

Leslie was born in Brisbane on 16th September 1889, the son of George Waldron Blake and Annie Blake, nee Cooper. He enlisted in A Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a Telegraphist (PMG), single and gave a Mrs S H Drew of 80 Darlington Rd, Darlinghurst, as his next of kin. Leslie also stated that he was a Lt in the Senior Cadets.

On 30th Nov 1914 he was appointed Lance Corporal, promoted Corporal on 1st December and Lance Sergeant on 5th Feb 1915. Leslie returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service.

On 18th March 1915 he enlisted in C Company, 19th Battalion, AIF and was promoted Sergeant on 1st June. On 25th June he left with the Battalion aboard the CERAMIC arriving in Egypt in late July and eventually landing at ANZAC Cove on 19th August 1915. After the battalion was withdrawn from the Peninsular, he went to France in March 1916. He was wounded on 28th July 1916, rejoining his unit on 5th August. Later that month, on the 19th he received his Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and on 28th October he was transferred to the 5th Training Battalion.

He was promoted Lieutenant on 1st Jan 1917 and rejoined to 19th battalion on 20th May 1917. Leslie was awarded a Military Cross, the recommendation for which states; -

“This officer was in charge of his Company which took part in the attack of KONNEBEKE on 9th October. On being ordered to reinforce the front line he immediately moved his Company forward in the direction of DAIRY WOOD showing fine initiative in handling his Company under very heavy enemy shelling and rifle fire, during the forward movement of the small attacking party he showed splendid courage in continually exposing himself whilst directing the covering fire of his men on targets likely to hold up the attacking party. This accurate fire carried out under his personal guidance was largely responsible for the success in clearing the enemy from DAIRY WOOD. As new ground was gained he immediately moved his Company forward, carrying out consolidation under continuous heavy fire and most adverse circumstances.”

On 1st September 1918 Leslie was promoted Captain and following the cessation of hostilities was transferred to the 20th Battalion on 4th December 1918. He left Liverpool on 20th May 1919 aboard the NESTOR and his commission with the AIF was terminated on 30th November 1919.

On 6th April 1921, Leslie married Sylvia Rosalie McKay at St Mark's Picton and he died at Hunters Hill on 5th March 1951.