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State's Victoria Cross hopes rise

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TWO Tasmanians are a step closer to being posthumously honoured with a Victoria Cross.

Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean and Launceston-born navy cook Francis Bassett (Richard) Emms are among 13 servicemen being considered for the highest military honour.

In April the federal government approved an inquiry into why they had not been recognised.

Guy Barnett, who as a Tasmanian Liberal senator supported both men receiving the honour, said the Honours and Awards Tribunal had received 50 submissions by the June 30 deadline.

He said the next step would be public hearings.

"I remain hopeful that they will both get a positive assessment by the tribunal," he said.

Final approval will be made by the federal government.