

## Courage and Self Sacrifice

I was tremendously inspired by a documentary I saw about the end of World War II.

In early 1945 the Soviet army was descending upon Berlin. Many in the German army had had enough, and decided to flee by swimming the dangerous Elbe River to escape the Red Army. Capture by the Red Army meant a forced march to Siberia with a 1 in 10 chance of surviving, and then as a mere shell of your former self, it would be 11 years before you saw home again.

Hitler's cronies were risking drowning in the Elbe to get to the Americans on the other side. But one unit of the regular German Army, safe on the western side of the river, heard about some of their mates who were trapped and surrounded in a forest with no hope of breaking out. I was amazed at how a large number of those German soldiers volunteered to recross the river to try and save their comrades. They sacrificed the prospect of getting back home, in favour of incredible courage and self sacrifice to save others.

It reminded me of another very important event in history. I couldn't help thinking of a verse in the Bible where Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). This could easily be said of many in the Australian Defence Force since 1915. It really is the highest expression of selflessness and courage.

But the most amazing example of self sacrifice and courage is seen in God Himself.

When we consider He is the one who created all things, we become even more amazed. The information in a microscopic DNA molecule is incredibly extensive, and the distances in the universe have been calibrated by modern astronomy to be vaster than anything we could have imagined before.

The one great Creator of all this became flesh and blood and lived amongst us. But if that isn't staggering enough, He allowed Himself to be brutally punished and killed so that every one of us would have the opportunity to spend the rest of eternity in Heaven with Jesus, once our lives here are over. The good news is that we do not have to do good works to be able to accept this offer of the saving of our souls. If we believe in our hearts that Jesus Christ is the one and only true Messiah, the Living God, but in flesh and blood, and our personal Saviour and Lord, then it is well with our souls in all eternity.

But "to believe" means, as Jesus says, to deny ones self and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. (Luke 9:23-24)

Taking up our cross means we are willing to give back to our Creator, our very being, even if one day it may mean laying down our life to remain faithful to Jesus. But beyond this life is eternal life, forever enjoying fellowship with God like we were meant to from the beginning.

Jesus courage saw Him go to the cross willingly, and certainly not by accident, because He knew He had to take the penalty for ours and this entire world's evil to enable us to have gracious forgiveness as a free gift. In other words, we had to pay a great debt, but Jesus paid it for us, with His willingness to submit to a cruel death, even though He is all powerful.

Jesus sacrifice saw him suffer on the cross so that we never needed to suffer for our sins ourselves.

If you are willing to receive it, ask God into your life, knowing that His courage and self-sacrifice have brought you the gift of eternal life.

CCOM Ken Matthews

## 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
Naval Military and Airforce Bible Society		



## MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

### Mr John Francis BERESFORD

Chairman of the Board of Everyman's Welfare Service and retired Chief Commissioner, John Beresford, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal on Australia Day this year, for his services to the community through a range of organisations including Everyman's Welfare Service and Campaigners for Christ. John has been a member of both organisations since 1949 and with Everyman's has been a member of the Board since 2011; and was Chief Commissioner from 1983 to 1990.

In the official media release, The Governor-General and Chancellor of the Order of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) offered to all recipients his deepest congratulations, admiration and respect for their contribution to our nation.

"Since 1975 these awards have helped to define, encourage and reinforce Australian goals and values. They identify role models who give without thought of recognition or personal gain."

Chair of the Council of the Order of Australia, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK AFC (Retd) said "These awards recognise the 'quiet achievers' in our midst. They are people who serve the community, but do not seek accolades"

This certainly sums up the character of John Beresford OAM and the team from Everyman's add their congratulations for this well deserved honour.

Rep Richard Gibson loves nothing more than to serve members of the Australian Defence Force when they are on exercise in locations around Australia. This pic shows the easy rapport Richard has with the soldiers as they gather around the Brew Truck for a warm brew and an ANZAC bikkie. For just a moment it might seem like they are not that far from home!



## 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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Title: Everymans Welfare Service  
Reference: Your Name

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**ON PATROL**



Patron

February 2017

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

## From the Acting Chief Commissioner Phil Marshall



As 2017 begins, Everyman's personnel march back into barracks with a heavy heart, following the loss of our Chief Commissioners' wife, Leonie. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ken, Danielle and Nathan as well as their extended family, as they start living this new and difficult chapter in life without wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. We in Everyman's walk this new chapter with them. What a wonderful legacy Leonie leaves for us to follow; and what a challenge her life leaves for us to aspire to: to hear as Leonie heard from her heavenly father. 'Well done good and faithful servant.' May we all live life with purpose and focus like Leonie did, 'Not my will Lord, but yours be done'.

