

William was born on 12th June 1891 at Collingwood, Vic, the son of Walter Amner Shaw Dawson and his wife Emily Priscilla, nee Stokes.

He enlisted in the AM&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a Pastry Cook and single, giving his father at Nicholson St, Tempe as his next of kin. William returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 14th September he enlisted in the AIF as part of the 2nd Reinforcements, 5th Field Artillery Brigade, regimental number 10148. At his enlistment he stated that his occupation was now carpenter and that he had been reject for enlistment in March 1915 on account of his teeth.

He sailed for Suez aboard the BERRIMA, departing Sydney on 17th December 1915. He was taken on strength by the 5th FAB on 19th Feb 1916 and moved to France with the Brigade in March. He was re-mustered as Driver in April and transferred to the 2nd Divisional Artillery Column (DAC) on 13th May 1916. On 2nd April 1917 he transferred back to the 5th FAB and reverted to gunner at his own request.

On 25th May 1919 William married Florence Ham at St Andrews and St Philips Church, Kensington and returned to Australia with his new wife aboard the ZEALAND, departing Tilbury on 3rd July and disembarking at Melbourne on 23rd August 1919. He was discharged as medically unfit (undisclosed disability) on 2nd Feb 1920.

William died in Sydney in 1977.