



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

September 2021

From the CCOMM's desk...

Dear friends and supporters,

As I write, the news headlines are full of the allied forces' departure from Afghanistan, and the unexpectedly rapid return to control of the Taliban. I am aware of the many emotions and feelings this has ignited, particularly amongst those who served there. I had opportunity to serve, as did a number of our REPs, as the Everyman at Camp Baird and Al Dafrah for some months. I felt an affinity with some of the local people I had the privilege to interact with. I did not however get to go into Afghanistan itself. I can only imagine our ADF personnel and the connection they must have felt, not so much for a "place", but for the local people they got to befriend. It is a sombre moment, wondering how they will get on in the future. How will they hold up under the changed circumstances? Added to that is the inevitable assessment from the media and other commentators as to "what was achieved".



CCOMM Ken Matthews

However, to us in Everyman's, that is not the question. As I spoke to many an ADF member at Camp Baird, deploying forward into Afghanistan, I had nothing but admiration for their commitment. Our Defence has always excelled in dangerous war zones, whether at the Western Front 100 years ago, or in Afghanistan in the past 20 years. Both in war fighting, as well as humanitarian effort, the ADF has been second to none in achieving their goals in that immediate circumstance. Our Defence has done what they were asked to do, and made many positive differences in the lives of those they served.

This is why Everyman's is continuing to be proud to serve veterans, serving and retired, and proud to serve our up-coming generation of the ADF. We salute and honour the work the ADF does whether it be in a full-scale war, or on our own soil saving lives in a cyclone, flood, or bushfire, to say nothing of their current supporting role in a variety of capacities in the COVID response. That word of encouragement, around the Brew Truck and that meaningful chat in the Everyman's and Everywoman's Rec centre, will remain the same.

We know our Defence will always do their job in a crisis to an exemplary level. In that place, Everyman's will strive with whatever resources we summon, to serve and support them.

To that end, please continue to support us so we can support the ADF. I speak the same of the ADF as I do of every one of our Everyman's/Everywoman's REPs. They continue to serve sacrificially as volunteers to support Defence. At times when natural disasters have struck, our REPs have stood up to assist the ADF and be there to support them. At every opportunity, our REPs are there, offering a brew and a friendly chat, day and night, in all kinds of weather.

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Everyman's Welfare Service

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Facing Uncertainty

We live in uncertain times. We wonder whether Covid has changed us irreversibly or if we might get back to the life we once knew. Many have lost livelihoods through this time and the uncertainty can be crippling. In 1914, the explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton commenced his expedition to Antarctica. However, the expedition soon failed. Shackleton's ship became trapped in the ice, and broke up. By a miracle, they managed to escape to a nearby island in their lifeboats, away from the slowly melting ice shelf where they had been. However, the island was essentially uninhabitable, and they stood no chance of rescue. No one sailed near the pack ice that surrounded them. Shackleton had no choice but to take a lifeboat, and rig it to go for help over the Southern Ocean, the most treacherous on earth. The whaling stations on South Georgia Island were the most reachable and ports. Shackleton was facing a voyage of 720 nautical miles, across mountainous seas. Chances of Shackleton's party having success were slim. However, to get help for his men, he would potentially sacrifice himself, and set out nonetheless.

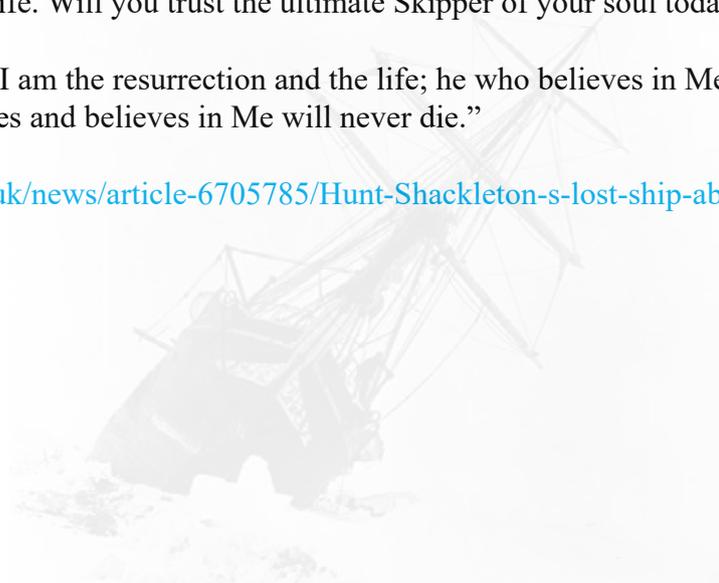
Despite this, his men trusted their skipper. Miraculously they were saved just prior to inevitable starvation. After 3 months, Shackleton finally got through the fog and pack ice. His men could have taken another one of the lifeboats, and tried to make the treacherous journey themselves. Nevertheless, they trusted in their skipper, stayed safe, and were saved.

We might not be facing the same degree of uncertainty as those men. However, our uncertainties do distress us all the same.

