



# THE MIGHTY 12TH

NEWSLETTER OF THE 12TH BATTALION NATIONAL SERVICE

Volume 3 No 2 March 2009 email [lamaher@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lamaher@bigpond.net.au)

A very special welcome to the newer members of the “Mighty 12<sup>th</sup>”. ( And sorry no badge news YET.)

With a few new additions we now number 294. I went to the Nominal Roll on the Nasho website and emailed anyone who wasn't on the list. Unfortunately of the 40 emails that I sent, 18 of them bounced back to me as wrong email addresses. Obviously, these guys have changed their email address and have not notified the “keeper” of the web site.

While “on the job” I listed all the 12 Bn guys who had registered and am working on getting addresses for them. (These are the ones without email addresses.

Have you visited the web site lately. Colin has done a great job and is keeping it up to date amongst the many other things he has on his plate. I can take little credit for the site and I offer a special thank you to Colin for the great work being done.

All of the “old” newsletters are on the site together with some interesting links. If you don't have a computer, your local Library would be only too pleased to let you have a look at the page. Remember its address is: [www.themighty12th.org](http://www.themighty12th.org)

Neil Christie 2/53 sent this one along.

## **Perks of reaching 50, 60, 70!**

- 01. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.**
- 02. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.**
- 03. No one expects you to run--anywhere.**
- 04. People call at 9 pm and ask, did I wake you?**
- 05. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.**
- 06. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.**
- 07. Things you buy now won't wear out.**
- 08. You can eat dinner at 4 pm.**
- 09. You can live without sex but not your glasses.**
- 10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.**
- 11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.**
- 12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.**
- 13. You sing along with the taped music in the lift.**
- 14. Your eyes won't get much worse.**
- 15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.**
- 16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.**
- 17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.**
- 18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.**
- 19. You can't remember who sent you this list.**

**And you notice these are all in Bold Print for your convenience. (and eyesight)**

(ED. Neil, I am sure this does relate to any of the Mighty 12<sup>th</sup>- being “mighty” and all that.)

The number of donations” to keep us alive and well” has now reached 20. Thanks guys. (\$5.00 each would help from the rest)

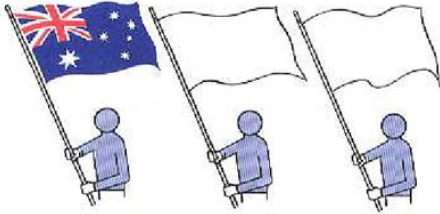
Thought I might include this next bit re flying the Australian Flag. It seems to be quite a bone of contention in some places

### Dignity of the Flag

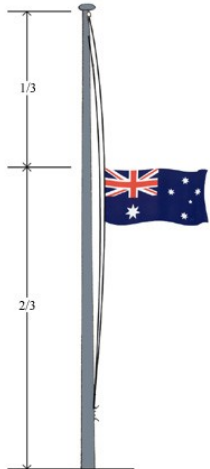
The Australian National Flag should be displayed only in a manner befitting the national emblem. It should not be subjected to indignity or displayed in a position inferior to any other flag or ensign. The Flag normally takes precedence over all other national flags when flown in Australia. It should always be flown aloft and free and should not be allowed to fall or lie upon the ground.( Some sporting clubs need to take note)

### Australian National Flag Carried in a Procession

If carried with other flags, in a single file, the Australian National Flag should always lead.



If carried in line abreast, it is preferable to have the Australian National Flag at each end of the line.



The correct position for flying a flag at half mast. (That's 1/3 down from the top of the flagpole – not 1/2 way)

Courtesy of the Commonwealth of Australia  
Australian Government Publishing Service.

### Contributed

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener. I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think.

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is 'when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.'

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age, and call it 'Pumping Rust'.

I've gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers!

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency.

I think you should write, '*A Good Doctor*'!

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office?

What are we supposed to do...write to these men? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps

so the mailmen could look for them while they deliver the mail? Or better yet, arrest them while they are taking their pictures!

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then, it dawned on me, they were **cramming** for their finals.

### **Editorial.**

Thanks to the guys who have dropped me a line or given me a phone call or sent an email. It is obvious that many of like to share stories or simply have a chat to someone who had similar experiences so many years ago. Remember, if you are passing through the lovely city of Wagga Wagga, give me a bell and perhaps we can share a lemonade at one of the local clubs. If you just want a chat, contact me and I can phone you back.

I was hoping to have time to get a small reunion going for the end of June, (29<sup>th</sup>) this year, to coincide with our Reserve Forces Day Parade but things are just too hectic. If you feel like a "bush trip" however, Wagga Wagga is a beautiful city to visit. If anyone has any ideas about how we could have a get together, I would be pleased to hear it but as our members are spread all over Australia it seems like an impossible task. (Besides that- some of us are getting older!!!!\_)

Speaking of memory!! One of you guys contacted me about his daughter doing some illustrations for the poetry book I have put together. Guess what??? I lost the piece of paper with your name and address. (Not like me—MUCH!) Please get in touch again.

