

Walter was born in Wellington, NZ, on 2nd May 1878. On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in H Company, AN&MEF stating that he was an Accountant and single, giving Mrs M A Fahey, Foyer St, Marrickville as his next of kin. He also stated that he had previous service in the Civil Service Corps (perhaps in New Zealand) and the Shanghai Volunteers (Boxer Rebellion) from 8 August 1900 till 1901, serving in Tientsin.

On 18th August 1914 he was promoted sergeant (QM), and returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th Jan 1915 having completed 161 days service.

In 1916 he married Annie May Fahey and moved to Canberra as a Public Servant. Their son, Melville Mahon Crombie served as a Sergeant in the 2/19th Battalion, service number, NX60312. He was captured by the Japanese in Batavia and died from Beri Beri in a POW Camp in Burma on 16th September 1943.