at the Bodington Red Cross Hospital, Wentworth Falls, on 2nd May 1921 and is buried at the Katoomba Cemetery.