



The Bosun's Call



Supplementary Edition

Once Navy, Always Navy

December 2020

Ordinary Seaman Edward SHEEAN

**Posthumously receives
Victoria Cross of
Australia
1 December 2020**



General Hurley said today was a momentous and historic day, for the Sheean family – many of whom were at Yarralumla for the investiture, with others watching live online – for the Tasmanian community, for the Royal Australian Navy and entire ADF, and for Australia.

"It is a day to remember Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean, to acknowledge the gallantry, courage and selflessness he showed 78 years ago today," General Hurley said.

"And to reflect on his legacy and what it means to us today.

"His story resonates because, as Australians, we continue to see – and hope to see – part of Teddy in the world around us – selflessness, loyalty and honour.

"On behalf of all Australians I acknowledge his remarkable service, gallantry and sacrifice.

"May we all remember it, honour it and learn from it." Though Teddy Sheean's bravery and name has always been known, we all know this honour did not come easy. And it is to the credit of his family and

Governor General of Australia General David Hurley made the presentation of the medal to Ordinary Seaman Sheean's nephew Garry Ivory.

supporters that they lived out the motto of HMAS Sheean – 'Fight on'.

Six decades after Teddy's death, the submarine named in his honour made its first trip to Devonport, not far from where Teddy grew up. It is said that his sister Ivy watched it quietly enter the Mersey, and she said she felt as if Teddy had finally come home.

Today, almost eight decades on from Teddy's brave actions, we know his story grows with the ages. He now takes his place as one of the guiding lights of the country he indeed served to save.

Teddy would have turned 97 this month. His life brings to mind the words of the British officer and poet Thomas Mordaunt – "One crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name".

The name, the example, the glorious life of Edward 'Teddy Sheean' VC will always be remembered."



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

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Last Post Ceremony—Australian War Memorial 1 December 2020



Reproduction of Teddy Sheean's medals extracted from a photo of the frame of Ord Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean VC, that Vern Bechaz was commissioned to do for the Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum

Below: Federation Guard at the Australian War Memorial for the Last Post Ceremony honouring Teddy Sheean 1 December 2020



Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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Left: Members of Teddy Sheean's family arriving at the Australian War Memorial

Below: Top; Wreath layers assembled before the commencement of the Last Post Ceremony

Below Left; Chiefs of Army and Air Force with their Senior Warrant Officers

Bottom: Sheean's family members assembled by the AWEM Pool of Reflection prior to the heavy rain squall that caused most of them to take cover

Photos AWM Flickr





Left: His Excellency the Governor General, General David Hurley and her Excellency Linda Hurley laying a wreath

Below left: Wreath being laid by Dr Brendon Nelson, Chair of the Expert Panel which finally led to Sheean being honoured with award of the Victoria Cross.

Below right: The Vice Regal wreath

Photos AWM Flickr



Right: Tasmanian MP Guy Barnett, initiator of the final phase of the process which led to Sheean's valour being recognized after 78 years of delay, laying a wreath on behalf of the people of Tasmania.

Note the heavy rain



Right: The Fleet Commander, RADM Mark Hammond lays a wreath on behalf of HMAS Armidale and HMA Submarine Sheean, and Warrant Officer of the Navy, Deb Butterworth, for the Chief of Navy on behalf of the RAN

Below: Director of the Australian War Memorial Mr Matt Anderson (left) and the Chairman of the AWM Council Mr Kerry Stokes lay wreaths

Photos AWM Flickr



Right: National President of the Naval Association of Australia David Manolas (right) and John King, National Vice President of the RSL, lay their Associations' wreaths



Below left: Deputy British High Commissioner Ingrid Southworth lays a wreath on behalf of the United Kingdom

Below right: Naval Association of Australia's wreath





Photos Opposite on Page 6

Left:: VADM David Johnson lays a wreath on behalf of the Chief of Defence Force

Right:: Chief of Navy VADM Michael Noonan delivers the oration on Teddy Sheean's life and sacrifice

Below right: Wreath from HMAS Armidale and HMA Submarine Sheean

Bottom: The Last Post is sounded by an RAN bugler with the Chief of Navy and part of the Catafalque Party saluting on the steps to the AWM Hall of Memory

Photos AWM Flickr



Above : CMDR Phil Elliott RAN Rtd (right) with RADM Greg Sammut observing the ceremony from the AWM cloisters. In 1992 Phil Elliott was asked by Navy Headquarters in Canberra to mount Teddy Sheean's medal. They had been located in Navy Office. As a result of this connect he was invited to attend the presentation ceremony in Government House Yarralumla and later to the Last Post Ceremony

Below: The Naval Association Team that was privileged to be at the Last Post Ceremony, National President David Manolas (centre) ACT Vice President Alex McGown (left) and Peter Cooke-Russell



*Part of the list of
those lost with
HMAS Armidale,
remembered on
the Australian
War Memorial's
Roll of Honour*

AWM



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HMAS Armidale

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