

William was born in Cosgrove, Victoria in 1892. He enlisted in C Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a tram driver and single and gave his sister, Mrs E Coulson at 36 Sussex St, Prahran, Victoria, as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 9th August 1915 he joined the AIF as part of the 17th Reinforcements, 12th Light Horse and left Australia aboard the HAWKES BAY on 21st October. He was taken on strength in Egypt on 20th March 1916 and on 14th December 1916 he transferred to the 68th Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, having passed his trades test.

On 13th Jan 1917 he sailed from Alexandria aboard the KINGSTONIAN, arriving in Southampton on 30th Jan. On 7th July he was remustered from motorcyclist to motor driver. He was in Belton Park Hospital from 19th July to 16th September, when he left the UK for France, rejoining his unit. On 14th October 1917 he reverted to his old mustering as motorcyclist and was admitted to hospital in France on 18th March 1918 suffering from malaria. He was eventually admitted to the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Cosham on 25th May and remained in hospital until 8th July. He remained in the UK eventually transferring to 2nd Squadron on 11th April 1919.

William left the UK aboard the KAISER-I-HIND on 6th May 1919 arriving back in Australia on 19th June where he was discharged from the AIF on 11th August 1919.