



# THE MIGHTY 12TH

NEWSLETTER OF THE 12TH NATIONAL SERVICE BATTALION

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[www.themighty12th.org](http://www.themighty12th.org)

## WELCOME TO ALL,

Whether you agree with the politics or not, this is something that we can and should do in support of our young lads and ladies doing their bit.

My two cents worth anyway.  
(offered without comment)

## LEST WE FORGET

Last week I was in Melbourne attending a conference.

While I was in the airport, returning home, I heard several people behind me beginning to clap and cheer. I immediately turned around and witnessed one of the greatest acts of patriotism I have ever seen.

Moving through the terminal was a group of soldiers in their uni-

forms, as they began heading to their gate everyone (well almost everyone) was abruptly to their feet with their hands waving and cheering.

When I saw the soldiers, probably 30-40 of them, being applauded and cheered for, it hit me. I'm not alone. I'm not the only red blooded Australian who still loves this country and supports our troops and their families. Of course I immediately stopped and began clapping for these young unsung heroes who are putting their lives on the line everyday for us so we can go to school, work, and enjoy our home without fear or reprisal.

Just when I thought I could not be more proud of my country or of our service men and women a young girl, not more than 6 or 7 years old, ran up to one of the male soldiers.

He knelt down and said 'hi,' the little girl then asked him if he would give something to her daddy for her.

The young soldier didn't look any older than maybe 22 himself, said he would try and what did she

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FILE AND PICS AS JPG FILE TO EDITOR.

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SUGGESTIONS AND CONSTRUCTIVE

CRITICISM WELCOMED.

want to give to her daddy.

Suddenly the little girl grabbed the neck of this soldier, gave him the biggest hug she could muster and then kissed him on the cheek.

The mother of the little girl, who said her daughter's name was Courtney, told the young soldier that her husband was a Corporal and had been in Afghanistan for 5 months now.

As the mum was explaining how much her daughter, Courtney, missed her father, the young soldier began to tear up.

When this temporarily single mum was done explaining her situation, all of the soldiers huddled together for a brief second.

Then one of the other servicemen pulled out a military looking walkie-talkie. They started playing with the device and talking back and forth on it. After about 10-15 seconds of this, the young soldier walked back over to Courtney, bent down and said this to her, 'I spoke to your daddy and he told me to give this to you.'

He then hugged this little girl that he had just met and gave her a kiss

on the cheek. He finished by saying 'Your daddy told me to tell you that he loves you more than anything and he is coming home very soon.'

The mum at this point was crying almost uncontrollably and as the young soldier stood to his feet he saluted Courtney and her mum.

I was standing no more than 6 feet away as this entire event unfolded.

As the soldiers began to leave, heading towards their gate, people resumed their applause.

As I stood there applauding and looked around, there were very few dry eyes, including my own.

That young soldier in one last act of moment turned around and blew a kiss to Courtney with a tear rolling down his cheek.

We need to remember everyday, all of our soldiers and their families and thank God for them and their sacrifices. At the end of the day, it's good to be an Australian.

### **RED FRIDAYS**

Very soon, you will see a great many people wearing Red every Friday.

The reason?

Australian's who support our troops used to be called the 'silent majority'. We are no longer silent, and are voicing our love for Country and home in record breaking numbers.

We are not organized, boisterous or over-bearing.

We get no liberal media coverage on TV, to reflect our message or

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our opinions.

Many Australian's, like you, me and all our friends, simply want to recognize that the vast majority of Australia supports our troops.

Our idea of showing solidarity and support for our troops with dignity and respect starts this Friday and continues each and every Friday until the troops all come home, sending a deafening message that every Australian who supports our men and women afar will wear something red.

By word of mouth, press, TV — let's make Australia on every Friday a sea of red every Friday. If every one of us who loves this country will share this with acquaintances, co-workers, friends, and family, It will not be long before Australia is covered in RED and it will let our troops know the once 'silent' majority is on their side more than ever, certainly more than the media lets on.

The first thing a soldier says when asked 'What can we do to make things better for you?' is...'We need your support and your prayers'.

Let's get the word out and lead with class and dignity, by example; and wear something red every Friday.

Well that was a rather serious way to get started but I make no apologies for putting it in first

place in our newsletter.

**1. My Thanks** to those **12 members** who sent along a donation to keep this newsletter going. To say this is a little disappointing would be too obvious, but it will keep us going for a short while. A donation of \$5.00 from half of the 280 would assure our continuance for the rest of 2009 at least.

2. I have had all sorts of problems with obtaining our badge as some of you will be well aware but, once again, I have been assured that there delivery is very close. (I even have the envelopes addressed and stamped so the turn -around at my end will be very quick)

3. If any of you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please let me know. It will not affect your placement on the list of Mighty 12's.

4. Thanks for the many photo's that have been sent along. They have been placed in an album and names added where possible. It is my intention to donate the album to the Bardia Barracks Nasho Museum when my Sub Branch visits there in April. It will then have a permanent "resting place".

5. I had a great lunch and chat with one of our members, Charlie Zarb when he visited Wagga Wagga recently and I really enjoy the chats I have had with members

by phone. There are so many memories that overlap, no matter what intake or year.

6. I have often made the comment that "I didn't ever fire a shot in anger" and I have made up my mind not to use this expression again as it gives a very wrong impression of what our service meant to most of us.

At the time, I am sure we all felt, as did the government of the day, that we were preparing to defend our country from the "red hordes" to our north. The fact that we did not- most of us- actually "go to war" was purely a matter of history. We were prepared physically and militarily to defend our country should the need arise. Let's not sell ourselves short because 50+ years have passed.

Michael Vassallo has set up a web site for Platoon or group photos. If you have any photos that you would like to send to put on the web site, you can either email them or sent them by post with any of the names you can recall with any other details. My email and address is at the base of this letter, the web site is also link to the National Servicemen's web page with a direct link later on all photos will be sent too national archives to be stored before they are lost.

**The web address of the site is**  
<http://>

[nashosphotos.wikidot.com/](http://nashosphotos.wikidot.com/)

Yours in Comradeship

Michael Vassallo

Better than a Flu Shot!

Miss Beatrice, The church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all.

One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room.

She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea.

As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cute glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, and in the water floated, of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat. The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity

about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist.

'Miss

'Oh, yes,' she replied, 'Isn't it wonderful? I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground.

The directions said to place it on

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the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease.

Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter.'

### **BODY STATISTICS**

It takes your food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.

One human hair can support 3 kg (6.6 lb).

The average man's penis is three times the length of his thumb.

Human thighbones are stronger than concrete.

A woman's heart beats faster than a man's.

There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.

Women blink twice as often as men.

The average person's skin weighs twice as much as the brain.

Your body uses 300 muscles to balance itself when you are standing still.

If saliva cannot dissolve something, you cannot taste it.

Women reading this will be finished now.

Men who read this are probably still busy checking their thumbs.

This is the Nasho memorial in the Memorial Gardens in Wagga Wagga. The significance of the sandbags is "defence"



This is the design of our 12 Bn Badge. It was done specially for me by a local screen printing firm who also does our plaque.



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