




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

ADJOURNMENT

HMCS *Vancouver*; Remembrance Day

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.29 am): Last Friday night I attended a cocktail reception representing the Leader of the Opposition aboard the HMCS *Vancouver*. The reception was hosted by the High Commissioner of Canada, His Excellency Mr Paul Maddison, as well as the Commander of the Maritime Forces Pacific, Rear Admiral Art McDonald. They both spoke very eloquently to the assembly on board the HMCS *Vancouver*.

During the couple of hours that I was at this cocktail reception, as part of me doing my bit in trying to promote collegiate relations with the Canadians on board I met Leading Seaman Kevin Roth, a naval electronic sensor operator, Leading Seaman Zach Lye, the cook to whom everyone showed the utmost respect, and Ordinary Seaman Susannah Weber, an electrical technician, all from the *Vancouver*. These three young people were supreme ambassadors for not only the Navy but also Canada itself. They spoke very highly of the different ports they have travelled to on this particular tour of duty—ports such as Darwin, Guam and Singapore. However they said that, of all the ports they have visited so far, the welcome they received from the people of Brisbane was without doubt the best. I thank those three sailors for the hospitality they showed me. It was a wonderful function.

In keeping with things military, the next day I had the honour of attending a centenary of the laying of the foundation stone at Mowbray Park at East Brisbane. There was a range of speakers there. We were also graced with the presence of His Excellency the Governor, who also spoke very well. It reminded me again, as we lead into the centenary of the laying of that foundation stone, how much we continue to owe the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II.

It leads me, with a great deal of solemnity, to praise past fallen men and women. This year marks the centenary of two significant battles in Anzac history—the battles of Fromelles and Pozieres. Anyone here who has a passing interest in military history, as I do, will know the significance of both of these battles that were too horrific for words. I have read many, many books on both battles. Some other members in this place may have done the same thing as well.

This coming Friday will be one of the most solemn days in the Australian calendar, the 11th of the 11th, Remembrance Day. One hundred years ago, in 1916, the world witnessed two of the most decisive battles of World War I: Verdun and Somme. May we always use the words 'lest we forget'.