



Serving the
Australian Defence Force
since 1940



ON PATROL

July 2024

Farewell ACOMM George Thomas

On the 30th of April 2024, our Assistant Commissioner at Kapooka, ACOMM George Thomas retired from his service with Everyman's.

George has been an integral part of Everyman's since 2004 when he started as an Associate. In March 2008 George became formally ADF accredited to help Everyman's, not only in our general ministry to the ADF, but also with finances. George has had extensive experience in this, and his work in Everyman's was crucial at a key time in our history. Despite Everyman's still having quite difficult financial issues at the time, George was determined to make sure Everyman's would keep going for Defence, even if it had to be run just from Kapooka alone.

Along with ACOMM Lou Hochwimmer, our Administrative Support Officer, George guided the final restoration and clean-up of our administrative process. Today our auditors tell us EWS is one of the best financially run Not for Profits they have ever seen.

George was also instrumental in helping the ADF with financial issues over in the Middle East during his deployment. He was then one of the very few of the Philanthropics to make it up to the front line in Afghanistan to minister to the troops. His presence there was greatly appreciated.

George was also key to supporting the ADF during the 2020 Bushfire Emergency for which he was awarded the National Emergency Medal.

We wish George and Kay a blessed retirement and offer them an open invitation to attend any Everyman's events as special guests. We know they will continue to pray for the work and get the updates on what is happening.

We wish them well and pray God's continued blessing on them and their family.



ACOMM George Thomas (Ret'd)

Everyman's Welfare Service
a company limited by guarantee

National Headquarters
02 6053 5288
admin@everymans.org.au

PO Box 8
BANDIANA MILPO VIC 3694
www.everymans.org.au

From the CCOMM's desk...

In a time of peace, it is easy to feel like our lives will last forever, even more so when we are young. However, even when you are over 60, and still feeling physically well, the prospect of having to face death seems far away. Nevertheless, this feeling becomes shaky for all our ADF members when the time comes to go on deployment.

I grew up with parents who had both served in World War II. My mum had five brothers who all went to war, and praise God they all came back. However, my mother told me of a woman they knew who lost all three sons, one tragic telegram after another. Mum told me of the very great fear they often had when someone knocked on the door with an envelope in their hands. There was fear in simply seeing the postman approaching the house. She told me that those war years were ones of always saying goodbye to people, not knowing if they would ever come home. They took some comfort in the old Vera Lynn wartime song “we’ll meet again, don’t know where don’t know when, but I know we’ll meet again some sunny day.” However, sadly many did not meet again.



*Ken Matthews
CCOMM*

In the midst of all this were the Everymen and Everywomen of the war years. Right where I am writing from now was the “Everywoman’s Hut.” Though one of the Everywomen who served here at Bandiana said it was “the worst place on earth,” (possibly being here during winter) she did a lot of good in this place, with the many young ladies heading off to war. One of the most poignant times was when young enlistees asked our Everywomen and Everymen, to help them write letters home. The unspoken word that everyone knew was that this letter could be their last letter they would ever write. Such was the confronting reality of wartime.

So the question was often asked of Everyman’s about what lies beyond this life. Everymen and Everywomen were sought out. Even if the person was not religious at all, it was still a question that confronted everyone, and Everyman’s Christian perspective was still of interest. Many service personnel made professions of faith in those days in the Everyman’s huts. Others were grateful for what the Everyman/Everywoman shared, even if they wanted to think more on it. What it did, was to give many courage they never had before. They felt Everyman’s had led them to assurance and peace about what lies beyond.

In this day and age, it is hard to think of a time when people were not continually confronted with the fact that this life does not last forever.

Today we all live in volatile times. There have been many occasions since World War II, where a huge war could have broken out. To this day, we are still in that situation. Our ADF is ever ready for this, and if indeed the “flag goes up” many of them, demographically young (18-25), will face the same hard truths our forebears faced in the Second World War.

The assurance is that the Everyman/Everywoman is still here. Though we are small in number, and only on selected bases, we will do whatever we can to help our ADF talk about the big issues of eternity when the topic comes up.

For our Christian supporters please be ever vigilant in prayer for us. For our many supporters in RSLs and service clubs, we thank you for the wonderful resources you have supplied thus far for us to continue in our traditional welfare role. Of course, the material and prayer needs never end as long as our Defence personnel have to remain at the ready. Please continue to support us, as you have in the past, so we can continue to encourage and provide Christian hope, as we have since 1940.

Exercise Silicon Diamond

ACOMM Richard Gibson led the Everyman's team from SE QLD through some rough terrain at Shoalwater Bay to reach troops doing it hard in wet and muddy conditions. Richard, together with REPs James Morrissey and Glenn Tweedale, were really happy with the performance of the latest Brew Truck, which has been fitted with high quality suspension and the latest off grid technology, making it possible to run a fridge-freezer, microwaves and Zip Boil hot water, without need of a generator.

Even more exciting were the opportunities they had to talk with the soldiers as they served them hot tea and real coffee off the back of the truck. The servicemen and women take an active interest in current world events; and as they train to serve their country, their thoughts wander to the many places of conflict in our world; and from these thoughts the conversations flow. These conversations are not so different from those the young soldiers had with the Everyman and Everywoman as they set off for distant shores in WW2. The Everyman's response is also much the same, about the hope we have in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection and the promise of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

The team in SE QLD offer their grateful thanks for your donations supporting the work of Everyman's, the replacement of our ageing Brew Trucks one at a time, and to those who provide Personal Support for our REPs, who are all volunteers. Your support makes it possible for them to go on exercise and support the men and women of the ADF.

