

Submission 82

Mr Brenton Best MP

Member for Braddon

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INQUIRY NO:

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DATE:



Australian Government

Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

LODGEMENT OF SUBMISSION

This form must be lodged with a submission to an Inquiry

Applicant

Title: Mr Ms Mrs Miss Other please specify MP

Rank:

Surname: Best First Name: Brenton Ray

Service Number/s

Date of Birth: 13/n/63

Service

Navy Army RAAF Other please specify MP

Postal Address

68 Rooke St Mall
Devonport

Telephone

Business: Home: 0364217889 Mobile: 0488323424

Email Address

Brenton.Best@dpac.tas.gov.au

Name of Inquiry

Unresolved Recognition for past acts Naval & Military Gallantry & Valour

Note:

Are you providing this submission on behalf of an organisation? YES: NO:

If YES, what is the name of the organisation?

What position do you hold in the organisation?

Brenton Best MP
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PREMIER
NORTH WESTERN ECONOMY



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Brenton Best MP

State Member for Braddon



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28 JUN 2011

DHAT/IN/2011/082
Matter No 20

www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ha/best/best.htm

13th June 2011

To Whom it may Concern

RE: Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal CP3-7-067

I would like to advise that successive Tasmanian Premier's from 1998 to today all support and strongly believe that the late Ordinary Seaman, Teddy Sheean should be posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions of bravery at the time of the sinking of HMAS *Armidale* by 13 Japanese bombers off the coast of Timor on December 1, 1942 which have become legendary.

You are obviously aware Ordinary Seaman, Teddy Sheean strapped himself to a gun as his ship was sinking and continued to fire at Japanese planes which were strafing his shipmates in the water. He went down with the ship, his gun still firing even after it slid under the surface. Most Tasmanians if not all hold the general view that the Victoria Cross should have been awarded to Teddy Sheean a long time ago.

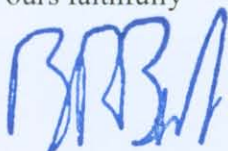
Additionally there is new, quite convincing evidence that Teddy Sheean had not been injured when he strapped himself to the gun which clearly proves beyond any doubt Ordinary Seaman, Teddy Sheean's bravery and his unselfishness to protect fellow shipmates.

The Royal Australian Navy has named one of their submarines HMAS *Sheean*, which seems to acknowledge that he is indeed a hero previously officially unrecognised.

A memorial bronze has been installed at Gilbert Street Latrobe with an aptly named Sheean Walk, a municipality very proud indeed of Teddy Sheean as the park was established through contributions made by locals. The memorial depicts "Teddy's" life as well as his final hours on HMAS *Armidale*. The Edward "Teddy" Sheean memorial was officially opened on 12th December, 1992. A memorial to Teddy Sheean has also been installed at Shropshire Park at Ulverstone where other naval events and people are commemorated.

It is beyond any doubt that Teddy Sheean should be posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, not to do so would be an injustice, not just to Teddy and his proud family but to all Tasmanians, if not the entire Australian community as a whole.

Yours faithfully



Brenton Best MP

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Labor

Brenton Best MP

State Member for Braddon

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24 JUN 2011

DHAT/IN/2011/030

Matter No 20
out/2011/209
www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ha/best/best.htm
13th June 2011

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COPY

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Brenton Best MP

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Labor Member for Braddon

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

To:	Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal
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From:	Jo Robertson
Phone:	03 6421 7933
Email:	jo.robertson@dpac.tas.gov.au
Date:	24/6/2011
No of Pages:	2 (including this cover sheet)

SUBJECT:

Please accept the following support letter as additional documentation to that provided by Mr Garry Ivory's submission in support of awarding a VC to Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean.

The original letter was posted on 22/6/2011.

Regards,

Jo Robertson

Electorate Officer

Office of Brenton Best MP