Frederick was born in London on 28th September 1890. Before coming to Australia, he served as a cabin boy in the Royal Navy aboard the ACHERON and the PEMBRKE, from 26th Jan 1910 till 8th September 1912. He also sated that he served with the Artillery, in the UK it is presumed.

He joined F Company, AN&MEF, stating that he was a clerk, single, and gave his mother, Elizabeth Laura Chapman of 16 Cathnor Rd, Shepherds Bush, London, as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th Jan 1915 having completed 161 days service.

In 1915 he married Magdalene Camillas Smith in Sydney.

Chapman enlisted in the AIF on 20th June 1916 as a private, regimental number N30871 but was discharge on 24th July 1916 with services no longer required.

He again enlisted on 2nd April 1917, this time as a Sapper with the 2nd Field Troop (Engineers). He left Australia aboard the PORT SYDNEY, arriving in Suez on 20th June 1917. He was admitted to hospital with Malaria on 14th July 1917, not returning to his unit until 21st August 1917. He remained in the Middle East for the remainder of the war, being in and out of hospital on may occasions suffering from malaria and debility.

On 3rd July 1919 he left the Middle East aboard the MALTA, arriving back home on 10th August 1919 and being discharged on 21st December the same year.

Frederick served in World War 2 as a corporal Clerk in the Accounts Office from 16th March 1942 till 12th June 1944, service number N65956. During his service he divorced his wife Magdalene on the grounds of desertion.