



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940

ON PATROL

February 2021

From the CCOMM's desk...

Welcome Back to Everyman's and to 2021

We enter a new year full of hope for a transition back to normality, and for us in Everyman's, and a return to being able to see our ADF members again as we used to pre COVID-19. Of course, this pandemic has affected the lives of Defence personnel as much as anyone, and to that end, Everyman's is here for every one of them. At the end of last year, I had the privilege of being able to read a publication called "The Friend of the Soldier," (of course the same goes for Sailors and Air Force men and women) by a former Chief Commissioner of Everyman's. It was at times, a funny story, at others, a testimony to pushing through in hardship with



CCOMM Ken Matthews

a Godly determination. The author of the book recounted the days he spent as an Everyman's REP in Vietnam among many other experiences he had over many years. On his 12 month rotation to Vietnam, he saw the very real hardships faced by our serving members. He remembers the young lieutenant who he was only speaking to that morning, returning dead in the helicopter that afternoon. He remembers the good cheer that greeted him as he went out to the troops operating the big guns outside the main camp. He remembers the biggest and toughest of blokes descending into tears, as finally someone came along who they could off load to. I can testify that many years later, very little if anything has changed when it comes to this side of the Everyman's work. Whilst the world around us changes, the basic human needs, fears, hopes and joys do not. We will not ever know the full impact COVID-19 has had on Defence families, but in Everyman's we get a sense that we will soon know a fair bit of it. We will inevitably speak with and be alongside Airmen and Airwomen, Sailors and Soldiers. We want to be able to have all the resources we can to get out so we can get out to them and help them. This year, 2021 is a year we call all to strive to make a better one in the light of the year just gone. As you are giving this year, (some financially, some of their time and help) please again consider how you can help Everyman's continue with what they did in Vietnam, on the Malay Peninsula in 1942, and on up to this very day. Our need for good Brew Trucks, Brew Truck accessories, and even strong trailers for rugged training areas remains a challenge, particularly after the lean COVID-19 year of 2020, which saw our donations drop significantly. We would love you to get back behind us again with giving for resources that will be a blessing to our ADF ultimately. Also for those whose hearts are for prayer, please remember us always for safety, empathy, and wisdom on all occasions.

CCOMM Ken Matthews

Everyman's Welfare Service

a company limited by guarantee

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Retired CCOMM Stacey Kruck

Earlier this year, we asked retired CCOMM Stacey Kruck to write an article for *On Patrol*, paying particular attention to his time serving in Vietnam. Stacey served in five different Battalions - 1 Field Regiment - Promoted Chief Commissioner 1976 - 83 (Full Time) Commissioner -Active Reserve 1986 -90, re-appointed Chief Commissioner 1990-96 (Full time).

Below are his recollections...

Hazel and I joined Everyman's with the conviction that God had called us to serve Military personnel.

When posted to Vietnam, the gut-wrenching thought of leaving Hazel with two young boys and a new baby caused much inner turmoil.

Did I want to go to Vietnam? Yes!

Why? Because it gave me credibility when trying to assist soldiers. The Vietnam Veterans would sometimes say, "Listen sport, you can't advise us on anything unless you have experienced what we have been through."

Our family paid the price, along with theirs, but we gained acceptance and the opportunity to show the love of God through service and witness.

God's presence was real! Driving down Route 23 to "NDP (Night Defensive Position) Brigid", I ran over an explosive device which had been set for an armoured vehicle and failed to ignite. I arrived unscathed! That was just one incident among several.

It was difficult to arrive in Vietnam three weeks after the battalion, who were already engaged in war. I found the Everyman's buildings bare and in appalling condition. Our equipment and stores had been "relocated" (pinched) and the place was covered in inches of thick bull dust. It was a less than helpful introduction to the Battalion!

I asked God to perform a miracle for the sake of the name of Christ. I cleaned and painted for about three weeks until my supplies arrived and then I was able to get out to the men in the field. By tour's end, the Task Force Commander praised the Centre and work among the soldiers of the Task Force.

How do you comfort a soldier in hospital who had his leg blasted by a mine and his heart blasted by a 'Dear John' letter from his girlfriend?

Another day, a chopper flew me to the Battalion Fire Support Base where I had an in- depth conversation with a Platoon Commander, who proclaimed his love for his wife and daughter. When his helicopter arrived, our last words were "see you later mate!" The very next morning I accompanied his body to the morgue. That really hurt! Scripture says, "You do not know what a day may bring forth."

The most asked question during my time in Everyman's is - "Why do you do this for us?"

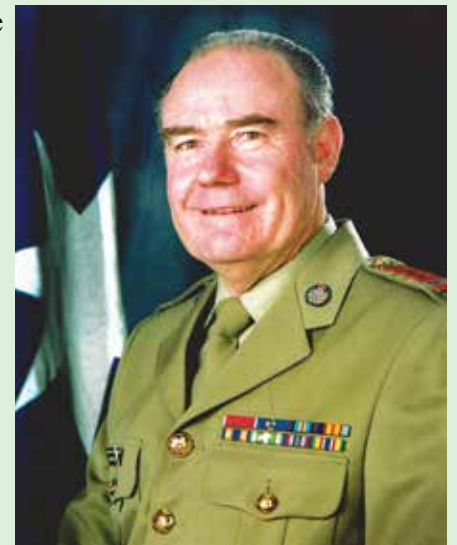
I loved being with the men participating in their situations, sharing their highs and lows, and bringing encouragement, friendship and hope.

The hardest thing for a returning Vietnam Veteran was being targeted by protestors of the Vietnam war and the lack of recognition. Back home, the silence drove me crazy. No more explosions, yet the sound of a car back firing would evoke an instant reaction of 'hitting the deck'. Such reactions take time to fade away.

