

Walter was born at Hemel Hempstead, Herefordshire, England in 1886, the son of Walter Edward Dowling and his wife Elizabeth Mary, nee Harrison. On his enlistment into D Company, AN&MEF on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1914 he stated that he was a warehouseman and single, giving his brother, Harold George Dowling at "Honley", Nth Dorriggo as his next of kin. On 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1915 Walter was re-attested and transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, AN&MEF and returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1915 having completed 254 days service. Whilst in Rabaul he spent much of his time attached to the Customs Department.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1916 he joined the AIF as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Depot Battalion, regimental number 63850. He was promoted corporal on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1916 and then sergeant on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1917. He then transferred to the 35<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Reinforcements, reverting in rank to gunner and acquiring a new regimental number, 63850. He was again promoted corporal on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and sergeant on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

In 1917 he married Annetta Marion Angus.

On 5<sup>th</sup> June 1918 he embarked on the ORONTES, disembarking at Liverpool on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Immediately after disembarkation he reverted to gunner and remained in the UK where he was discharged from the AIF on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1919.

Walter's brother, Francis Gilbert also enlisted in the Artillery as a bombardier in the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, regimental number 18858. He was killed in action in France on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1917.

Walter died in Chatswood on 112<sup>th</sup> March 1948.