We have a Skipper that has promised to come for us if only we will trust Him. God Himself took on human form and dwelt amongst us. He showed us who He really is, and His purpose in saving our troubled and fallen world and us. He saved us, indeed our very souls, when He sacrificed Himself for everybody on a cross. Afterwards, many witnesses saw him alive again. This verified He really is God the Son. Jesus Christ has promised to return one day, and restore His troubled and fallen world. Whatever your uncertainties, you can leave them with the One who is not just a mere mortal like Shackleton, but He who is all-powerful, and offers you eternal life. Will you trust the ultimate Skipper of your soul today?

John 11:25-26 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6705785/Hunt-Shackleton-s-lost-ship-abandoned-submersible-trapped-ice.ht>



CO-LABOURERS

At Everyman's we realise we can make a small impact on the ADF, but in conjunction with fellow ministries, the results are magnified. We gratefully acknowledge these like-minded ministries with whom we work to serve the ADF:

Chaplains

FOCUS

Military Christian Fellowship (MCF)

Navigators

SASRA

Red Shield Defence Service

Focus on the Family

Solid Rock

The Bible Society

Association for Conferences Teaching and Service (ACTS)

Naval Military and Airforce Bible Society

Anzac Day 2021 Correction

In our June edition of *On Patrol*, we posted this great photo of ACOM Richard Gibson & REP Ben Ridley with a group of young men and boys whom we had incorrectly identified as cadets. They are in fact The Boys' Brigade 1st Moreton Bay Company from Kallangur, led by Capt Russell Vincent.

This is one of the largest groups in Qld, just over 60 boys in total, from 5 to 18 years old.

The Boys' Brigade, founded in 1883, is an international Christian organisation, considered to be the original uniformed youth organisation. Its founder was an Officer in the Rifle Volunteers (Scotland). He combined the structure and discipline of the military with Christian teachings of Sunday School to form The Boys' Brigade. There remains a strong military influence on the organisation, and it remains firmly a Christian organisation focused on advancing Christ's Kingdom among boys.

More information about Boys' Brigade in Queensland can be found at <https://bbqld.org.au/>



The Boys' Brigade 1st Moreton Bay Company from Kallangur, led by Capt Russell Vincent on left and pictured with ACOM Richard Gibson & REP Ben Ridley at right.



ACOM Richard Gibson

Homebush



Just before the current Sydney lockdown, REP Chris Wainwright recently spent 8 days with 600 cadets at the Australian Army Cadet (AAC) annual exercise. He did brew runs to 20 Platoons, with conversations over a hot tea and coffee enjoyed by all and Bibles and Daily Breads moving off the truck just as fast!

Chris had planned to take his caravan with a few creature comforts, out to the camp area, only to have it written off, while parked in the street, just before the camp began. With little time to make alternate arrangements, he booked into Lone Pine Barracks at Singleton, which was in the general vicinity of the camp. Before long he was approached to do some Brew Runs to some infantry corps soldiers, who were also on exercise. It's been a busy time for Chris, but he has thrived on the opportunity he has had with the young cadets and infantry soldiers alike. This contribution to the welfare of the AAC was very well received and appreciated.

Ex Diamond Walk, Shoalwater



Everyman's Brewtruck in the dust of a passing tank



REPs Ben Ridley & Leane Dabitz, ACOM Richard Gibson (far right)

Following a year in and out of lockdown with the trainees on Simpson Barracks, it was a welcome opportunity to hit the road Qld-bound to join REP Ben Ridley and ACOM Richard Gibson for Diamond Walk, a 7th Brigade exercise conducted at Shoalwater Bay.

It didn't take long after arriving in Rockhampton, to find I hadn't really left Melbourne behind, when several recent graduates from Simpson's School of Signals, now with 7th Combat Signals Regiment, turned up for breakfast! (see picture of REP Leane Dabitz with Sig Ryan and Sig Hess below) With bacon, eggs, and pancakes on the menu, we drew the attention of a few regulars who would stop by our camp each morning for a feed and a chat.

Over long days, our trucks covered many kilometres to reach soldiers keen for some hot food and drinks and a well-deserved rest in between their arduous tasks. At night, we would wind down by sharing the days' events and enjoying Ben and Richard's musical talent, cranking out worship on the guitar. These times of fellowship were invaluable with each other, and many good conversations happened in the field. Each day presented opportunities to share our faith testimonies as we spent time with the soldiers, often seeing them on more than one occasion. And very importantly, we still managed to treat Richard to a 60th birthday celebration... EWS style!



