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Friend John Baxter reviews a wide range of books that may interest Members of the Friends

Honour Denied

Teddy Sheean A Tasmanian Hero
And other brave warriors of the Royal Australian Navy
ISBN 9780987151971

It's quite probable that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of feats of heroism and gallantry during action in wartime that go unobserved, unreported or fail to reach the top of the chain where final acceptance and appropriate 'rewards' are promulgated and awarded. The basis of this book by Dr Tom Lewis OAM concerns just such actions.

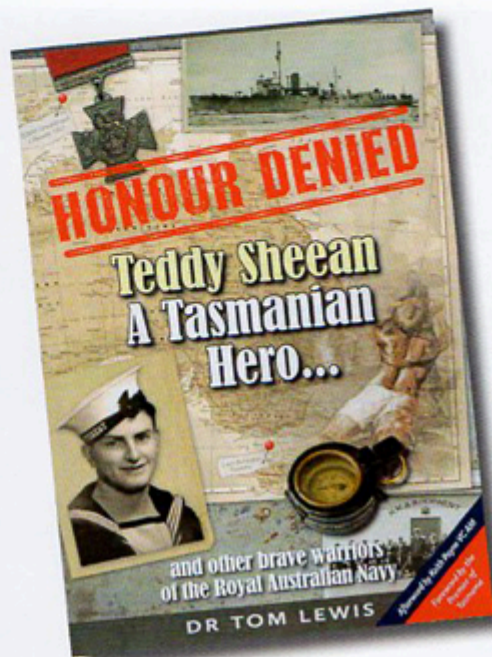
It covers three such exploits. The first is that of Ordinary Seaman Ted Sheean, who died at his post, a 20 mm Oerlikon, defending his ship and shipmates in December 1942. The fact that this and other Royal Australian Navy actions seem to have been 'overlooked' to some extent and the actual procedure for the award system applicable to the RAN during World War Two adds more grist to the mill.

Without giving the game away, I found it an entertaining and informative read. Its revelations and indeed questions make for a very interesting debate. But to give you some information, this publication basically covers the service life of Teddy Sheean, his entry into the RAN, early training, posting and service in northern waters on board the Bathurst class corvette HMAS *Armidale*.

Much earlier, in March 1942, another RAN action took place in waters north of Darwin involving the sloop HMAS *Yarra* commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Robert Rankin. The action and result is recounted within this book and despite very heroic action, certainly when compared to a similar and earlier Royal Navy action, the resulting awards are remarkably different! Then there's the other remarkable story about Captain Hec Waller and the light cruiser HMAS *Perth* in the Battle of the Java Sea.

Dr Lewis' book of 317 pages, tells us that no Victoria Cross has ever been awarded to a member of the Royal Australian Navy, despite more than one heroic example being remarkably similar to that of the Royal Navy where a VC was awarded and the US Navy where a Medal of Honor was awarded. It's well illustrated with colour and black and white photos, colour illustrations and maps and profiles by Peter Ingman, it's an intriguing approach to a topical question which has both its supporters and non-supporters – I won't actually say detractors. It's really left to the reader to determine which side of the question you favour.

This is a great book for any Australian military enthusiast at a very competitive price. It is available from Hyland's Bookshop in Melbourne hylandsbookshop@gmail.com (03 9654 7448) or Avonmore Books, Kent Town, South Australia shop@avonmorebooks.com.au for about \$35. I believe it to be excellent value. Many thanks to Peter Ingman of Avonmore Books for a review copy.



Hawker Tornado, Typhoon, Tempest

ISBN 9788365281098

To say this is just a 'picture' book is completely wrong. Sure, it contains 'pictures' but pictures that you don't see every day. This laminated, A4 sized, 46 page book contains some of the most exquisite and detailed aviation cgi artworks I've ever seen – and I've seen hundreds! The illustrator is Janusz Swiatlon who has done numerous colour aviation profiles especially for the Kagero and AF Editores and Chevron publishing houses.

This one is published by Stratus for Mushroom Model Publications in 2016. It is part of the 'Spotlight On' series and has a mere two pages of text outlining the brief histories of the three aircraft types depicted, which are all properly captioned. There are four Tornado profiles; twenty-one Typhoon profiles plus two full-frontals; and one top view; thirteen Tempest profiles, one 'full-frontal' and one top view plus several Squadron/pilot emblems scrap art. These are all at about 1/32nd scale. Then there's a fold out across the equivalent of four A4 pages of a Typhoon Mk 1B of 609 Sqn RAF in July 1944.

The artwork is really quite markable – just look at the shadows cast by the props across the engine cowings. And it's all reproduced on quality stock giving clarity and detail that's truly exceptional.