

Charles was born in Christchurch, New Zealand on 30th June 1890, the son of John Dunham and his wife Margaret, nee McBryde. On 11th August 1914 he joined G Company, AN&MEF stating that he was a farmer and single, giving his mother at Wolli Creek as his next of kin. There was some confusion about his sail for New Guinea. He was posted as having been discharged just prior to sailing having had two epileptic episodes. However, it was later discovered that a William Frederick Dunham, #717 was the soldier involved. William was Charles' older brother and he had the fits on the BERRIMA just before it sailed and so was not part of the contingent that left for Rabaul.

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

Charles returned to New Zealand and on 29th May 1915 joined D Company, 2nd Battalion, Trentham Regiment, service number 4/1082. He served in Egypt and Trance and was discharged on 23rd October 1917 – "no longer physically fit for war service on account of illness contracted on active service. Charles had contracted pneumonia which had developed into pleurisy.

In 1919 Charles married Lucy Jane Grey at Wollongong.

On 25th March 1942 he again signed up as a private, part time member of the 10th Battalion, Volunteer Defence Corps, service number N241676 and served until 25th March 1942.

Lucy died on 23rd April 1974 at Caringbah and Charles died on 17th August 1978.