

Archibald was born in Surry Hills on 24th October 1891, the son of William Briggs and Jane Briggs, nee Rowley.

In 1903 at aged 12, Archie was charged with 3 other youths with vandalising a school and was sentenced to 5 years at the Camperdown Reformatory

On 24th April 1907, he enlisted in the Royal Navy as a "Boy 2 Class" and served aboard the HMS Challenger, with the service number 830. He completed 6 years 4 months service, and was discharged, time expired. Being only 15 at the time of engagement he required his parents' consent, which was obtained via a letter written by his father and dated 23rd April 1907.

33 William St
Paddington
23rd 4/07

Dear Sir

The Bearer
Archie has mine and
his Mothers consent to
join the Navy which
he wishes to join so
we have give him our
consent I am yours
etc
William Briggs

P.S. If anything further
is required I am quite
willing to give it

Wm Briggs



On 11th August 1914, Archibald joined the AN&MEF, stating that he was a Telegraph Linesman, single and gave his mother, at 49 Campbell St, Newtown, as his next of kin, not mentioning his brush with the law as a juvenile.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th January 1915 having completed 161 days service.

He enlisted in the AIF on 10th February 1915 and was discharged next month on 8th March, at own request.

On 17th June 1915 he again enlisted, this time as part of the 7th Reinforcements of the 13th battalion. He departed on 20th August 1915 aboard the SHROPSHIRE and joined the battalion on Mudros on 30th October 1915 and was at Gallipoli until the battalion was withdrawn late in December. He was promoted Corporal on 29th November and then appointed lance sergeant on 1st December, whilst on the Peninsular.

On return to Egypt, Archibald was transferred to the 45th battalion and promoted sergeant on 4th March 1916. Later that month, on the 27th, he transferred to the 19th Field Artillery and on 26th May reverted to private, at his own request.

On 27th September 1917, at Ypres, Archibald was wounded with the result that his left arm was amputated to the shoulder. He was evacuated to the UK aboard the NEWHAVEN and then returned to Australia aboard the WHILTSHIRE, leaving the UK on 16th March 1918 and arriving in Sydney on 2nd May 1918. He was discharged, Medically Unfit, on 21st August 1918.

On 30th April 1921, he married Violet May Chapman at St Matthias Church, Paddington, at which time he listed his occupation as "Naval Storeman"

Archibald died in Heidelberg, Victoria in 1958.