Would I go back to Vietnam? Yes, without hesitation.

Everyman's served Australian Defence Force personnel in the name and love of Christ and I am satisfied we did this to the best of our ability.

God Bless, Stacey



Thank you for your support in 2020.

We look forward to partnering with you in 2021.

Everyman's Board

Welcome ACOMM Lou Hochwimmer to the Board of Everyman's and Capital Ltd

It is with great joy that we are able to announce that ACOMM Lou Hochwimmer has now been appointed by the Board to the position of non-voting Director, taking over the place of retired COMM Phil Marshall in that role.

Lou will bring a level of governance to the Everyman's movement that will be of immense value. Since 2012, Lou has been the administrator of Everyman's and we cannot measure the great benefit she has brought to Everyman's thus far. The many reforms she has initiated have made EWS function at the highest levels possible for any not for-profit-company as attested to by our official auditors. We are also greatly encouraged, as Lou will assist the Board with not only the administrative and financial governance of Everyman's, but also in the ethical and spiritual. Lou's commitment has shown she knows well the overall aims of Everyman's and embraces its traditional values and outreach.

We extend Lou congratulations in this new role, and pray for wisdom and guidance in all her decision-making.

In 2020 our Board conducted all their meetings online via the Zoom app. Age has not been a barrier to using this technology, and everyone has appreciated being able to talk face to face at each meeting.



Welcome Helen Matthews to the role of Board Minutes Secretary

We would also like to welcome and congratulate administrative volunteer, Mrs Helen Matthews (wife of CCOMM Ken Matthews) into the role of Minutes Secretary to the Board. Helen has, and still is, performing the role of Supporter Liaison. Please keep Helen in your prayers particularly in the essential task of keeping lines of communication open with our valued supporters.



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 ACCOMMmodation, STRATHFIELD, NSW
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC

Albert Borella Award 2020

Everyman's and Chaplaincy Team Effort

These last two years have been a great opportunity for Everyman's to collaborate with Chaplaincy to bring about new levels of care and welfare for ADF members at Latchford Barracks. CHAP Luke Skipper invited our assistance to help establish a Sunday church service on base, followed with a sausage sizzle and cuppa at the Everyman's Centre afterwards. The service was primarily for the trainees, but open to all ADF members and their families. It was encouraging to see the number of ADF folk and their loved ones increase toward the end of 2019, however 2020 and the arrival of COVID-19 shut everything down, inspiring us to look to an alternative method to provide Chaplains' services. Undeterred, we were pleased to have an opportunity to assist CHAP Skipper begin a series of on-line services. The Army media team did a very professional job producing Luke's sermons, and Everyman's provided support with Bible readings and prayers on all the services produced. This series is currently available on-line in the Defence Forces course sites. At the time of writing, we are on the cusp of having ADF approval to release these services to the public. Subsequently everyone will be able to watch them. We will gazette them once released, on our website and facebook page and also on the Defence Christian Services Facebook page. Luke and the EWS Headquarters team collaborated on a number of occasions, and the welfare we were able to provide was greatly appreciated.

To that end CCOMM Ken had the honour of awarding Luke the Borella Exemplary Support Award, to show our gratitude for involving us so well these last two years. This award is given exclusively to ADF personnel who have demonstrated conspicuous and exemplary support towards the work of Everyman's. We wish Luke every blessing in his new posting to 1 Armoured in South Australia.



Chap Luke Skipper receiving the 2020 Albert Borella Award from CCOMM Ken Matthews

Thank You to our Volunteers



At EWS Headquarters, COVID has restricted our ability to be working on the base as much as we would have liked. This is also true for our volunteers, Mr James Black and Mrs Helen Matthews. When possible Helen has spent a few hours each week, working her way through our database to thank all of our supporters. It was a real milestone for her to call the last person the week before we transitioned to a new database. Then James stepped up to work through the technical challenges of setting up and transferring all details from one program to another. They are a real blessing to the team at HQ.



REP Warren Clarke, Kapooka



Above, REP Warren Clarke

Below, recruits love the goodies they find on the Brew Truck, from the hot cuppa to the Bibles and Daily Breads, as much as they love to see them arriving in their training area.

Below right, REP Milton Wilson

Kapooka means 'egg', and it is wonderful to see the emergence of Australian Soldiers from the Civilians they started out as 13 weeks earlier.

The other description I could give Kapooka is 'busy' with up to 30 platoons of 60 Recruits being here at any one time. REP Milton Wilson and I don't complain about it because we know we are here doing the Lord's work, and with that comes a great amount of grace and blessing from God. We love seeing the smiling faces of stampeding Recruits and Staff alike as we pull up. This has happened more, when the COVID-19 restrictions made the Brew Truck the only source of coffee, tea and milo in Kapooka for a long while. We have served the recruits right throughout the year except for a period of 2 weeks at the very start of COVID-19, after which we were called back to work. This has made the potential for witnessing to the Recruits great, because they see God's Love through our service, and both Milton and I have spoken to many about God and Jesus. This has translated into us handing out many a Bible and Daily Bread. It's amazing what a hot brew and biscuit can do in spreading the good news of the Gospel.



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

Everyman's 80th Anniversary Memorabilia

To celebrate Everyman's 80th year, we have produced a number of items of memorabilia to commemorate this very special anniversary. The suggested donation includes postage and handling.



Don't miss out!



Clockwise from left: Dog Tags, unique to Everyman's, front and reverse sides shown, metallic silver in colour.; Pen, easy grip



***Suggested donation
(includes postage & handling)***

***Dog Tags \$15
Easy Grip Pen \$5***

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:



BSB: 034-033
Account : 197255
Title: Everymans Welfare Service
Reference: Your Name

Phone or email us at Headquarters if you'd like a tax deductible receipt.

Giving has never been easier!

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