

St John's Honour Roll Memorials



Sterling Franki

Enlistment address: Montrose, 13 Thames Street Balmain

World War One

Born in Balmain in 1892, Sterling Napier was the youngest son of James and Bessie Franki. He died of wounds received in action on 27 July 1916 Pozieres France aged 23 and is buried at the Puchevillers British Cemetery

His father, James Franki, was an engineer and ship builder who oversaw the development of shipbuilding at Mort's Dock for over 50 years. He was born in Switzerland and came to Sydney in 1855. In 9 January 1867 he joined Macarthur & Co. which was then operating at Waterview Bay, Balmain; he started as chief engineering draughtsman, was promoted to manager on Thomas Macarthur's death in 1869, and appointed general manager when the dockyard became a public company in 1872 under the name Mort's Dock & Engineering Co. Ltd.



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The spectacular development of shipbuilding at Mort's Dock (the largest privately-owned dry dock in the southern hemisphere) continued. When he joined it, about 200 men were employed; by 1915 the company's three docks—Waterview dock, Woolwich dock and Jubilee dock—and its engineering establishment at Woolwich, had more than exceeded 1000, sometimes up to 1500. Franki was managing director from 1915 until his retirement in 1923. He subsequently died in 1924.



St John
the Evangelist, Balmain
Anglican Church
of Australia

www.stjohnsbalmain.org.au