As acting CCOM, I can say with confidence and certainty, Everyman's Welfare continues to tick over like a well-oiled machine while our Chief takes time out with his children. This time of year has the staff at HQ busy preparing for the auditor's annual visit. They work diligently to ensure we get the best value out of every dollar of your support. The Repts have also been hard at work stocking their Centres and Brew Trucks and will continue to fulfil our duty to serve those who serve our nation.

On a positive note, 2017 started with a bit of a bang having received a generous donation from The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in recognition of our support during the rehearsals in Melbourne last year. Their donation has provided much of the funds needed for a new 'Brew Truck', which will carry their branding, along with ours. This is an exciting boost as we continue to renew our ageing fleet and expand onto new bases requesting our support.

Please continue to pray and give to the best of your ability. Thank you to the many that have supported EWS. I am confident that as the days of 2017 unfold, much more will be accomplished: the saying is true, we all do better together when supporting one another.

Acting CCOM Phil Marshall

## NEWS FLASH!



**THE ROYAL  
EDINBURGH  
MILITARY  
TATTOO**

We were delighted to receive a donation of \$48,168 at the end of last year from The Board of Trustees of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Charities) Limited following the tremendous success of the Overseas Tattoo in Melbourne earlier in the year; and recommendations made by the Australian Defence Force in support of our endeavours.

The funds will be used to purchase a Brew Truck to replace one of our ageing fleet and we look forward to branding the truck with their logo. (Pics will appear in a later edition of On Patrol).



## Rep Chris Kemper Bandiana HQ

At the end of 2016 I became a fully accredited Rep with Everyman's. This year I'm looking forward to going on some brew runs out in the field & to go to more briefings at our local barracks to give Everyman's a lady's face for all the female soldiers. Two exercise's that I am really interested in and I'm looking forward to being involved in are the Avalon Airshow (28th February – 5th March) & Talisman Saber (mid-year).



### Avalon Airshow 2017

Despite having always lived in Victoria, I have never attended the Avalon Airshow, but have always been interested. This year REP Kristian Kemper & I will make up the team, for a couple of the days, with Commissioner Phil Marshall. If you find yourself there, please come and say hello to us at the Everyman's stall.

I have always been fascinated with aircraft & their capability to stay in the sky – especially the really big ones! I will be in my element watching the planes come & go!

### Exercise Talisman Saber 2017

I am also keen to attend the “Talisman Saber 2017” exercise up north (along with Senior Rep Richard Gibson). I had heard about this exercise a couple of years ago, & had made sure it was in the diary if there were to be an opportunity of attending. The enormity of the exercise in my mind has to be seen to believed – my mind boggles at the logistics that must go into an exercise of this size. Talisman Saber is now in its 7th year, held bi-annually between the Australian & US Military.

Exercise Talisman Saber (also spelled Talisman Sabre, the spelling alternating between US and Australia) is a biennial joint Australia-United States military exercise. Talisman Saber involves joint exercises performed by the Australian Defence Force and the United States Military across six locations in northern and central Australia, the Coral Sea, and in Honolulu, Denver, and Suffolk, Va., though the bulk of the exercises are concentrated at the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area and other locations in northern and central Australia and Australia's territorial sea and exclusive economic zone.

To reflect its bilateral nature, leadership of the exercise switches between Australia and the US every 2 years; primary leadership is reflected in the varied spelling of Saber/Sabre. The exercise focuses on crisis-action planning and contingency response, enhancing both nations' military capabilities to deal with regional contingencies and the War on Terrorism.

Talisman Sabre 2015 was conducted over 20 days from early to mid-July 2015 and involved up to 30,000 US and Australian troops. It was the largest combined military exercise undertaken by the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Defence forces from New Zealand (500 personnel) and Japan (40 personnel) also took part. *(This explanation of what & who takes part was taken from Wikipedia)*

### EWS LOCATIONS

- 9FSB & RAAF Base, AMBERLEY, QLD
- Kokoda Barracks, CANUNGRA, QLD
- Royal Military College, DUNTRON, ACT
- Gallipoli Barracks, ENOGGERA, QLD
- Victoria Barracks, PETRIE TERRACE, QLD
- HMAS Kuttabul, HOMEBUSH, NSW
- Navy Accommodation, STRATHFIELD, NSW
- 17 Brigade, RANDWICK, NSW
- Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW
- Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC
- Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC

## Welcome back! REP Warren Clarke

My association with Everyman's began soon after I was posted to Kapooka as a Corporal, in 1983. My wife to be, Bronwyn, and I volunteered to open the Everyman's Centre in the evenings to give the full time Rep a break. After 3 years, we were posted to Brisbane, where we kept in touch with Stacey Kruck, who was CCOM at the time. It wasn't until I posted back to Bandiana in 1993 and then Kapooka, just before my discharge that I had the opportunity once again, to volunteer with Everyman's.



