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Guy Barnett, Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Commemorating D-Day Landings

Today we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings and recognise the significant contribution and sacrifice Australians made as Allied forces stormed the beaches of Northern France.

Codenamed Operation Overlord, more than 100,000 troops landed on five beaches along a 50-mile heavily fortified section of France's Normandy coast.

The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded including fourteen Australians.

Meticulous planning ensured the success of this operation and a Tasmanian teacher from Hobart, Lieutenant Kenneth Hudspeth, was recognised with a Distinguished Service Cross for conducting beach reconnaissance missions on enemy shores.

After the war, Mr Hudspeth returned to teaching and continued serving with the RAN Reserve from 31 December 1951 to 21 January 1965.

In retirement, he was heavily involved with the Tasmanian Maritime Museum and the preservation of Hobart's maritime history, before he died on 3 December 2000.

Today we reflect on the sacrifice and bravery of the thousands of individuals, like Mr Hudspeth, 75 years on from D-Day.