



Garry Ivory launches a petition in Launceston yesterday to recognise the World War II bravery of his uncle, Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean.

Picture: NEIL RICHARDSON

Petition calls for rethink of Sheean snub

By JODIE STEPHENS

PUNCHBOWL man Garry Ivory has not given up the decades-long fight to see his uncle, Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean, receive the top gallantry award for his actions during World War II.

On March 1 the Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal rejected submissions for Ordinary Seaman Sheean to receive a Victoria Cross, saying his actions did not reach the "particularly high

standard" required for recommendation of an award.

Yesterday, Mr Ivory and other family members launched a petition outside Holy Trinity Church in Launceston, calling for the government to "set aside the report of the tribunal and reconsider the acts of valour demonstrated" by Ordinary Seaman Sheean.

Mr Ivory said they would collect signatures until the end of April, with the petitions set to be tabled in

the May session of federal parliament.

"We think the wrong decision was made . . . and we've had a lot of support from the local community, and from people from as far as England and Vietnam, who are overwhelmingly in support of Teddy being awarded a Victoria Cross," Mr Ivory said.

Ordinary Seaman Sheean, 18, died in 1942 when he went down with his ship while strapped to his gun, firing at attacking Japanese planes.