

William was born in Hurlford, Ayrshire, Scotland in 1891 the son of John Davie and his wife Maggie, nee Crawford. In 1913 he joined the PMG as a Commonwealth Public Servant and on 11th August 1914 joined A Company, AN&MEF, stating that he was single and gave his father at 17 Northland Ave, Londonderry as his next of kin.

William returned from Rabaul on the SS EASTERN as an invalid suffering from Malaria and whilst initially being discharged on 4th March 1915, he remained in the Army until he recovered from malaria, finally being discharged on 25th March having completed 227 days service.

On 29th June 1916 he joined the AIF as part of the 19th Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion. Later that year, before departing overseas, he married Violet Amanda Smith. He left Sydney on the WILTSHIRE on 22nd August 1916 and arrived in Plymouth on 13th October 1916. He went to France on the SS VICTORIA on 4th Feb 1917 and was taken on strength with the 2nd Battalion on 9th April 1917.

William was killed in action on 9th April 1916. An eyewitness, Pte William Henry Blackley, 5902, reported: -

“Davie was in C Company. They were killed outright by machine gun fire on the ridge at Hermies about 3 a.m. on the 9th April. They were buried in a Cemetery outside the village with other men, and crosses and particulars were erected on their graves.”

Davie is buried at the Beaumetz Cross Roads Cemetery, France and is remembered on Panel 32 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.