

Pelham was born in Scone, NSW on 25th April 1894, the son of Edward Francis de Mestre and Anne Helena de Mestre, nee Hayes. On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in H Company, AN&MEF stating that he was a clerk and single, giving his father at "St Ronan's", Parramatta, as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 28th Jan 1915.

On 3rd April 1915 Pelham joined the AIF as part of the 5th Reinforcements, 13th Battalion, regimental number 2089. He sailed from Sydney on 13th April aboard the KYARRA. Pelham never made it to Gallipoli and on 21st Jan 1916 he was admitted to hospital in Alexandria suffering from Catarrh. On his release on 4th Feb he took up duty in the HQ accounts office where he was promoted corporal on 8th March. On 23rd May he transferred to the 5th DAC and attended artillery training depot in July.

On transfer to the UK he was admitted to Sutton Verney Hospital suffering from laryngitis on 23rd December 1916 and on recovery moved to France and was taken on strength by the 13th battalion on 6th September 1917. He was hospitalised with paralysis of the left arm on 26th June 1918 and evacuated to the UK on 8th October 1918. He suffered a number of bouts of malaria and was engaged in administrative duties until his return to Australia aboard the CAPE VERDE, departing on 5th Jan 1920 and arriving in Sydney on 29th Feb. He was discharged, end of period of engagement on 29th May 1920.

On 14th April 1927 Pelham married Helen Russell Adams. At the outbreak of World War 2 he joined the CMF, service number Q194873, on 21st Oct 1939 and served as a sergeant in the 1st District Accounts Office until he was called up for full time duty, service number Q451, on 17th March 1941 and served as a WO2 in the 1st Military District Depot Medical and Vet Store, until discharge on 14th March 1947.

Pelham died on 10th August 1967 and is buried at Nudgee Cemetery, Queensland.