

DOOR OPENS TO REVIEW TEDDY SHEEAN VC CLAIM AND LETTER GOING TO NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL, FORMER DEFENCE CHIEF PETER COSGROVE

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The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal has overturned a case for two World War II veterans for medals and recommended a review of all cases since 1939 where claims were unjustly denied, opening the door for a renewed push of the claims for a VC for Teddy Sheean.

“We are delighted by the Appeals Tribunal decision and confirm that the Teddy Sheean for VC Fight-on campaign will make a submission for justice, said Mr Garry Ivory nephew of Teddy Sheean and Mr Guy Barnett Liberal candidate for Lyons who as Senator for Tasmania kick started the push for justice some 8 years ago.

“In addition we will be outlining the claim for a VC for Teddy Sheean in a letter to the former Defence Chief Peter Cosgrove when he commences in March 2014 as Australia’s new Governor-General. We believe that the new Governor-General will understand our concerns and will relate to our claims in support of Teddy Sheean. As Australia’s head of state he has considerable influence. The former Defence Chief will certainly already know about Teddy Sheean and his acts of outstanding bravery, they said.

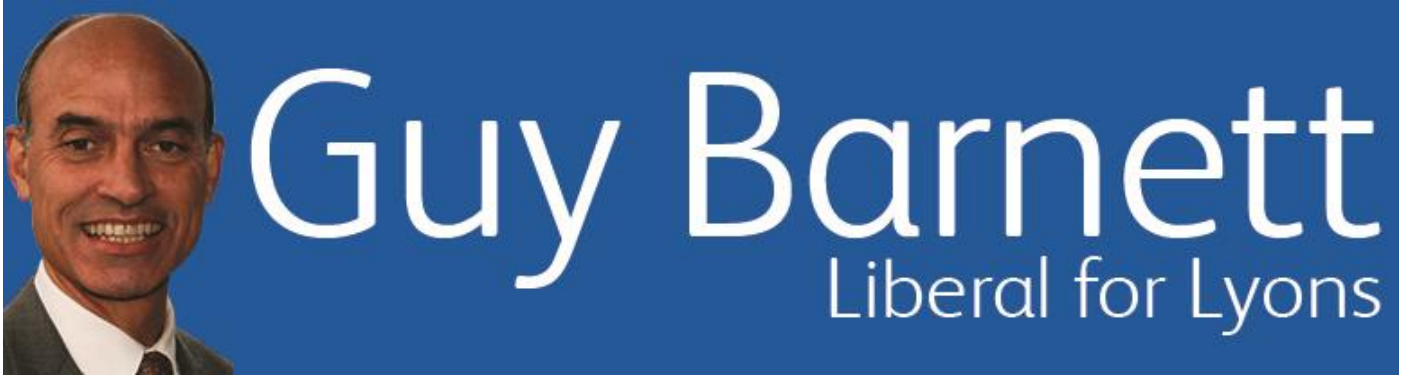
“The Federal Government’s Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal recently overturned a previous decision denying two World War II North Africa veterans five medals including the Australian Service medal. The Defence department at the time bungled the process. This continuing failure (by Defence) to properly recognise their service and withholding the issue of the awards has no legal basis and is unjustified,” the Appeals Tribunal said.

“The two brothers, John and Archibald Boyes were Tobruk and El Alamein veterans in North Africa and were said to be larrikins with one of them apparently charged with riding a donkey through the mess while intoxicated. In their case the brothers’ nephew Ken Stephens took the matter to the Appeals Tribunal to get justice for his two uncles. In the case of Teddy Sheean, Garry Ivory is doing the same, said Mr Barnett who has supported the VC fight campaign since it was kick started by his push for justice in the senate.

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Teddy Sheean served on the HMAS Armidale and when attacked on December 1 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. He died going down with the ship and tracer fire was seen from the gun as the ship went down.

Over 6500 petitions calling for a review and justice were signed and tabled in federal Parliament last month by the federal member for Bass Andrew Nikolic.

“We will not give up. We plan to make a further submission so the case of Teddy Sheean’s bravery can be reviewed,” they concluded.

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