



Media Release

AUSTRALIAN STORY

Lisa McCune introduces two Australian Navy heroes

A MEASURE OF COURAGE

Monday, August 1 at 8pm on ABC1

“Hec Waller and Teddy Sheean created a tradition for Australian sailors ... the Navy would very much like a couple of Victoria Crosses to go with it”

— Mike Carlton, journalist and naval historian

A Victoria Cross is the highest award for bravery during wartime. Of the 98 Victoria Crosses awarded to Australian servicemen, none have ever gone to the Royal Australian Navy.

As the Navy celebrates its 100th year, many believe that it is about time this historical blight was corrected.

A government inquiry will finally investigate “unresolved recognition from past acts of naval and military valour.”

A Measure of Courage examines the cases of ordinary seaman Teddy Sheean and one of Australia’s most famous Captains, Hec Waller.

18-year-old Teddy Sheean’s courageous act of strapping himself to his gun as his ship was attacked by Japanese forces is part of navy folklore.

“Teddy Sheean’s example is one of the most clearly, overtly and uncontestably heroic things that could be done,” according to the Australian Navy’s Rear Admiral James Goldrick.

Follow Garry Ivory, Teddy Sheean’s nephew, in his search for Teddy and a Victoria Cross, from Tasmania to Parliament House.

For the first time personal records of Captain Hec Waller, including sketches and letters sent home to his family from abroad, are revealed.

The astonishing survival stories of crews from HMAS Armidale and HMAS Perth are recounted, featuring one of the three remaining survivors from Teddy Sheean’s ship.

Producer: Brigid Donovan

Executive Producer: Deborah Fleming-Bauer

***Australian Story* also airs online www.abc.net.au/iView
and Saturdays at 12.30pm on ABC1**

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