

William was born at Pembrey, Wales on 25th April 1885, the son of William Thomas Kitt Gillard and his wife Emma Jane, nee Warren. In the 1901 census he is shown as a boy sailor (he is 15) on the IMPREGNABLE. On 25th April 1903, his 18th birthday, he joins the Royal Navy signing up for 12 years, number 212964. He was still aboard the IMPREGNABLE. He served on several ships, lastly on the CAMRIAN which he deserted on 13th August 1907 whilst the Ship was in Sydney. The same year he married May Victoria Golding in Sydney.

On his enlistment into the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 he stated that he was an engine driver and gave his wife at 12 Palmer St, South Head, as his next of kin. He also stated that he had served 7 years in the RN and had purchased his discharge. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 23rd April 1915 he joined the AIF and was allocated to the 6th Reinforcements, 4th Battalion but was discharged, at the request of his wife, on 4th June. His wife stated that she was pregnant and that they had 3 children and the youngest was sick with bronchitis.

William again joined the AIF on 12th October 1918, regimental number 92114 and was in B Company, Composite Battalion when the war ended, and he was discharged on 19th November.

His wife, May died on 7th August 1925 and his eldest son William Henry was killed in Egypt in WW2. He was in the 2/32nd Battalion, service number NX6331. He is buried at El Alamein Cemetery and is remembered on Panel 60 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

William died at Bulli on 1st September 1964.