



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

September 2023

From the CCOMM's desk...

Dear friends and supporters,

As I write this, our very dedicated Everyman's team serving up at Exercise Talisman Sabre has finally returned to their homes, after what has virtually been a 2-month deployment to the High Range Training Area near Townsville. It was the biggest military exercise ever held in Australia. We are guessing there will be more in the future. It was amazing for our Everymen and our Everywoman present up there, to run into all sorts of units we had never met before. They met French Foreign Legionnaires. These personnel were as keen as our soldiers to access the brew truck, and enjoy the conversation, albeit on a bit of a language challenge scale.

On this exercise, Defence personnel of many nations, as well as the Aussies, were

keen to catch up at the Everyman's brew truck. Even people in the nearby shops were keen to talk to our REPs seeing them in uniform. They were concerned for the troops out on the training area and how they were going.

It brought back to mind the memories my mother shared about what it was like as a young new wife at home with a husband away in World War 2. She told me what it was like to have soldiers of other nations around, particularly the Americans (Yanks), as well as the British and displaced citizens of countries that the Japanese had forced out their by invasions. She told me of the civilian population's great concern for all our serving personnel.

There has been great interest amongst our supporters, as to how our REPs were going on such a long exercise, and concern expressed for our Defence personnel's welfare. On one big exercise recently, two soldiers were killed in an accident. Two of our key REPs in Queensland were at the forefront of having to comfort their grieving mates. However, that is the role of the Everyman/Everywoman. In a crisis, it is not very long before the Everyman is called upon, and we wear that call as a badge of honour.

Whatever may be ahead for our ADF, we have no doubt that our citizens will be concerned for them. Many will pray daily for them. Nevertheless, it is the Everyman who will, along with others, be there for the ADF whether at home, or deployed into a war zone. Everyman's can do what most others cannot; to be a face-to-face source of encouragement and comfort. Your support and prayers are the key factors in that. Whether it is support for our highly sought after brew truck fleet, or your letters of encouragement and/or prayers. Everyman's is at the front, to deliver your thoughts, prayers and care. In Everyman's we think of the words of Jesus, who said that even giving a cup of cold water at the right time was a God ordained blessing. (Mark 9:41).

We look forward to your on-going partnership, and thank God sincerely for your support.



*Ken Matthews
Chief Commissioner*

CCOMM Ken Matthews

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Australian Army MRH-90 Helicopter Incident

2 August 2023

Defence offers its deepest condolences to the families of Australian Army Captain Danniell Lyon, Lieutenant Maxwell Nugent, Warrant Officer Class Two Joseph Laycock and Corporal Alexander Naggs who tragically lost their lives during a training accident off the coast of Queensland on Friday 28 July 2023 when the helicopter they were flying impacted waters off Hamilton Island.

Defence's priority remains to provide support to the families of all involved. This is a difficult time for the Defence community, and support services are available for ADF and APS personnel.

Search and recovery efforts for our people continue.



 *Lest We Forget* 

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

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023



Exercise Talisman Sabre, 2023 was the grandest and most high-profile military exercise Australia has ever hosted. It was also the most spiritually fruitful exercise I have participated in as a REP for Everyman's too. Talisman Sabre (TS) is a biannual exercise and normally has over 30,000 troops involved. This year saw more countries and more soldiers than ever before participating in this large-scale war fighter exercise. Everyman's was able to supply four brew trucks in support of the Townsville based portion of the activity. ACOMM Richard Gibson, SNR REP Leane Dabitz, REP James Morrissy and I all came together to work out of Lavarack Barracks, in Townsville, and Townsville Field Training Area, also known as High Range. I have never had the opportunity to work in a team of four REPs with four brew trucks, so that was a first, and it was a blessing to have more REPs to carry the burden when serving the troops, as we can often be busy serving early mornings and late nights! As well as the usual nations who regularly come for TS exercises, this year we saw the inclusion of Germany. Combined with presence of the Japanese Self Defence Force, it was a surreal thought, having our previous enemies from World War II now partnering with us to train together. How the world has changed! With the situation of this world becoming increasingly unstable, the tragic crash of an Australian MRH-90 helicopter, killing all four crew on board, as well as other various non-fatal vehicle accidents, our Everyman's team had even more of an urgency to share the good news of our saviour, Jesus Christ. It is literally a matter of life and death. With many prayers from supporters behind us (for which we were aware and are grateful for), the Lord opened the door for the Gospel to be preached and an incredible number of divine appointments were had with both Australian and international troops. In 1 Peter 3:15 we are told to always be ready to be able to share our faith, and sometimes the best opportunities come when you least expect it. Apart from the innumerable conversations and the Bibles and tracts which were given out, one conversation with an American Army Paratrooper stands out. Richard Gibson and I met Private Matthew Morrison on our return journey from Townsville at the Defence Staging Grounds, in Rockhampton. It was during this encounter that we were able to minister to Matt as he had recently begun to read the Bible during his basic training and desired to follow Christ. Although he was lacking in a lot of understanding, Richard and I were able to share with him the importance of being 'born again' according to Jesus' own words in John chapter 3. He hadn't heard about being born again so we explained that it is a necessity to receive the Holy Spirit in order to enter into the Kingdom of God. We asked him if he would like to receive God's gift and to pray, to which he agreed! We praise God for every life that has been touched, and as these young Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines head into a future that may be fraught with danger and war, we know that many have a seed planted within them, and we may never see what impact has been made in their lives from the ministry of Everyman's during Talisman Sabre, 2023.

