

William enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11 August 1914 and was allocated to F Company. On his attestation he advised he was 19 years old, was a Horse Driver and gave his mother, Annie Maria Andrews of 51 Carolyn St, Redfern as his next of kin.

He served for 161 days and was discharged, Termination of Period of Service on 18th January 1915.

On 3rd March 1915 he enlisted in the AIF, but immediately went AWOL and had a Warrant Issued for his arrest as a deserter.

On 9th July 1915 he again enlisted in the AIF (service number 3734) and left Sydney for the Middle East on 11th December 1915. At this point he was attached to the 1st Battalion. He moved to France in July 1916 and was transferred to the 1st Australian Machine Gun Company, in September 1916, which was at the time, in Belgium. During the latter part of 1916 and into 1917 he was hospitalised on a number of occasions for a variety of ailments including pleurisy and bronchitis.

On 29th October 1917 he faced a General Court Martial, charged with Desertion and was found not guilty of desertion but guilty of "absenting himself without permission", and sentenced to 90 days field punishment.

He again had several hospital visits for Onychia (severe inflammation of the toes) and Cardiac Irritability.

In Sept 1918 he was again charged with desertion and this time was found guilty and sentenced to 10 years Penal Servitude, which was commuted to 2 years hard labour. Whilst in No2 Military Prison, Rouen, he was charged with joining a mutiny and was sentenced to 90 days field punishment.

In May 1919 he was transferred from Rouen to Northampton Prison in the UK, from where he was transferred to the ship PAKEHA for return to Australia. On boarding the ship, the unexpired portion of his sentence was remitted.

It would appear that when the PAKEHA docked in Cape Town, leave was given. William failed to return on time and the PAKEHA sailed without him. A short time later he boarded the DEVON to finish his return trip to Australia. He was discharged in Sydney, termination of period of enlistment on 10th December 1919.

William died at Redfern in 1952.