According to his AIF Service Record, Ernest was born in Wee Waa, NSW, but his Roll of Honour Circular completed by his older brother Charles, states he was born on Millie Station, on the Namoi River, Pilliga, NSW. Charles also remarks that Ernest was a well-known cricketer in the Hunter River district; that he joined the 1st Light Horse in February 1915 and left with 'G' reinforcements in June 1915, and that he was one of last to leave Gallipoli. Capp was only sixteen whilst at HAC, from April to December 1898. He’d been a grazier at the time of enlistment. His service record shows he served on the Peninsula from the end of September 1915.

Aged just 34, he was deemed to have suffered heart failure while in camp at "Ezbit Sidhoum near Samalut Upper Egypt" on April 28, 1916. His fellow tent-mates found him dead when they woke for reveille, yet he appeared perfectly well the previous day. Two of his fellow troopers arranged the purchase of a coffin and his funeral. He is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery.