

Alexander was born in 1886 at Leith, Scotland, the son of John and Martha Chisholm. He enlisted in E Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a Scaffolding Rigger and single, giving his mother at 153 Albion St, Leith as his next of kin. He also stated that he was in the Boer war serving three years with the Natal Police.

On 23rd September 1914 he was appointed Lance Corporal but reverted to private on 5th October following being charged a receiving 14 days detention. The nature of his charge has not been ascertained. Alexander returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 28th Jan 1915.

It would appear he returned to Scotland as records indicate that he served in the British Army, in the Royal Army Service Corps and was at Woolwich Dockyards in the service in 1920.