

George was born in Adelaide on 30th November 1893, the son of James George Griffin and his wife Emily Pleasence, nee Brown. His father, James, died on 19th October 1907 just before George's 14th birthday.

On 11th August 1914 he joined the AN&MEF stating that he was a ship chandler's storeman and single, giving his mother at 137 High St, Neutral Bay as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th Jan 1915 having completed 161 days service.

On 24th July 1915 he enlisted in the AIF as part of the 18th Battalion, regimental number 2887 but was discharged, medically unfit, on 24th December 1915. George suffered from malaria and this was to affect him throughout his military career. He received a pension for the period from his discharge until he re-enlisted, which he did on 6th June 1916 as part of the 5th Reinforcements, 53rd Battalion. He was given the new regimental number, 2419.

On 14th September 1914 he left Sydney on the MASHOBRA, disembarking at Plymouth on 2nd December. He was taken on strength in France on 24th June 1916 and was admitted to hospital with malaria on 5th March 1917. He left France on the GRANTULLY CASTLE and admitted to the 3rd General Hospital, London. On release he spent some time in the 12th and 14th Training Battalions before returning to France and rejoining his unit on 19th December 1917.

He suffered further bouts of malaria and was in Orpington Hospital, Kent from March 1918 till 13th May. He did not return to France and eventually left the UK on 9th March 1919 aboard the KASHMIR. He was hospitalised on the ship with malaria and arrived back in Australia on 2nd May 1919.

He was discharged from the AIF on 9th June 1919.

In the same year he married Grace Eliza Martha Macquarie.

George died at Balgowlah on 23rd July 1915. His occupation at the time is listed as Boatshed Proprietor.