

Francis enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was 32, born in Woodsea, Devon, England, was an engineer and single. He also stated that he served in the Durban Light Infantry for two years and in the Natal Mounted Police for 3 years, presumably during the Boer War.

Francis was promoted Sergeant on 18th August 1914 and returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service.