John William Brebner was born at Warrnambool, Victoria, on 25 May 1947. He completed his secondary education at Warrnambool High School and went to the University of Melbourne where he completed his Bachelor Science in 1968. He commenced work with Riotinto, Australia, as a Research Metallurgist. John commenced his National Service at 2 RTB, Puckapunyal, as 3796840 with the fourth intake of 1969 on 1 October. Although a reluctant soldier, John applied for Officer Training and commenced at OTU Scheyville with Class 4/69 on 17 October 1969. In his Junior Class he was a member of 12 Section, 6 Platoon, C Company. John Graduated with his class on 15 April 1970 and on 16 April was attached to the RAEME Training Centre from where he was allocated to the Deputy Assistant Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Army Headquarters, Melbourne.





At the completion of his two years, on 30 September 1971 John discharged from the Army. Back in civilian street John returned to the by then Conzinc Riotinto as a Metallurgist, remaining there until 1974. In 1975, he re-trained as a teacher completing his Diploma of Education at Hawthorn Teachers College in Melbourne. He then taught at Cobden Technical School from 1976 to 1978, Warrnambool Technical School 1979 to 1980 and Ipswich Girls Grammar School from 1982 to 1984. He then commenced at Geelong College as the Preparatory School Science Co-ordinator. John was a staff member of the college from 1985 to 1989. One of John interests outside work was undertaking bird counts for Birds Australia.

John died at Port Fairy, Victoria, on 25 April 2013 after a battle with cancer. John was not active in any ex-military activities post-NS, consequently, a private service and cremation was held.