



# Guy Barnett

Liberal for Lyons

## Media Release

### OVER 3400 SIGN TEDDY SHEEAN VICTORIA CROSS PETITION "FIGHT ON" THEY SAY

Wednesday 31 July 2013

More than 3400 people have signed the petition to have Latrobe war hero Teddy Sheean's bravery recognised with a Victoria Cross.

"This is a great result so far, said Mr Garry Ivory and Mr Guy Barnett, State Liberal candidate for Lyons today.

"We want the next federal government to reconsider our claims so we want as many signatures as possible. Petitions will be collected up until election day and then we will get more if need be. We will not give up, we will fight on, they said.

"Teddy Sheean served on the HMAS Armidale and, when attacked on 1 December 1942 and ordered to abandon ship, he returned to his anti-aircraft gun and fired at enemy aircraft to protect his mates being strafed in the water. Teddy Sheean did this in total disregard for his own safety and life, and was seen continuing to fire as the ship went down.

"A recent Defence Tribunal Report decided that Teddy Sheean's bravery was not worthy of a Victoria Cross. We at the Teddy Sheean VC Award Fight team believe this is a grave injustice. Bravery such as that shown by Sheean should be appropriately honoured.

"Our petition asks the Tribunal findings be set aside and Sheean's bravery re-considered for a VC," they concluded.

People wishing to sign the petition can contact us directly at:

Teddy Sheean VC Award Fight, 3/34 Blamey Road, Punchbowl TAS 7249 (Garry Ivory)  
Or PO Box 80, EVANDALE TAS 7212 (Guy Barnett).

Attached: *Petition*  
*Photo-Guy Barnett and Garry Ivory*

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GARRY IVORY 0427 633 105 or GUY BARNETT 0428 622 333**

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Tasmanian  
**Liberals**

## Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean - a selfless act

Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean was born in Lower Barrington, Tasmania on 28 December 1923. His family soon moved to Latrobe and he was educated at the local Catholic school and worked as a farm labourer until he enlisted in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve at 17 years. In June 1942 he was posted to the HMAS Armidale as an Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun loader.

The Japanese were moving south ferocious and fast and on 1 December 1942 the Armidale, then in the Timor sea just north of Australia, came under repeated attack by at least 13 Japanese aircraft. By 3.15pm the *Armidale* had been struck by two aerial torpedoes and began to sink, an event that would take less than 5 minutes. Lieutenant Commander David Richards ordered the ship to be abandoned. Out of the 149 on board, only 49 would be rescued from the water.

As the ship was sinking, and the survivors in the water tried to board life-rafts, the Japanese aircraft continued to strafe the men in the water. Ordinary Seaman Sheean possibly already wounded, and seeing his mates in distress and being shot at, returned to his Oerlikon gun, strapped himself in, and began firing at the Japanese aircraft and attracting enemy fire. He reportedly shot down at least one Japanese Zero in his efforts. Witnesses report that tracer fire could still be seen leaving the gun after she sunk below the waves. Sheean would have known his fate when he returned to his gun but in an act of conspicuous bravery offered up his life for his mates and his country. He was not yet 19 years. (There is a well-known painting at the Australian War Memorial which commemorates this incident and a submarine named in his honour.)









TEDDY SHEEAN  
VC



TEDDY SHEEAN  
VC



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