Norman was born in Sydney in 1887, the son of John and Leah Blake. He enlisted in B Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914, stating that he was an engineer, single and gave his sister, Elsie Berneaur, Hunter St, Hornsby, NSW as his next of kin.

Whilst in Rabaul, he transferred to the Naval Contingent of the AN&MEF on 7th Jan 1915 and served as an Engine Room Artificer, Class 4, until his discharge on 6th July 1915.

In 1916 he married Florence Gough and had two children, Ronald John Mackie and Hazel. Norman continued his career as an engineer and died in North Sydney in 1945.