



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

Oct 2022

Everyman's Tribute to Queen Elizabeth II



It was indeed a sombre moment to learn of the passing of our Queen. None of us under the age of 70 have ever known any other sovereign. It seems so strange to be now speaking of our King. We in Everyman's wish King Charles III the very best in our prayers however long he reigns.

In 1953, Elizabeth said, "My whole life will be devoted to your service," and "God help me to make good my vow." This is what made Elizabeth stand far above the vast majority of this world's past monarchs. She sought to be a servant though a sovereign, and to seek the best for all her subjects in whatever way she was able. It reminds us of those words of Jesus, "The greatest among you will be your servant." (Matthew 23:11). Elizabeth proved to us that this is the way to live despite the fact that the world often tells us the opposite. She always knew how to have a kind word, and to offer encouragement to people. This is even though there must have been times in her life when she felt she did not want to do this. Her selflessness in this regard, gained her the worldwide admiration we will always remember her for.

For us in Everyman's the Queen's declarations of self-sacrifice and service, (which correlate with the words of Jesus) are the ethics we have always, and will always strive to follow in serving the ADF.

Our prayers go out to not only the new King, but also to his family. We pray the devoted example Elizabeth demonstrated will continue under Charles, along with her trust in God and her devotion to Him. May she remain an example to us all.



Everyman's Welfare Service

a company limited by guarantee

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From the CCOMM's desk...

Dear friends and supporters,

We have recently held our National Conference, which is always a great time for all of our Everyman's REPs to get together, face to face, to reacquaint. We work on many different bases across Australia and have had new REPs come on, who we are very thankful to God for. In this day of virtual communication, which has been great during COVID, we were reminded that there is no substitute for real human contact. It was well worth the time taken away from our usual busy lives to come together in person.

That joy of real human contact made me reflect on our work. It is so easy for us to think our human contact with the ADF is not a big deal, but I am reminded just how much it means to our Defence Force members.

I remember a time when a commercial operation who had trucks and funds we could only dream of, told us they were going out bush. They would take out refreshments we could not match. A profit making opportunity. I was told, "Sorry but this is the way it's going." We felt a little undercut to say the least. However, the response we got from ADF members who knew us and what we do was insightful.

When we told them this was on the cards, I remember the immediate response was one of indignation. A feeling the "hierarchy" did not understand their needs. The biggest objection was, "so that's the end of having a quiet chat. There will be some rude bloke there barking at us to hurry up because he hasn't got time, to hang around." But what really hit me was the thought that the human contact they have with us was under threat. Many an ADF member knows that much anxiety has been dispelled around the back of that Brew Truck. No appointments have to be made, no one else needs to know about the conversation with the Everyman who "is in the system, yet outside of it." They can speak to someone who they know will not be judgemental. There is one issue I have found which the rank and file will actually agree with the hierarchy about. That is that the hierarchy actually lets Everyman's exist in the system. To this day, I can tell you for sure, that Chiefs of Defence will react with genuine shock if they think a service like ours might end. I am happy to say, the profit seeking "Taj Mahal" trucks never materialised. I do not know why, but in the 20 years since I have never heard any suggestion they are returning.

It may be just a brew, or it may be a day where they can chat, be comforted and see things afresh. Some have met their Creator for the first time at the Everyman's and their lives have positively changed forever. To this end, we need your prayers and/or your donations to keep this service strong. The ADF has told us plainly that they will never be in a position themselves to replicate what we do.



*Ken Matthews
Chief Commissioner*

CCOMM Ken Matthews

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
- Woodside Barracks, INVERBRACKIE, SA
- 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
- Robertson Barracks HOLTZE, NT

Remembering Stewart Denson

Promoted to glory - August 2022

Served honourably in Everyman's Welfare Service 1993 - 2001



Stewart was a Carriage Builder in NSW Rail before joining the Army as an Infantry soldier. Upon his return from serving in Malaysia, he and other soldiers were involved in a terrible Military accident at Puckpynal that claimed the lives of some of his friends. This impacted Stewart throughout his life. He was awarded the Commanding Officers Commendation.

Stewart became a Christian while serving in the Army.

Some years later, Stewart and Michelle were accepted as Representatives of Everyman's Welfare Service and as Chief Commissioner, I was privileged to participate in their Commissioning Service at the New Covenant Congregational Church in Nowra NSW. The church wholeheartedly affirmed their calling and sent them out as missionaries.

Stewart initially served as the Everyman's Representative at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion Kapooka NSW and became well accepted by the staff and recruits and was noted for his caring manner, Christian faith and his understanding of Army life. One example - after a Graduation Parade, a young soldier introduced his parents to Stewart. They explained that their son had found the going really tough, particularly as he was shy and retiring by nature. In his letters to them, he said that if it had not been for the service that Everyman's provided both in the Field and in the Centre with its relaxed atmosphere, he would never have made it. Stewart was able to explain the role and motivation of Everyman's in expressing God's love and care to soldiers.

Stewart and Michelle were next posted to Latchford Barracks at Bonegilla with their family to represent Everyman's to Army Apprentices and Adult Trainees preparing to enter a trade in the Army.

The newly built Everyman's Centre was state of the art and situated centrally over three floors surrounded by many other facilities including the mess hall and an in-door olympic size swimming pool. Stewart and Michelle and their family became a defacto family for many young people, a shoulder to lean on, someone to confide in, a place to seek friendly advice, and a homely welcome. Many young people found the Lord through the witness of Stewart and Michelle and other Reps when there.

