

Joseph was born in Salford England on 18th October 1878, the son of Dennis Fitzgerald and his wife Mary Selina, nee Donovan. His father died in 1892 when he was just 14 and his mother in 1899, when he was 21. Joseph served in the Boer War, firstly with the North Transvaal Mounted Rifles and then from 16 Jan till 7 July 1902 with Kitchener's Fighting Scouts, regimental number 1885.

On 11th August 1914, Joseph joined the AN&MEF stating that he was a licenced surveyor and single, giving his aunt, Mrs Jane Elizabeth Stott, 13 Jamieson St, Sydney as his next of kin. On 5th October 1914 he was promoted sergeant whilst employed in Rabaul as a surveyor and returned to Sydney and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 8th April 1915 he joined the 3rd Battalion, regimental number 2251, and left Sydney on the KARoola on 16th June 1915 for the Middle East. At Tel-el-Kabir on 14th Feb 1916 he transferred to the 55th Battalion and then to the 5th Pioneers on the 3rd March. On 27th July he was admitted to hospital, probably with malaria, and discharged to base on 6th September. He was again admitted to hospital on 11th October and repatriated to the UK. He was suffering from debility and malaria and left Devonport on 17th March 1917 aboard the BELTANA disembarking in Melbourne for Sydney on 12th May. He was discharged from the AIF as medically unfit on 2nd July 1917.

Joseph died on 14th May 1954.