Henry's birth details are a bit obscure. On his AN&MEF attestation papers he stated that he was born in Calgary, Alberta but on his subsequent AIF enlistment he stated that he was from London. He gave his occupation as a seafarer and it has not been possible to verify either birthplace. On his AN&MEF papers he stated that he was single and gave a Mrs Burley of Paddington as his next of kin. He stated that he was 24 years old, and that he had previously served in the 4th Battalion, Essex Regiment. The Essex Regiment was part of the UK Territorial Army (the equivalent of our CMF).

Henry returned from Rabaul and was discharged, time expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 15th March 1915 he enlisted in A Company, 20th battalion and was promoted to sergeant on 2nd May 1915 and then WO Class2 (CSM) on 21st May. On 25th June 1915 he sailed aboard the BERRIMA and joined the battalion on the Gallipoli Peninsular on 16th August 1915, and after the withdrawal went to France in March 1916. On 16th June 1916 he was promoted WO 1, Regimental Sergeant Major.

On 4th May 1916, at Kings Lyn, Norfolk he married Ada Florence Skipper.

On 30th October 1916 he was Court Martialled and found guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline and was reduced in the ranks to sergeant.

He continued with the battalion and spent several periods in hospital both in France and England. At the end of the war he attended a Course in Cinema Operating at the Victoria Cinema College, Oxford, from 21st March 1919 to 21st May. He was granted leave until a family ship was available to return him to Australia, which eventually happened on 9th December 1919 when he returned aboard the BORDA, disembarking in Sydney on 2nd Feb 1920. He was subsequently discharged as medically unfit - Debility – on 20th April 1920