

**ADDRESS AT A SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION  
FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024  
BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
HOBART CENOTAPH, MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024**

Good morning, everyone, and thank you all for being here at the Hobart Cenotaph for this 105<sup>th</sup> commemoration of Remembrance Day.

May I begin by paying my respects to veterans and their families, to current and former serving members of our Australian Defence Forces, and to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war.

Today we gather to honour the brave men and women who have served in times of conflict and made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our values. We remember the bravery and determination of those who faced the horrors of World War I. We remember our many young people who ventured into foreign lands, not knowing the extent of the horrors that they would face.

Each year, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we pause to remember and reflect on the end of the First World War in 1918. In the silence of the guns, people rejoiced and celebrated with school, fire station and church bells ringing.<sup>1</sup>

The Armistice marked the end of hostilities and paved the way for the unconditional surrender of the German Forces. The allied nations chose this day and time to commemorate their war dead.<sup>2</sup>

This day has progressed to become a time to remember all Australians who have given their lives in the many other conflicts and peacekeeping missions since.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://remembertoremember.com.au/blog/why-we-remember-on-11-November> accessed on 7 November 2022

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.army.gov.au/our-heritage/traditions/remembrance-day> accessed 31 October 22

May we recall that British author H G Wells referred to the Great War as ‘The war that will end all wars’. However, the Treaty of Versailles, the punishing reparations payments, and the failure to resolve the issues that caused the war led directly to the Second World War just 20 years later. Since then, conflicts have spread.

As we gather here in commemoration, we may also acknowledge significant conflicts worldwide. The wars in Ukraine, the Middle East, the Sudan, and others are continuing sources of misery for all involved, including innocent civilians. These conflicts are a stark reminder of the ongoing costs of war and its devastating impact on individuals, families, and entire communities. We hope and pray for an end to these conflicts and others that are less reported.

As we reflect on the sacrifices of Australians in past wars—from Gallipoli and the Western Front to the jungles of New Guinea and the deserts of the Middle East—we acknowledge their courage and the courage of those currently serving in dangerous regions, navigating the challenges and uncertainties of conflict.

We acknowledge the ongoing burdens carried by their families and by our veterans. Many of those who return from conflict bear visible and invisible scars. We must continue to do all we can to ensure they receive the care, support, and respect they deserve.

We also remember all those who have been or are being affected by war—mothers, fathers, partners, and children who have endured the loss of loved ones. Around our State, the many cenotaphs and monuments that were dedicated at the end of the First World War tell heartbreaking stories. Many families lost multiple members. Most communities lost a significant portion of their population. The impact of that loss of life cannot be understated.

Today in Latrobe, the ultimate sacrifice of Tasmanian Ordinary Seaman Edward ‘Teddy’ Sheean will be commemorated as his life-size statue is unveiled. Born in Lower Barrington, Teddy enlisted in April 1941, following five brothers into military service.

He is the first and only Royal Australian Navy member awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia. His Victoria Cross was awarded in a special honours list on the

1<sup>st</sup> of December 2020. The citation reads: “For the most conspicuous gallantry and a pre-eminent act of valour in the presence of the enemy during a Japanese aerial attack on HMAS Armidale in the Timor Sea on 1 December 1942,” an action that cost Teddy his life.

Today also, an announcement will be made by the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, that the Australian Navy Cadets Training Ship *Mersey* is to be renamed Training Ship *Sheean* in Teddy’s honour to ensure that Teddy’s bravery and sacrifice will continue to “be honoured by future generations.”<sup>3</sup>

As the *Last Post* plays, may we remember those who have fallen, those who continue to serve, and those caught in the crossfires of war today.

May we continue to honour the legacy of those who have served.

Lest we forget.

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<sup>3</sup> Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, Sunday Newspaper, 10/11/2024, page 13.