

Fred was born at Goulburn on 1st March 1887, the son of Arthur Charles Fortescue and his wife Catherine Ellen, nee Barrett. He was a mounted NSW police constable, being appointed to that rank on 28th Jan 1909. On his enlistment into D Company, AN&MEF he stated that he was a mounted police constable, whereas he had resigned from the police force on 16th June that year.

On 14th November 1914 he was tried by a Field Court Martial and was sentenced to three months in hard labour and to be discharged from His Majesty's forces with Ignominy. He forfeit his claim to any medals.

In 1919 he had a warrant issued over unpaid maintenance in respect of an illegitimate child and he died in Brisbane on 31st March 1964.