REP Leane Dabitz with Sig Ryan & Sig Hess



Celebrating Richard's 60th birthday - REP Ben Ridley, ACOM Richard Gibson and REP Leane Dabitz

EWS LOCATIONS

- RAAF Base, AMBERLEY, QLD
- Kokoda Barracks, CANUNGRA, QLD
- Gallipoli Barracks, ENOGGERA, QLD
- Victoria Barracks, PETRIE TERRACE, QLD
- HMAS Kuttabul, HOMEBUSH, NSW
- RMC DUNTROON, ACT
- 17 Brigade, RANDWICK, NSW
- Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW
- Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC
- Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC
- Navy Accommodation, STRATHFIELD, NSW
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC

REP Ben Ridley

I consider it a huge blessing and an honour for every opportunity to get out in the field alongside the men and women of the ADF and allies, especially considering the recent lockdowns. Although being restricted in many ways, we have still managed to deploy on exercises in recent times. These times in the bush give us the best opportunities to build relationships, much more than when we are around the barracks.

For the South-East Queensland team, it is usually ACOM Richard Gibson and myself working together in the field, however, we were blessed on a recent 7th Brigade exercise to be joined by Rep Leane Dabitz, who drove all the way from Melbourne to join us in Shoalwater Bay! Having a third person to carry the burden made a huge difference. It also meant some great times of fellowship and ministry, with each of us having a different ability and gifting to connect with the troops. Also, having an Everywoman serving alongside us gave us a different dynamic than having just us blokes! We had a lot of good feedback from the units we served, right to the highest levels, with Commanding Officers thanking us for our efforts to keep the morale high of those in their command. Another rather unique opportunity came recently for Rep Mason Eagleton and I when we had the privilege of getting up close to the Army's new 'Boxer' Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles.

We served 2/14th Light Horse Regiment, during their first ever live fire shoot at the range (see photos). What a thrill!



REPs Ben Ridley & Mason Eagleton



Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles operated by 214th Light Horse Regiment with EWS Brewtruck bottom RHS



REP Mason Eagleton

EveryVet's

On the EveryVet's front, I am excited to be joined in EveryVet's by my friend, and brother in Christ – Petri Koskelainen and his wife Katja, whom my wife Claudia and I have served alongside with various projects.

Petri is also looking to become an accredited part-time Rep to work out of Canungra. EveryVet's had a Buntings BBQ to raise funding for a multipurpose trailer to be used for 'Backyard Blitz' style activities

(see www.everyvets.org.au for more details). Claudia and I have continued to host a weekly 'EveryVet's Connect' group at our home on Tuesday evenings. Because we live on the southside of Brisbane, and we

have veterans who live on the northside, I decided to begin a second group on Monday evenings, meeting in the homes of some of our veterans who live that side of town. The EveryVet's work is needed now more than ever. With Afghanistan recently falling back into the hands of the Taliban, I know many of my mates that I served within my time in the Army are doing it tough, and it seems to many like all our work over 20 years has been for nothing. Now is the time that Everyman's Veterans League can be there for those who are suffering. My 'silver lining' take-away from the situation is, from a personal point of view, that Afghanistan was where I returned to the Lord after having walked away from him some 7 years prior.

From an eternal point of view, our efforts in Afghanistan allowed Christian missionaries to share the gospel to the Afghan people, and many have come to know Christ through their faithful obedience to the gospel.

This will have lasting effects for those souls forever. Despite the many challenges we face in this world, we still fight the good fight, seeking to reach the lost for our King. May God bless you all.

Everyman's in Lockdown

A big shout out to **REP Chris Wainwright**, who is locked down in Sydney and confined to one hour of exercise each day, within 5km of his home. Unable to get to the Homebush Precinct, where he usually works, Chris has been busy with a mailbox drop in his neighbourhood, where a large number of military personnel (mostly Navy) live. Chris leaves his card and a short note asking if those living in the household are OK. He's been getting a great response to this initiative, and his local community really appreciate that he is reaching out to them.

Meanwhile **REP Leane Dabitz** is in her 6th lockdown in Melbourne! She certainly gets points for perseverance! Her work with the trainees at Simpson Barracks has been so appreciated by the line of command down there, that she has been asked and authorised to continue coming in to keep the Rec Centre open, travelling home just after curfew begins each night.

At HQ, we feel really blessed to have moved all our work onto the cloud just before the first lockdown last year. This means we can all work safely from home, without having to negotiate border crossings and permits. We miss the contact we would normally have with the soldiers that come into the Rec Centre to have some time out from their busy training schedule. It also means we cannot access any phone messages or pick up mail. Please be patient with us if it seems we are not getting back to you. We'll be in touch just as soon as we can.

Meanwhile at Kapooka, life goes on uninterrupted for **REP Warren Clarke**, albeit within the confines of the NSW Regional restrictions and with the support **ACOMM George Thomas**. There is a constant flow of recruits coming in for their basic training, and Warren works hard to keep the Rec Centre open a couple of nights each week and taking the Brew Truck to the Firing Range and the Challenge, where he always gets a warm welcome.

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR HEADQUARTERS

02 6053 5288

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I think of words from the Bible from John 15:13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. As the ADF will continue to do this for their friends, and those they serve, we ask that your thoughts and prayers may be with them and also with our Everyman's REPs as we continue our support for them as we have since 1940.

CCOMM Ken Matthews

More ways to give.....It's now possible to set up regular (or one-off) Direct Giving from your own bank account straight into ours! The details you need are:

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