

Charles Lydiard Aubrey Abbott was born on 4th May 1886, at St Leonards, the son of Thomas Kingsmill Abbott and Marion Abbott, nee Lydiard. On 9th Jan 1908 he was appointed a probationary constable and served in the NSW Police until his enlistment on 11th August 1914 into B Coy, AN&MEF.

He enlisted as Aubrey Abbott and on his attestation, he stated that he was a Mounted Policeman, single and gave his father, at Murrulla Station, Wingen, as his next of kin. Whilst in Rabaul, on 21st October 1914 he was "detailed to assist at stables in charge of Native Police."

Aubrey returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 23rd March 1915 he enlisted in the 12th Light Horse, regimental number 419 and was promoted corporal on 1st June. On 13th June he sailed from Sydney aboard the SUEVIC for the Middle East. Whilst on Gallipoli he was transferred to the 7th Light Horse on 29th August 1915 and appointed Second Lieutenant on 28th October and promoted to Lieutenant on 28th Jan 1916.

In June 1916 whilst on duty in the Sinai he was taken ill and evacuated to hospital in the UK. There he married an Australian country girl, Hilda Gertrude Harnett at Westminster Cathedral on 24th October 1916.

He was in action at the Charge at Beersheba in 1917 and in early in 1918 he served a period as Adjutant for the 4th Light Horse and was promoted Captain on 1st May. On 4th May 1918 he received a gunshot wound to his thigh when his horse was shot from under him.

In June 1918 he returned to the 12th Light Horse before returning to Australia, having his appointment terminated on 13th Feb 1920, and subsequently resigning from the police force on 4th June the same year.

In 1925 he became a Federal Member of Parliament and served as Minister for Home Affairs from 1928 to 1929 when the govt was defeated. About this time he became very active in the Old Guard and following his retirement from parliament, he was appointed Administrator of the Northern Territory in 1937. He was the Administrator during the bombing of Darwin when the administration was moved to Alice Springs. He moved back to Darwin in 1945 and left the Territory on sick leave in May 1946, never to return.

Charles died on 30th April 1975.