

William was born in Wanganui, New Zealand On 3rd June 1888, the son of Charles and Sarah Carruthers Bone. He was an Accountant by trade, being a Fellow of the Accountants Institute of New Zealand.

On 11th August 1914, he enlisted in G Company, AN&MEF, stating that he was single and giving his mother at 153 Glasgow St, Wanganui as his next of kin.

William return from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having served 206 days.

William returned to New Zealand and enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 29th May 1915, service number 24/354 and was discharged as medically unfit due to Malaria.

He returned to Australia and enlisted in the 13th Battalion as part of the 15th Reinforcements, on 23rd August 1915, whilst still a member of the NZEF, his discharge from that force being on 25th September.

Before leaving for the UK, William married Violet Muriel Pringle in early 1916. On 1st December 1915, William received his Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and left Sydney aboard the STAR OF ENGLAND on 8th March 1916. He was taken on strength by the 13th Battalion on 8th July 1916 and promoted Lieutenant on 19th August 1916. He acted as Captain from 27th Oct 1916 to 20th December 1916 and promoted Captain on 22nd February 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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William Bone on right, from the records of Capt J R Henderson held at the AWM.



Offices of the 13th Battalion, Belgium 1917. William Bone on the right.

William was awarded the Military Cross in early 1917, the recommendation by his Commanding Officer stating: -

“Lieut. Bone commanded the left Company of the 13th Battalion in the attack on Storey Trench N. E. of GUEUDECOURT on night 4/5th February 1917. As soon as the first shot of the opening barrage was fired he jumped over the top and led his men straight to their objective. He was the life of his Company, and set a wonderful example by fearlessly exposing himself to every danger. He was everywhere in his line, supervising the defence, the erection of a bomb top, wiring, positions of machine guns, etc., and sent me a constant flow of cool, clear, concise and informative messages. He did not have any sleep in the most critical period – the first 48 hours. When the left was counter-attacked he rushed up to the spot with reinforcements and bomb carriers, and saw to every detail of the fight. He is a model Company Commander, and I recommend him most highly for distinction.”

On 20th April 1917 William was evacuated to the UK, suffering from diphtheria and did not return to his Battalion until 12th August. He was again hospitalised, this time in France, between 2nd Feb and 17th April 1918.

Shortly after returning to his unit, on 1st May 1918, at Villiers- Bretonneux, he was seriously wounded (at 4am according to the Battalion diaries), was evacuated and as a result had both legs amputated. Whilst recuperating, he attended a course in Commercial Subjects at the University of Manchester, arranged by the Overseas Scholarship Board from 28th December 1918 till 30th November 1919.

On 29th December William and his wife, who had joined him after his injury, returned to Australia aboard the KONIGEN LUISE, arriving in Sydney on 7th February 1920.

William’s commission was terminated on 3rd October 1920 and he died at Vaucluse on 1st October 1941