

Harry Ford enlisted in H Company, AN&MEF on 11th March 1914 and he left Rabaul on the EASTERN, on 9th Jan 1915, arriving home to be discharged on 18th Jan 1915, having completed 161 days service.

On his enlistment he stated that he was born in Devonshire, England, was 22, a groom and single, giving a Mrs Ethel Ford at 621 Burk St Surry Hills. Most of these facts would appear to be untrue. He married Ethel Prudence Gayford at St David's, Surry Hills in 1911 and had two children at the time of his enlistment. In addition, he married under the name Forward, giving his parents as John Forward and Sarah Anne, nee Ridgway, living in the UK. In fact, his father was John Ridgeway and his mother Ellen Sarah Ann, nee Forward, who had migrated from Devon in 1888 and settled in Brisbane where Harry Ford was born with the name Frank Ridgway on 7th March 1889. So, Harry Ford was born Frank Ridgway, used his mother's maiden name to be known as Harry Forward but enlisted as Harry Ford.



He enlisted in the Australian Service Corps on 23rd October 1915, admitting that Ethel was his wife and that he had two children. He served in Sydney until 31st Jan 1916 when he was discharged at own request. It would appear that he had contracted malaria whilst in New Guinea and after having his application for a pension initially refused, he was eventually granted a pension for himself, wife and two children.

He again enlisted on 11th Feb 1918 and was passed medically fit for home duties only, regimental number 911. He was a driver and his discharge date is unclear although it is clear he was still serving on 3rd August 1918.

In 1936 he was living at the Wirrimah Soldier's Settlement, Orange and he died in Newtown in 1953.