

John was born in Dapto, NSW, in 1883, the son of John Alexander Bovard and Sarah Jane Bovard, nee Richardson. John had 3 brothers and 5 sisters. John snr and Sarah married in 1874 and in 18 years had 9 children.

John enlisted in D Coy, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a carpenter, single and giving his mother at Port Kembla as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 20th April 1915 he joined C Coy, 30th battalion and allocated the regimental number 1220. He sailed with the battalion from Sydney aboard the BELTANA for Suez. Australian had withdrawn its troops from Gallipoli by the time he arrived in Suez and the battalion moved on to France in June aboard the HORORATA.

He received a gunshot wound to his right hand on 21st July 1917 and upon recovery he was transferred to the Provost Corps in the UK. On 15th October 1918 he was appointed Lance Corporal.

On 9th July 1919, at St Andrew, Edinburgh, he married Elizabeth Turnbull Littlejohn and was granted indefinite leave awaiting a family boat for return to Australia. With his wife he eventually boarded the KONIGIN LUISE on 18th December 1919 for return. He was discharged from the AIF on 7th May 1915.

John died on 27th February 1958.