

Joseph was born in Surrey Hills, NSW on 13th December 1885. He had a number of run ins with the law and between 1903 and 1912 had 12 convictions for various offences including fraud, assaulting police and riotous behaviour. He enlisted in E Company, AN&MEF, stating that he was a labourer and single, giving his sister Annie at 161 Commonwealth St, Surrey Hills as his next of kin.

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

On 1st September 1915 he joined the AIF as a driver in the Army Service Corps but was discharged on 5th October – “Unsuited for duties of the Corps”