



# SACRIFICES MUST BE

The courage and sacrifices of Defence personnel in keeping our shores safe must be remembered, writes **Guy Barnett**

REMEMBRANCE Day is an important opportunity to honour all our Tasmanian and Australian Defence Force personnel who served or are serving, in war, conflicts, and on peace-keeping operations.

Their selfless courage, service and sacrifice has helped shape the Australian character and values we cherish today.

Many Tasmanians have served their country with distinction; from the Boer War to modern Afghanistan, but it's not only the notable Victoria Cross award recipients who can capture our imaginations with their heroic and brave deeds.

An example is Sister Elizabeth "Lizzie" Orr, who was Matron of the Imperial Army and included in the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women in 2013 in recognition of her wartime service, as detailed by historian Reg Watson in the latest edition of my book; Tasmania's Victoria Cross Recipients.

She first served during the Boer War in South Africa from 1899 to 1901. Sister Orr had

already lived a full and active life when war was declared in South Africa in 1899. She served as a nurse during this conflict, afterwards remaining in South Africa for 12 years, before returning to Australia to run a private hospital at Maitland, NSW.

At the commencement of the Great War in 1914 she left the hospital and travelled to Egypt where she was Matron of Transports and Hospital Ships in Gallipoli and the Mediterranean.

In 1916, Lord Kitchener, whom she knew in South Africa, presented her with a watch encased in a gold nugget. Her work was strenuous and difficult; facilities and food were often inadequate and she needed all her ingenuity to battle against not only war wounds, but rampant diseases and sickness such as diphtheria, dysentery, measles and malaria.

She was mentioned in dispatches twice and a document signed by Winston Churchill as Secretary of State of War reads, "I have it in command from the King to

record His Majesty's high appreciation of services rendered". Her services saw her health wane so she returned to England in 1919. There she received the Royal Red Cross Medal from King George V, the highest award for nursing. She was given the rank of Matron Imperial Army. Sister Orr returned to Tasmania and for the next 11 years was Matron of Vauluse Infectious Disease Hospital, and served as President of the Nurses Club, Hobart - which she helped found - and also became the Patron of the Returned Army Nurses Association.

It would, however, also be remiss of me to point out that it is nearly one year since the Investiture Ceremony for Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheehan VC, for which we are so proud.

This Remembrance Day, I encourage Tasmanians to reflect upon the legacy of all those who served.

Lest we forget.

**Guy Barnett is Minister for Veterans Affairs**



Leading Seaman Dorian Broomhall from the Royal Australian Navy Band Tasmania during last year's Remembrance Day service at the Hobart Cenotaph.  
LEFT: Ordinary Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheehan VC with his family.  
Main picture: Zak Simmonds



# REMEMBERED



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