

William was born at Penzance, Cornwall, England on 17th July 1888, the son of Richard Parkin and his wife Elizabeth, nee Day. He enlisted in the 6th Devonshire Regiment in 1907, regimental number 8549, and served for 6 years including 3 years stationed in Malta.

In 1912 he married Winnefred Harvey at Penzance.

On enlistment in the AN&MEF he stated that he was a hairdresser by trade and was posted to F company. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 26th June 1915 he enlisted as part of the 3rd reinforcements, 19th battalion, regimental number 1978. He left Sydney on 9th August aboard the RUNIC. He left Alexandria for Gallipoli on 10th October, but was hospitalised in Mudros, en route. He eventually reached Gallipoli and reported for duty with his battalion on 8th December, some 12 days before the battalion was withdrawn from the Peninsular.

He moved to France with the battalion, arriving in Marseilles on 25th March 1916

William was killed in action at Poziers on 26th July 1916. He is remembered at the Australian Memorial at Villers Bretonneux and on Panel 89 at the Australian War memorial Canberra.