

Foreword

The story of Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean is one of courage, mateship and honour.

To this day, it serves as an enduring reminder of a Tasmanian hero who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Teddy Sheean, a young man from Tasmania's North West, began service in June 1942 with no clue of what fate had in store.

He joined the newly commissioned corvette *HMAS Armidale* as an Oerlikon anti-aircraft gunner.

On the first day of summer that same year, the *Armidale* was encircled by Japanese aircraft in waters north of Darwin.

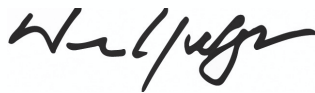
Bombs dropped from overhead, but it was two torpedoes that dealt the fatal blow, rupturing the warship's hull.

The order came: "abandon ship". While others ran, Teddy Sheean returned to his post. With the *Armidale* sinking beneath him, a wounded Teddy Sheean opened fire.

Strapped into his Oerlikon, he shot down two enemy planes and continued to fire as he disappeared below the water's surface.

At the age of just 18 years, Sheean died.

As Dr Tom Lewis has demonstrated throughout the pages of this book, Teddy's life and particularly his final moments were an act of bravery and sacrifice that will be remembered for generations to come.



Will Hodgman MP
Premier of Tasmania

