William was born in Enniscorthy, Wexford, Ireland, on 20th April 1891, the son of John Buttle and Annie Buttle, nee Roberts. He enlisted in E Company, AN&MEF on 14th August 1914 stating that he was a tram conductor, single and gave his older brother, Samuel Robert Buttle of 143 King St, Newtown, as his next of kin.

John left Rabaul on 9th Jan 1915, arriving back in Sydney where he was discharged, term expired, on 28th Jan 1915 having completed 171 days service.

On 23rd December 1916 he married a girl from Ireland, Kathleen Bedelia Goode.

On 5th March 1941 he enlisted in the Army, service number V11853 and served at the HQ of the Med and Vet Stores until discharge on 10th October 1945.

William died in Rose, Victoria in 1976