



Speech By  
**Peter Russo**


**MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2016

## ADJOURNMENT

### Fall of Singapore, 75th Anniversary

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (8.30 pm): Next year, 15 February 2017, will mark the 75th anniversary of the fall of Singapore during the Second World War. Singapore in 2016 is a global commerce, financial and transportation hub of the Asia-Pacific region. It enjoys political autonomy and has a thriving economy. It also has iconic institutions such as Raffles Hotel, named after the founder of modern Singapore, Sir Stamford Raffles. We enjoy healthy trade relationships with the Asia-Pacific region, each year welcoming tourists to our shores with open arms. These are vital relationships that we must continue to develop and embrace.

However, in 1942 the world was a different place from what we now know it to be. Europe had been at war since 1939 and Japan entered the Pacific conflict with its well-recorded attack on Pearl Harbor on 8 December 1941. At that time Singapore was a British protectorate, not gaining independence from Britain until 1963. The British defence of Singapore had been based upon the Singapore Strategy, which history shows failed.

The purpose of my speech is not to reopen wounds that through the course of time and diplomatic relationships have long since healed, nor to glorify war, but to recognise and pay tribute to the strength of character and resolve of our Australian service men and women who served in both Malaya and Singapore in 1942 and valiantly fought to defend Singapore from the advancing Japanese forces.

Last month, I was asked to represent the Premier at the 2nd/10th Field Regiment Association's annual remembrance service marking 74 years since the fall of Singapore. I had the honour and privilege to meet with two servicemen who were members of the 2nd/10th Field Regiment: Mr Mervyn Neil, a lance bombardier, and Mr Robert Christie, a gunner. They are part of a small and declining number.

Queensland's 2nd/10th Field Regiment was formed at Redbank Camp, Brisbane, as one of the 8th Division's three artillery regiments. Men from across Queensland joined the regiment, including a group of lifesavers from Tugun, who had an average age of 21. The 2nd/10th Field Regiment arrived in the Malayan southern peninsula on 19 February 1941 and were stationed there for the remainder of 1941. Events escalated rapidly on 8 December 1941 with the entry of Japan into the Second World War. The 2nd/10th Field Regiment location came under enemy fire and they were later captured.