### **If you ever had any doubt???????**

Foreword

Extracted from 12 Btn Magazine Intake 3/53

I desire to express my thanks to your Commanding Officer and your Editor for asking me to write this message. At the same time, I take the opportunity of congratulating your Commanding Officer and all Regular Army and National Service personnel of your Unit, for the splendid work you have achieved.

No matter how strong our desire for peace might be, there may come a time when we must again defend our country against an aggressor. Should this necessity arise, you will be following in the footsteps of the sailors, soldiers and airmen who co-operated with our allies in past wars in defence of our way of life. There is no question about what would have happened if we and our allies had not been prepared to destroy the aggressor. In 1942, for example, he came very close to home, and though it was in a very small way, he actually launched an attack against Sydney. If he had not been resisted, Australia would be vastly different to-day.

Should the need to defend our country again arise, we will require a well organised army. Individual soldiers must have as much training as possible. This is not enough, however, and individuals must learn to work together in teams - battalions, regiments, brigades, divisions, etc. You are receiving excellent, individual training in your Battalion now. When you complete this individual training, you will be posted to a Unit in one of the formations, and then you will continue your individual training and also make your contribution to the building, of a unit team. Sometimes you may feel that you are not learning enough. There are certain limits to what we can learn in our part-time training, and to the standards that can be reached by the teams I have referred to. But a lot has been done, and is being done. We now have units and formations completely organised. They have reached a pleasing state, of efficiency although there is still a great amount to learn, and practice to be had in working together. Those of us who commenced our training many years ago, as National Servicemen as the young men of 12th Battalion are now doing, and who have experienced the difficulties of war, realise just how essential and valuable training is. We know that even though you cannot devote your whole time to the army, you can make a really worth-while contribution. I have the honour and privilege of commanding one of Australia's CMF Formations, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division and I am proud indeed of all its members. I knew that the Army as it is to-day is playing its part in providing security for this lovely country of ours. When you complete your initial National Service training, you will transfer to one of the, CMF formations. Whether it is 2nd Division or one of the other formations or Units, I can assure you all that you will be most welcome wherever you are posted. I extend to you the best of good wishes. I know that you will derive much satisfaction. from the knowledge that you are serving your country well.

This next one has always appealed to my warped sense of humour!!!

Terry Parsons

3/56 intake - 12Bn Holsworthy - 12 Platoon Charlie

Company

Chapter One

No doubt many will recall the fire bucket and extinguisher which was outside the door at each end of the huts in Holsworthy. During my 98 days, in hut 16, many of us would hear, in the early hours of the morning, the pitter-patter of feet. Every night one of the boys would tip-toe to the door of our hut and we would hear the "tinkle" as he urinated in the fire bucket. (Saved a trip to the ablution block). When reveille went, each morning, another of the boys would go to the same bucket and splash water, from the bucket, onto his hair. He would then commence combing his hair. During the entire time nobody "told" and, to this day, both of those boys might still be unaware of the reason for the muffled giggling that went on each night and morning. (Is anyone game to own up????)

**Takes all sorts!!! (Bet Nashos straightened him up!)**

THE FIRST WEEK.

My Dear Mater,

The cuisine is really atrocious, and these primitive conditions would appal even Darwin's "missing link." The individuals with whom I co-habit are mainly disgustingly "bour-geoisie" or equally nauseatingly "nouveau riche" with a sprinkling of uncouth rustics and, to lapse into the vernacular, "spies."

So, you see, there is really no one of our class here.

Yours (etc.),

BASIL

**Are YOU wearing a red ribbon each Friday to show your support for our troops serving overseas? I am.**

**Do you know any of these 12BN guys? ( If so let them know we exist)**

**1951:** Leo Burke, E.L. Ford, Robert Hughes, Peter H. Wright.

**1952:** David Anthony, Robert Burgess, John Burton, J.P. Buxton, Duane Carrall, Nicholas Catlan, Bruce Cox, Leslie Curtis, Kevin Dailey, Barrie Dawson, Francis Defries, Leonard Forbes, George Goldsmith, Keith Henderson, Jack Hicks, William Holdway, Clifford Holland, Thomas C. Horan, John E. Kelly, R.J. Kennedy, Leslie Lever, Leonard Maddox, Neil Moore, Kevin Newman, Geoffrey Prior, Neville Schultz, Ian Scott, Max Skinner, Ronald A. Smith, Roy Taylor, William Weir, Bruce Worsley, Bob Worsley. (I'll have some more next time)

I received an interesting letter from a young LT Colonel Rip Rodd recently and I will include his story in the next newsletter after I have had a yarn to him.

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**Surface Mail**

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PP:255003/06708

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