

Robert was born in Darlinghurst in 1881, the son of Frederick and Annie Bevill. In 1903 he married Elizabeth Johnson in Newcastle, and his daughter, Fleurette, was born in 1904. Robert served with the 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles in the Boer War, service number 588.

On 11th August he enlisted in the AN&MEF, stating that he was a lift attendant and gave his wife at 85 Greens Road, Paddington as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service.

On 8th March 1915 he enlisted in the 20th battalion, regimental number 1. He was appointed Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant on 1st April and sailed with the battalion aboard the BERRIMA, departing Sydney on 25th June 1915. Whilst on Gallipoli he suffered from dysentery and was evacuated, rejoining his unit on 15th November 1915.

On 7th June 1916 he was reported as dangerously ill with pneumonia, not rejoining his battalion until 2nd October. Later, on 28th November he was evacuated from France with bronchitis and was returned to Australia on the RUNIC, leaving Devonport on 4th May 1917 and arriving in Sydney on 3rd July. He was discharged as medically unfit on 8th August 1917.

On 11th Jan 1918 he re-enlisted, this time with the Army Service Corps as a driver and given the regimental number 1A. He was promoted corporal on 16th Jan and then CQMS on 21st Jan. He remained in Australia and was discharged on 5th November 1918.