

Bernard was born at Derby, England, on 12th April 1886, the son of John Knapton and his wife Mary Adelaide, nee Dyche.

On 5th June 1904 he joined the Royal Navy, service number SS611 and was discharged on 8th June 1909 having completed 5 years' service.

On 11th August 1914 he enlisted in the AN&MEF and was posted to the Machine Gun Section. On enlistment he stated that he was a clerk by trade, and single, giving his mother in Derby as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 6th May 1915 he enlisted with the 6th reinforcements; 4th Battalion and allocated the service number 2184. He left Sydney on 16th June aboard the KARoola and joined his battalion on Gallipoli on 4th August 1915.

Two days after his arrival he received a gunshot wound to his right eye and forehead and was evacuated to Malta on 12th August, and then on to England on 25th September.

He left England aboard the SUEVIC on 11th March 1916 and was discharged as medically unfit on 23rd December 1916 having lost his sight in the right eye due to a detached retina.

After the war, Bernard returned to England where he died in 1975.