

Bravery inquiry rapped

IAN McPHEDRAN | March 07, 2013 12.01am

FORMER Liberal senator for Tasmania Guy Barnett has labelled an independent tribunal inquiry into gallantry awards for 13 Australians as a "whitewash bordering on a charade".

The Government last week released the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal report into past acts of gallantry that recommended no upgrading of individual awards and only one unit citation for gallantry for the WWII ship HMAS Yarra.

Mr Barnett has been a strong supporter of the family of Tasmanian WWII sailor Teddy Sheean who strapped himself to a gun and went down firing on board HMAS Armidale.

He accused the tribunal of not following the terms of reference and of superimposing its own guidelines to require a higher burden of proof than should have been sought.

Nobody could meet the stringent requirements of the tribunal, he said.



Tasmanian WWII sailor Teddy Sheean.