

William was born in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1880, the son of George Henry Carr and Sarah Elizabeth Carr, nee Downham. He served with the 9th New Zealand Voluntary Contingent in the South African (Boer) War. The details are a little sketchy. It would appear he stowed away on a ship ex Sydney that was taking the 7th New Zealand Contingent, arriving in South Africa and joining up on 14th Feb 1902 with the service number SA6341. What can be confirmed is that he transferred to the 9th Contingent on 12th March 1902 and given the number SA7857. On the way back from South Africa he developed pneumonia and was discharged, medically unfit, on 8th September 1902 after a month's sick leave.

In 1908 he married Mary Helena Roth and on 11th August 1914 he joined D Company, AN&MEF stating that he was a labourer and gave his wife, at Madras St, North City, Christchurch as his next of kin. He had a newborn son, William Laurence, at the time of signing up. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service.

William was listed on the NZ WWI Reserve Rolls.

On 24th Nov 1943 William's son, William Laurence, who was a Flight Sergeant in the RNZAF was killed over Italy.

William died on 30th June 1950 and is buried at Macquarie Park Cemetery.