Walter was born in Melbourne in 1892, the son of Alexander Chisholm and Annie Lily Chisholm, nee McLennan. On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in the AN&MEF, stating that he was a Carriage Wagon Builder and single, giving his mother at 757 Drummond St, North Carlton as his next of kin.

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

After returning from Rabaul he was appointed a special constable and was posted to the Garrison Military Police. On 22nd Jan 1917 he enlisted as a gunner in the 28th Field Artillery, regimental number 35596. He married Agnes Jane Eileen Cooper in the same year before departing Sydney on 2nd August aboard the MILTIADES, arriving in Glasgow on 2nd October 1917.

He went to France on 7th March 1918 and was evacuated to the UK with dysentery on 14th September 1918. He remained there until after the Armistice was signed and returned to Australia aboard the ULYSSES, departing on 22nd July 1919 and arriving in Sydney on 5th September. He was discharged from the AIF on 17th December 1919.

Walter died at Cronulla on 13th July 1965 and is buried at Woronora Cemetery.