



# THE MIGHTY 12TH

NEWSLETTER OF THE 12TH NATIONAL SERVICE Training Battalion

Volume 4 No 1 February 2010

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This might be a bit of a surprise as it has been 9 months since our last newsletter and a lot of water has passed under the bridge for all of us.

I know that good health is foremost in most of our aging minds as our birthday numbers creep higher and higher. I have had a pretty rough time myself but I would almost certainly be in good company. Keeping a positive outlook is easy to quote but not always easy to do, but with support and good company things do get a bit easier.

The opportunity should arise in September with the dedication of the National Memorial for possibly, the last chance we may have for a "Get Together". I was hoping that by now, NSW Executive may have decided on a venue for its assembly after the ceremony. This would be a great opportunity for us to meet informally.

I have finally been able to get together the old Battalion Magazines I was holding and with the 12 Battalion Photo Album, these have been forwarded to Bardia Barracks complex for display in the historical records. If you get a chance to go to Bardia you might let me know if they are on display. If they aren't- ask someone there what happened to them.

The first 12 Battalion Magazine was produced for 2<sup>nd</sup> Intake in 1953. I was browsing this a few weeks ago and came across a small article that caught my attention.

I wonder if L/Cpl B. Blanchard, 9platoon, B Coy is still on this mortal coil ?

L/Cpl Blanchard was the designer of the cover the 12 Battalion Magazine and therefore indirectly responsible for the design of the MIGHTY 12TH Badge. He is not on our register and I have no idea where he came from or as I said, whether he is still with us. Maybe one of you guys has some further info. We have very few 1953 intake guys registered.

Following the last email and post out, I received 1 returned- not at this address and about 25 bounced emails. This time I have decided to send all copies by snail mail- a bloody big task- and request that email bods, send me an email so that I can reformat my members who use that method of correspondence. Please remember to notify me if you change email addresses.

Have you seen the "Battle for Australia" book I mentioned in the September news. We have sold over 3000 of these and the War memorial has picked up an option on sales at their bookshop. The book is \$6.50 including postage from me and worth 4 times that amount at least. The maps alone have to be seen to be believed and the text is easy reading.

Did you ever wonder what the "purpose of National Service was? Here is the extract from the Department of Labour and National Service National Service Manual.

*National Service Act. 1951. Purpose of National Service.*

*"The National Service Act 1951 provides National Service Training for young men reaching the age of 18 years. The purpose of the N/S Act is twofold. The first is to make a contribution to the defence of Australia by*

*providing a reserve of trained men who will be available for service with the Defence force in the case of an emergency.*

*The second is to improve the health and physical fitness of young men by giving them a period of regular disciplined training and also, through medical examination, bringing to notice any physical conditions that need medical attention.”*

The previous bit of the newsletter was written in February with the intention of getting it posted out- “The best laid plans of mice and newsletter editors goes oft astray”

I revised some bits and let’s hope that “nothing” interferes with this posting.

I must admit that the newsletter task is becoming a bit too much for me and I wondered if there was any ex 12 Bn guy who might “pick up the sword” and carry on, otherwise our newsletter will peter out. ( Some funds are still available to cover postage from donations received two years ago.)

One thing I will say, it’s great to be at Nasho functions at different places and see the Mighty 12<sup>th</sup> badge on someone’s uniform. We are only allowed two badges on our coats for Canberra and one of mine will be “ours” Received this email late last year-if anyone is interested I can give them the email address.

My late father, Jim Powe (d. 20/1/09), was a member of the 1st intake of the 12th Training Battalion at 'New Holsworthy' in 1955 (6 Platoon, B Company, Hut 15). He went on to complete his National Service with the Royal NSW Lancers near his family home in Parramatta.

A keen photographer, he put together a hand-made album of several hundred photos covering both the training (Ferrets, Matildas, Brens etc) and social (eg 'Battalion Dance 11/3/55') aspects of his time with B Coy. As he is not in many of the images (and nearly all of the negatives are with the album), I presume they were taken with his personal camera.

Unfortunately, none of the people in the photos is individually named, but if there is any interest out there I would be willing to scan the images upon request.

Should you require further information, feel free to contact me using this e-mail address.

Regards,Brad Powe

### **Possibly our last reunion opportunity – I hope not!**

The NSW Branch of the Nashos will congregate at Hawke’s Nest on the road to Goulburn after the dedication of the National Memorial. I believe there will be a BBQ and drinks available. If you can make it, it will be a great opportunity for what could be a final “Get Together” unless something exciting happens in the interim.

All the Best, Lawrie Maher 23 Platoon, 1/56

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