

Harry was born in Newcastle, NSW, in 1892, the son of William and Sarah A Coombes. He enlisted in E Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was 22, a Civil Engineering Draftsman and single, giving his mother, at "Kyalami", Jersey Road, Artarmon as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th Jan 1915 having completed 161 days service.

On 19th August 1915 he joined the AIF as part of the 13th Reinforcements for the 4th Battalion, regimental number 4291. He left Sydney on 20th December 1915 aboard the AENEAS arriving in Suez on 12th Feb 1916. On arrival he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion and immediately appointed Lance Corporal. In March, the battalion moved to France and he was promoted Corporal on 29th June 1917 and then Sergeant on 6th September. On 18th October he was granted a Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant.

On 7th November 1917 at Ypres he received a shell wound to the head, resulting in concussion and his evacuation to the UK not returning to active duty until 26th April 1918. Meanwhile, on 1st April he was promoted Lieutenant.

Harry returned to Australia on 31st May 1919 aboard the AENEAS, arriving in Melbourne on 12 July and then proceeding by rail to Sydney. His appointment to the AIF was terminated on 6th September 1919.

In 1921 he married Marguerite Donnay and died in 1970.