I discharged from the army in 1995, after 21 years of service. Since then I have been working for myself as a courier. In September 2015 I reached the lowest point in my life: my work was getting me down and my faith was being tested, when I cried to the Lord to show me what He wanted me to do in the future. The Lord answered me in a big way a few Sundays later, when I was prompted to attend a different church in Wagga, only to find Everyman's CCOM Ken Matthews there to preach! He asked if I would be interested in coming back into Everyman's (and later explained he had been praying for new Reps for Kapooka)! By the end of the service, I was in no doubt that God was calling me into this ministry.

I began with the team at Kapooka in July last year as an approved unaccredited Rep; and became fully accredited in December. A lot has changed in the last 21 years, but the Army still runs as I had remembered it. I found I had to hit the ground running with one Rep on extended leave, a second Rep on compassionate leave and the third in hospital with pneumonia! Fortunately the Lord's grace provided. When the Lord puts you into ministry, he puts you in the perfect place where your skills can be used. My spiritual gift has always been service, so I can't think of any better place for me to be to glorify His mighty name than Everyman's - it fits like a glove. My time so far has been the most enjoyable time in my life for such a long time. I love to spread a bit of Army knowledge (Warries) and at times the Gospel to the Recruits; but mostly I love just serving them their 'brew and biscuit' making sure that all the praise goes to our Lord.

## Latchford Recreation Centre gets an Upgrade Rep Kristian Kemper



Last year we began the upgrade of the Recreation Centre at Latchford. The lounge has been completed providing a small sitting area with a TV and all the snacks, drinks and frozen food a soldier could want! Progress has been made with the theatre; a larger area with comfortable lounges and a large TV on the wall. There is also a smaller reading area, with a chess table. We are waiting for the Wi-Fi to be connected early this year which will provide Netflix and a gaming consul room is nearly ready and the games room has darts and a table tennis table with room for much more. Additional gaming consul's tables, chairs, pool tables, surround sound for the theatre and much more is still required.

It has been a waiting game for funding, but early this year the ALTC Commandant and Chief of Staff are working to access funding through the Hamilton Review funds (promoting alcohol free activities) and some new fundraising from ALTC specifically for us.

We are praying for completion this year and also for some new Reps; our labourers for the harvest. It's nice to have the rec rooms but we need to have Reps in them in the evenings to connect on a personal level with the soldiers of our ADF.

## Excitement and Challenges Await us in 2017

### COM Phil Marshall National Relations Manager



Excitement and challenging times await us in 2017 for sure! Excitement as we start the year with funds to purchase a new (second hand) brew truck, and challenges in that we need funds to complete the fit-out. **Can you help?** Excitement in that we can see another mile-stone in our fleet renewal project being accomplished with this purchase, and challenges in that we still have some aged vehicles in our fleet that need to be replaced. **Can you help?**

In the last months of 2016, I again heard wonderful stories from veterans, of how Everyman's brought great comfort to them as they served in overseas conflicts. It is such a joy to hear them remember, with thankfulness, having Everyman's available and equipped to support them in the most difficult of times.

The saying is still true, 'there is nothing new under the sun'. We still have conflicts around the world where we need to be involved to maintain the much loved freedoms we enjoy here in Australia. To do this effectively, the Australian Defence Force needs to train, and needs the ongoing support of Everyman's. **Will you help us to help them?** Maybe you can financially support us now - we need it now. Maybe you can include us in your will - we will need funding when you are gone, or perhaps you can open a door to give me an opportunity to present the story of Everyman's, spanning 77 years, to a group of interested people? However you can manage, your help is needed, so please get in-touch with me directly or through our head office.

Thank you for all you have done, thank you for all you will do throughout 2017, in supporting us as we serve those who serve our nation.

Bless ya, Phil M

### Snr Rep Richard Gibson 9FSB Amberley

I've now been serving 9FSB for over 3 years and have built a wonderful relationship with my unit. I have had many interesting talks with soldiers some about God and life after death and others about today's world events.

Hamel 2016, in South Australia, was somewhat challenging for myself and 9FSB as the weather conditions were miserable and did not let up for weeks. We were all glad to get back to base! We also travelled to Wide Bay many times, where the weather was nicer, but the sand fly's made some lasting impressions on us all - the worst I've ever encountered! I guess for all of us, there really is no place like home! 9FSB have been such a blessing to us, having put many hours into the re-fit of the brew truck, which has been vital to keep the coffee pouring in 2017.

This year will see us heading off to Talisman Sabre once again; and being a transport unit, 9FSB are involved in a number of other exercises over the course of the year, covering most of Australia. 2016 was a good year and I think 2017 will be even better!

A big 'Thank You' to all who supported Everyman's and provide personal and prayer support for myself and the other Reps. Your gifts and prayers mean we can commit as volunteers in Everyman's. God bless you all.

Snr Rep Richard Gibson