

# MENTONE GRAMMAR

## ROLL OF HONOUR

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*The past and present students of Mentone Grammar School retain a deep and lasting bond with all our students who have gone on to serve their country overseas in time of war. 109 Old Mentonians saw active service during the Second World War; of that number 12 did not return. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten by the members of our School. It is in a very special sense that we say of them, Labore et Honore.*



### **John Lachlan Thorburn Graham-Brown**

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*Sub-Lieutenant – Royal Navy*

*Died: 14 October 1939 Age: 21*

John Lachlan Thorburn Graham-Brown was killed in action aboard the battleship *HMS Royal Oak* while it lay at anchor at Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands, Scotland when it was attacked by the German submarine U47. He is commemorated at Portsmouth Naval Memorial Hampshire, England.



### **Roland Ernest Maurer**

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*42569 Pilot Officer – Royal Air Force*

*Missing: 26 November 1940 Age: 24*

Roland Ernest Maurer served in the 53 Squadron flying Blenheim fighter bombers. Based at Thorney Island, Hampshire, the Blenheim IV (V-5371) which he piloted was listed as missing following an attack on an oil depot. He and his other two crew members perished when, it is presumed, their aircraft crashed into the sea. He is commemorated at Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, England.



### **Leslie Syme**

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*W1729 Stoker – Royal Australian Navy*

*Died: 4 March 1942 Age: 21*

Leslie Syme served as a stoker on the sloop HMAS Yarra. On 4 March 1942, whilst on convoy escort duty, the Yarra sighted a Japanese heavy cruiser squadron and in a valiant but hopeless attempt to defend the convoy was finally destroyed by intense enemy gunfire. Of the ship's complement of 151, 138 (including the captain and all officers) were killed in the action or died subsequently on one of two life rafts. He is commemorated at Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England.



### **Ian Harris Fielding**

**409038 Flight Lieutenant**, Royal Australian Air Force: 100 Squadron

*Died: 2 April 1945 Age: 26*

Ian Harris Fielding died in a mid-air collision shortly after take-off from Tadjai airstrip, Papua New Guinea on a bombing mission. His Beaufort bomber collided with another Beaufort and both machines crashed into the sea. Although wreckage was found, no survivors were located. He is commemorated at Lae Memorial, Papua New Guinea.



### **Archibald Frederick Roberts**

**VX44381 Private**, Army: 2/21 Battalion (Australian Infantry)

*Died: 6 June 1945 Age: 34*

Archibald Frederick Roberts was dispatched to Ambon in December to join Netherlands East Indies troops in the defence of the island. However, this Australian formation, named "Gull Force", though numbering 1131 and combined with Dutch forces, stood little chance. The Japanese landed on 30 January 1942 and after just four days of bitter fighting, surrender became the only option. A few men managed to escape, but of some 804 taken prisoner 267 were sent to work on Hainan Island. Conditions there and for those who remained on Ambon were extremely harsh. Arch Roberts died of illness along with 90 per cent of the Australian prisoners on Ambon or Hainan, including 229 who were massacred after surrendering at Laha airfield.



### **Robert Charles Kennon**

**VX77686 Sapper** – Army: Royal Australian Engineers 42

*Port Landing Craft Company*

*Died: 9 June 1945 Age: 23*

On 8 June 1945, an action was initiated by the Australian 11 Brigade aimed at outflanking Japanese forces in an amphibious landing north of the jetties at Porton Plantation, Bougainville. Although the landing was unopposed, a number of landing craft containing heavy weapons ran aground. Japanese forces began to direct heavy fire on the Australians and a withdrawal and evacuation by sea became necessary. Australian casualties were 23 killed and 106 wounded. Robert Kennon was killed in action manning a machine gun on one of the landing craft. He is buried at Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery.



### **Hugh Wilson McClelland**

**VX31208 Bombardier** – Army: 3 MD RR & GDD (for discharge)

*2/1 HY AA REGT RAA*

*Died: 24 July 1946 Age: 34*

Hugh Wilson McClelland served as a bombardier in 2/1 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. He was awaiting discharge from 3 Military District when he died of illness. He rests at Springvale Crematorium, Melbourne.



### **Robert Whitton Langlands**

**VX44864 Acting Lance Corporal** – Army: 2/22 Battalion (Australian Infantry)

*Died: 1 July 1942 Age: 23*

Robert Whitton Langlands was posted to New Britain in April 1941 and joined a contingent named "Lark Force". It was ill-equipped and outnumbered when Japanese forces landed in January 1942 and he was captured along with 802 others. In June 1942 he boarded the *Montevideo Maru* for transportation to Hainan Island. The ship was sunk off the Phillipines on 1 July 1942 by the submarine *USS Sturgeon*, killing all 1053 prisoners aboard. He is commemorated at Rabaul Memorial, Papua New Guinea.



### **Ian Stuart Gibson**

**409065 Sergeant** – Royal Australian Air Force: 179 Squadron Royal Air Force

*Died: 15 March 1943 Age: 33*

Ian Stewart Gibson was stationed for a time in Norfolk and Somerset in England where he was a member of Coastal Command, flying Wellington bombers. In November 1942 his squadron moved to Gibraltar on anti-submarine patrol duty. He lost his life as the result of an accident while undertaking air operations. He is buried in Illogan Cemetery, Cornwall, England.



### **Francis Barker Allan**

**409786 Pilot Officer** – Royal Australian Air Force: 419 Squadron, RCAF

*Died: 6 September 1943 Age: 25*

Francis Barker Allan served with the Royal Canadian Air Force. The Squadron was equipped with Halifax bombers shortly after it was transferred to Middleton St George in County Durham, England, in November 1942. For the next 18 months the Squadron was engaged in night offensive operations over Germany. On 6 September 1943, Francis Allen was killed in action. He is buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery, Germany.



### **Bruce Allan Duckworth**

**409394 Flight Sergeant** – Royal Australian Air Force: 1 Air Observers School

*Died: 7 March 1944 Age: 21*

Bruce Allan Duckworth served as a wireless air gunner. After active service in the New Guinea area he was posted as an instructor to 1 Air Observer School, Evans Head, New South Wales. It was here that he died as the result of an aircraft accident. He is buried in Evans Head War Cemetery, New South Wales.



### **Kenneth Cupples Beruldsen**

**410034 Flight Lieutenant** – Royal Australian Air Force: 235 Squadron RAF

*Died: 16 December 1944 Age: 22*

Kenneth Cupples Beruldsen was based at Banff, Scotland, from where Coastal Command Strike Wing conducted its operations. He was killed in action over Norway when brought down by ground fire while attacking enemy shipping in a fjord near Losna Island, 80km north of Bergen. He is buried in Sola Churchyard near Stavanger, Norway.