God Bless you all.



Serving the troops at night

EWS LOCATIONS

- RAAF Base, AMBERLEY, QLD
- Kokoda Barracks, CANUNGRA, QLD
- Gallipoli Barracks, ENOGGERA, QLD
- Victoria Barracks, PETRIE TERRACE, QLD
- RMC DUNTROON, ACT
- Woodside Barracks, INVERBRACKIE, SA
- Randwick Barracks, RANDWICK, NSW
- Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW
- Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC
- Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC
- Robertson Barracks HOLTZE, NT

Centenary Celebrations at Bega



The Bega Soldiers Memorial

SNR REPs Kristian & Chris Kemper attended the Centenary of the Unveiling of the Bega Soldiers' Memorial in May. Kristian drove his restored 1941 Willys Jeep with a local veteran on board, while Chris drove the Everyman's Brew Truck in the parade.

The parade was led by The Bemboka Light Horse Brigade, The Bega Pony Club and Duntroon Royal Military Band. The parade also included various other vehicles, as well as local school children and families who marched carrying images of the local fallen heroes. After the parade, a ceremony dedicated to local lives lost in battle was held.

Photos of the sixty-six Bega men who made the supreme sacrifice during the Great War and whose names are listed on the memorial were presented. A drum beat sounded for each and their photos were displayed on the memorial's fence, thirty-three on each side.

The history and importance of the Catafalque Party was shared. Hymns were sung, and prayers of thanksgiving, and for the King and the nation were offered. A commemoration address was made by Mr Richard Reid, along with a prayer for the fallen. Wreaths were laid and a minute's silence observed.

To mark the centenary, the Bega RSL Sub-Branch commissioned artist Terri Tuckwell to paint a 16 metre-long mural of five panels, on the wall adjoining the Soldier's Memorial. The panels feature portraits of four war veterans, connected to the Far South Coast, and from different conflicts.

Pictured below is artist, Terri Tuckwell, in front of the mural she painted. From left to right, the panels and conflicts represent:

Afghanistan-Iraq - Warrant Officer Class 1 Darren Holzhauser and local indigenous submariner, Adrian Luff.

Vietnam, the Malayan emergency and the Indonesian confrontation - Machine gun operator Ronny Keft,

who was wounded in Vietnam with the second image of John Leeman from the Borneo confrontation.

WW2 - Sister Vivian Bullwinkel sole survivor of the 1942 Banka Island massacre and Henry Deacon, who was killed in action.

WW1 - Lt Col T E W Irwin, of the 1st Regiment, ANZAC Mounted Division and POW Frank Dyer. His son currently still lives in the Bega area.

The Eternal Flame and Catafalque Party in the final panel.



Exercise Predator's Walk



Soldiers from 5 RAR Mortar Platoon

It was the beginning of a busy time in the field for Everyman's SNR REP Leane Dabitz, in the Northern Territory, as Exercise Predator's Walk took place off the coast of Darwin, and at the Mount Bunday Training Area. This is 1st Brigade's major training exercise for the season. Finishing at the start of June, Exercise Predator's Walk encompassed a number of individual unit exercises alongside allies from the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Marine Rotational Force Darwin (MRF-D).

With clouds of dust covering the range and day temperatures reaching the mid 30's, soldiers pushed through the harsh outback conditions. "Nothing like a cup of cold water to bring you back to life" one of them said. The appearance on location of the Brew Truck is always met with overwhelming appreciation. Clocking nearly 5000km over the month with daily trips of over 100km back to town to resupply, our REPs work is well worth it when the word gets out and soldiers queue for their momentary reprieve from field life - a cold drink, a packet of chips, and a chat.

Like the rest of the team, Leane loves what she does. She is thankful for our supporters' prayer and their contributions, which go towards stocking the Brew Truck.

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

Donating to Everyman's Vehicle Replacement Program

Just 10 years ago, half of our Brew Trucks were manufactured last century! As the number of REPs has grown, we are pleased to say that our fleet of vehicles has expanded, and now only two belong to the 20th century... Through a dedicated program, we have updated many and purchased others. The REPs have it down to a fine art, fitting out these Brew Trucks and getting them into service quickly.

A younger fleet has financial, as well as practical advantages. (Reduced maintenance costs and reliability on exercise, to name just two). This year we are looking to raise \$120,000 to purchase and fit out a quality, second-hand Toyota Landcruiser.

If you would like to donate to our Vehicle Replacement Project, please tick the box on the back of the donation slip and we will make sure your donation is quarantined for the next vehicle to be purchased.



*Taken on a recent exercise at Shoalwater Bay, QLD, from left to right:
ACOMM Richard Gibson,
REP James Morrissy and
REP Glenn Tweedale*

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



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Charities and
Not-for-profits
Commission



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

Everyman's Welfare Service
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National Headquarters
02 6053 5288
admin@everymans.org.au

PO Box 8
BANDIANA MILPO VIC 3694
www.everymans.org.au



Yes Everyman's! We want to support the great work you do supporting the servicemen and women of the Australian Defence Force.

Name.....Email.....
 Address.....
 Suburb.....State.....P/Code.....Phone.....

Enclosed is our tax deductible gift of \$ _____

Please use my/our donation to support:

General Operations Vehicle Replacement Project Personal Support for.....

I/we would like to donate: Fortnightly Monthly Quarterly Annual This is a one-time gift

Please charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard

(Last 3 digits on back)

Card Number CVV

Name on card Expiry Date:/..... Signature:

Direct Transfer BSB: 034 033 Acct: 197255 Title: Everymans Welfare Service Ref: Your Name

Cheque or money order payable to **EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE**

