

Herbert was born in Sydney on 11th July 1885, the son of Alfred E and Eliza Andrews. The family was from South Africa, and at some stage after Herbert's birth moved back. On 4th January 1907, Herbert returned to Australia aboard the SALAMIS.

Herbert joined A Company of the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 and on his attestation, papers stated that he was an Architectural Draughtsman and nominated a J M Andrews, Postmaster, Golden Kopje, Rhodesia as his next of kin. He also stated that he had previously been on active service with the Natal Carbineers as well as serving in the South African Constabulary. The Natal Carbineers was a Volunteer Regiment and is said to be the oldest such Regiment in South Africa. It participated in the Boer War.

Whilst in Rabaul, Herbert was appointed Lance Corporal on 30th November 1914 and appointed Sanitary Inspector. He returned to Australia and was discharged, term expired, on 4th Feb 1915.

He applied to join the AIF on 23rd October 1915 and this time listed his occupation as Tram Conductor and his next of kin as Mrs W Rogers, PO Box 224, Bulawayo, South Africa. He was discharged on 16th November 1915 "... on account of being an orphan and sole support of next of kin", who was listed in the discharge as a Mrs Logan, who had two sons at the front.