

# St John's Honour Roll Memorials



Mortimer Froude

Enlistment address: unknown (however his father worked on the corner of Darling Street and Church Street, Balmain)

World War One

Mortimer Froude was born in 1897 in Balmain, and his father was dentist, whose surgery was on the corner of Church Street and Darling Street. After schooling at Cessnock he returned to Balmain and was a rivet boy at a blacksmith's shop at Mort's Dock. The naval training ship, Tingira, was undergoing repairs at Mort's Dock, and he wandered across one lunch hour to find out about the Navy. When the Tingira was repurposed and ready for training, Mortimer became the number one to join, and became one of the first 14 boys to join the Royal Australian Navy on 1 June 1912 - he was 14. After his training he was posted to HMAS Australia, and was serving there when he deserted in 1915, in England, to join the British Army – rejected due to his height (or lack of it) he joined the Royal Navy instead as a Stoker, and was posted to the cruiser Defence. The HMS Defence fought in the Battle of Jutland on 31 May – 1 June 1916, which was the major naval battle of the First World War. HMS Defence was hit by enemy attack and blew up, killing all 903 men onboard.

