

William was born in Douglas on the Isle of Man on 20th Jan 1887, the son of Samuel and Ellen Acheson. Prior to coming to Australia, he spent 4 years between 1902 and 1906 with the Kings Liverpool, Isle of Man, Regiment (Reg Number 15).

He enlisted into D Company of the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 and returned to Australia on 21st October 1914 aboard the MORESBY, as part of an escort of enemy prisoners.

On 12th December 1914 he – “Failed to return from Sydney by SS MATUNGA , is posted as a deserter.” This was done in Rabaul where they were unaware that William had re-enlisted into the 2nd Tropical Force (Service numbers 467/118) and embarked for Rabaul aboard the EASTERN on 25th Jan 1915. On 1st July he was appointed Lance Corporal and promoted Corporal on 28th October 1915. During this posting he spent time at Morobe before returning to Australia and being discharged on 29th Feb 1916.

On 25th March 1916 he enlisted into the newly formed 36th Battalion (Service Number 2190) and sailed from Sydney with the Battalion aboard the ANCHISES on 24th August 1916.

On 7th May 1918, he transferred to the 33rd Battalion and returned to Australia on 11th May 1919 and was discharged.

William died in 1974 and is buried at Rookwood Cemetery.