Following this came a posting to Darwin and apart from the Center there, this posting involved a lot of Field work and Military Exercises. Stewart was known for getting down to the 'nitty gritty' in people's questions and lives and found acceptance amongst the officers and men, both out in the field and Defence Personnel in the neighbourhood.

For example - On one occasion, a young soldier declared his Christianity upon seeing Allen Pipes and Stewart carrying an urn through the tropical heat of the day so that soldiers could have a cold drink. The soldier pointed this out to his mates and declared, "this is what real Christians do - they serve and bless others" The same young soldier introduced Stewart to a young man who was born in PNG to Missionary parents. He had turned his back on the Lord but now wanted to renew his faith on his new posting in Darwin.

General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK CVO MC (Retd) served with Stewart in East Timor in a hostile environment during 1999 - 2000. He summed up Stewart's service, when he learned of his passing, in an email to the family, which read:

QUOTE-" I was very sad to be informed of Stewart's passing. I remember him well as a caring energetic Representative of his wonderful Service. Please extend to Michelle and his loved ones my deepest condolences both personally and on behalf to the countless men and women in uniform whose spirits were uplifted by his ministry. May he rest in peace. Thank you for reaching out with this sad news. We will remember him in our prayers."

To God be the Glory! We honour Stewart's faithfulness and selflessness in living the Gospel.

CCOMM Stacey Kruck Rtd

Exercise Predators Run



In August-September 2022, the Mount Bunday Training Area in the Northern Territory became the battlefield of the 1st Brigade's multinational warfighter exercise 'Predators Run'. Alongside Australian troops, the training exercise included engagement from the US Marine Corp, Malaysian Armed Forces and the Philippine Army. Following the battle simulation, soldiers participated in live fire training, an opportunity for Rep Leane Dabitz, together with Salvation Army Officer Gerald Mitchell, to serve them a much needed cold drink and snacks on the range during the scorching heat. 1st Armoured Regiment, who had travelled from South Australia, were particularly challenged by the change in conditions. The exercise provided a solid opportunity for conversation and engagement with international and visiting soldiers, but more importantly the opportunity for Leane to become familiar with the various units withing the Brigade and their roles and capabilities in battle.

REP Leane Dabitz



On the gun line with 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. REP Leane Dabitz with guys letting off an M777 gun)



REP Leane Dabitz serving the Philippine 1st Brigade Combat "Aegis" Team.



1st Armoured Regiment, M1 Abrams Tank in action

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

Navigators

Focus on the Family

Association for Conferences Teaching and Service (ACTS)

FOCUS

SASRA

Solid Rock

Military Christian Fellowship (MCF)

Red Shield Defence Service

The Bible Society

Naval Military and Airforce Bible Society

Coungeau House

Expression of Interest – Caretaker/s Role Toc H Bribie Island

Applications are called for the position of caretaker/s at Coungeau House, Bribie Island QLD
Role requirements: Ground maintenance & development, minor building maintenance, servicing of facilities amenities and accommodation.

Accommodation/electricity/internet is provided on site in lieu of remuneration

Applicant interested in applying should contact coungeauhouse@gmail.com for a more detailed position description.

Applicants would need to be eligible for a Blue Card



Exercise Long Hai and Defence Mascots



Did you know that many units in the Defence Force have an animal mascot?

The 8th/9th Battalion has a merino ram called ‘John MacArthur’ or better known by his nickname ‘Stan the Ram’. Even Stan has to go out bush on occasion, such as on a recent battalion exercise at Wide Bay Training Area. Stan came out to support the Battalion at the end of their challenging 3-week exercise!

A bit of history of unit mascots posted from Wikipedia:

‘British Army units began to adopt non-working military animals in order to strengthen morale and to be used as a mascot/symbolic emblems for the unit in the 18th century. Animals that were adopted as military mascots were typically brought over by soldiers who went overseas or were stray animals that were adopted by the unit along the way. However, some mascots were specifically gifted to a unit.’



No one is Guaranteed Tomorrow

I have commented a couple of times recently, in general conversation, that none of us are guaranteed tomorrow. We journey through life, with no expectations that tomorrow is not ours for the taking. I'm sure we all know, or know of, someone who died suddenly and unexpectedly.

This almost became a reality for me a couple of days ago, when I went for a walk, not realising I was about to be caught in an electrical storm. High on the hill, I could see the black clouds all around and the lightning and thunder in the distance. I was sure I had time to finish my walk, before it reached me. But, within minutes the storm was upon me. The lightning was as blinding as the thunder was deafening and no time between light and sound. The reality was I might not be guaranteed tomorrow. This was not how I wanted my life to end, if I had a choice...

I began praying earnestly that God would protect me and bring me safely home. I felt very exposed up on the hill. It was tempting to shelter under one of the big gum trees, but I knew this would be more dangerous than to continue on in the open. If I could just get to the stile and drop down off the hill, I felt I'd make it home safely. I thought of the tree at home that had been hit by lightning, blown in half, straight down the middle! I knew there wouldn't be much left of me either, if I was struck!

All praise to God as I stepped over the threshold and into the safety of our home. I was not ready to enter into eternal life, even though I am assured of my destiny when I take my last breath!

I wonder if you have the same assurance.

In the Bible, the book of John, chapter 3, verses 16-18 says

16. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

18. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

If you're not sure of your final destiny, please get in touch today.

Remember, no one is guaranteed tomorrow.

ACOMM Lou Hochwimmer



*ACCOMM Lou
Hochwimmer*

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