SNR REP Ben Ridley





REP James Morrissy was in his element as he met some Sappers from 6th Engineer Support Regiment (6 ESR) - 17th Construction Squadron, out on Talisman Sabre 2023. In his previous Army career, James was an engineer with 21st Construction Squadron, who are also now a part of 6 ESR, and James is also a Chippie by trade in his civilian job.

*Above: with Fijians (Labasa, Vanua Levu, Fiji)
The engagement with our international partners has already begun with the Everyman's QLD team making new friends and serving our regular friends in the 7th Brigade up in Townsville. Over the next two months it's expected that there will be many opportunities to engage and support many from foreign militaries as they participate in the largest exercise Australia has ever seen!*



Soldiers waiting to board an Osprey aircraft.

ACOMM Richard Gibson, SNR REPs Leane Dabita & Ben Ridley at the Frosty Mango in Mutarnee.

Congratulations SNR REP Leane



A highlight from Exercise Talisman Sabre was seeing SNR REP Leane Dabitz awarded her Australian Defence Medal for four years of service with Everyman's to the Defence Force. We organised for my Commanding Officer LTCOL Ben Watson to present the medal to Leane on our last night out field in lieu of our CCOMM Ken Matthews. Well done, Leane!

SNR REP Ben Ridley

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

Vietnam Veterans' Day Melbourne 2023



*George Kell, Brendan Kincade and
SNR REP Shane Lavell*

We were delighted to receive an invitation from the Vietnam Veterans' Association, to support the 2023 Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorative service and wreath laying at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, on Friday 18th of August.

This special day falls on the day marking the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, which occurred in 1966, resulting in the death of 18 Australian soldiers and 24 wounded, after 3 hours of fierce fighting before the withdrawal of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces, who ever estimated to be 2,000 strong at the outset of the engagement. This battle has recently been portrayed on the big screen under the title of "Danger Close".

Senior Representative Shane Lavell provided our traditional refreshment services on the day, much to the delight of veterans, family members and visitors attending. A hot cuppa (brew) and a brief chat certainly put a smile on people's faces as they made their way to the Eternal Flame at the forecourt of the Shrine. Despite overcast conditions and the imminent

threat of rain, approximately 200 people gathered to commemorate the battles fought by Australian troops in Vietnam, and the contribution made by sailors and aircrew who supported on-ground operations - providing extra lethal force, transport and logistical support.

It has been fifty years since Australia finalised our nation's commitment to the war effort in Vietnam, seeing the withdrawal of our troops from Vietnam and returning back home. More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam from 1962 to 1973, with some returning for humanitarian operations in 1975. Sadly, 523 died, some 3,000 were wounded or fell ill, and – amidst strong anti-war sentiment many who returned home were treated unfairly by some members of the community.

We would like to acknowledge our own Vietnam Veterans, who served and ministered among our troops during their respective tours of duty on active service in Vietnam. They include: Eric Trezise, Milton Trotter, Graham Bonar, Ross Evans, Rex Finedon, Bill Ross MM & Bar, Stacey Kruck OBE, OAM.

It is now twenty five years since Everyman's was involved in a major effort to support the Vietnam Veteran's Welcome Home Parade in Sydney with a brew, smile and a chat - catching up with some familiar faces, and meeting veterans was a highlight over the two days.

SNR REP Shane Lavell



*Veterans: Maurie Benson, George Kell,
Brendan Kincade and SNR REPS Shane Lavell*

Farewell REP Neil McGinn



We would like to commend REP Neil McGINN, who has served faithfully as an Everyman's REP since December 2007. He unfortunately had to step out of the work recently due to some health challenges.

Neil was always keen to "do his bit" whenever he could, over all those years. At times when the training schedule was intense, Neil was there whenever he could, to serve the troops. He even shouldered the howling cold winds of Puckapunyal at times but always had a smile and an encouraging word for any ADF member coming up to the brew truck. Neil also risked life and limb supporting the ADF with assistance on Operation Bushfire Assist during that national crisis in 2020. For this, he was awarded the National Emergency Medal. Congratulations also to Neil on attaining the Defence Long Service Medal.

All of us in Everyman's say "Well done, Neil" and we know your Lord and ours will also say "Well done god and faithful servant" on that special day to come. We wish you and wife Belinda every blessing. We know you will remain faithful supporters and always a part of the Everyman's team.

Editor's Corrections

1. The Heart of Everyman's

The Editor wishes to apologise for incorrectly using the word "Royal" in reference to a photo on page 2 of the July Edition of *On Patrol*. The photo was of servicemen from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.

2. Motivated to Victory

The Editor wishes to apologise for the incorrect use of the phrase Operation Warhead, which may have caused alarm to anyone reading the article, who has served in the ADF. As SNR REP Ben Ridley explained, it can be a bit confusing... It's always an 'Exercise' if it's just training (ie not a real war). If it is a real situation (ie it's a war or conflict) it is called an 'Operation'.

When we (the ADF) do exercises, they are differentiated by what type of exercise is being conducted. If we are simulating a war and we have two opposing sides shooting blank rounds at each other, it's called a 'War Fighter' exercise as opposed to a 'Live Fire' exercise where we are shooting live rounds at targets.

The 7th Brigade activities prior to Talisman Sabre were both War Fighters and Live Fire exercises. The activity name was Exercise Diamond Strike.

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