



# THE MIGHTY 12TH

Newsletter of the 12th National Service Battalion

Issue No 5 July 2008 ~ email [lamaher@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lamaher@bigpond.net.au) [www.themighty12th.org](http://www.themighty12th.org)

Directory.

At this stage I will not be reprinting the roll of members as this takes up a huge amount of room for our email clients. When I reach the 250 barrier ( currently sitting on 196) I will reprint it and post an edited copy to everyone. (Privacy Rules apply)

It's quite amazing that we only have this number, as by my calculations, approximately 20 thousand conscripts must have passed through the gates of Old Holsworthy between 1951 and 1957.

I hope that those already registered are passing the word on to your sub branches, RSL branches and "anyone who looks about 70".

Thanks to those who have sent photos. It makes it a bit difficult without names though. I now have a pretty good collection of 12Bn pics but casual and general interest shots are still welcome.

**The badges and books have proven to be very popular, so popular in fact that I have now 7 books and supplements and about 7 badges left.**

So what now?

All I can do is take orders and when sufficient have been received I will do a re-run of both books and badges. They will not do small runs of badges, unfortunately.

The books don't really create a huge problem but there is always a minimum order for the badges.

A few guys suggested that we should look at a Battalion Tie, personalized Coasters and even a 12 Battalion plaque with name, intake, platoon, Company

A special welcome to the new arrivals in our 12 Bn

and Regimental Number. I am looking into this and would be pleased to hear from anyone with suggestions in this regard. I really don't want to turn the whole thing into a merchandising fiasco.

My next target is members of the Combined Services Association who are holding their Annual Conference in Leeton- close by- very soon. If you are attending this conference and could do some P.R. for the group, please contact me.

I am still on the lookout for old Battalion Magazines and was lucky to add 3/54 to my list since the last newsletter. If you have your old copy, please contact me and we can make some arrangements for me to get a copy. I have 2&3/53, 1,2,3/54 and 1/55. (If you want a copy of any of these I can do one for you- \$20.00 posted) or you may borrow my copy and do your own on a postage paid arrangement.

We have just celebrated an excellent Reserve Forces Day Parade here in Wagga Wagga and it set me thinking that we might be able to incorporate a reunion type of activity for this time next year. I will poll you in a few months to get an expression of interest. If anyone else has any ideas in this regard I would be pleased to hear from you.

Don't forget to contact me if you are looking for someone from your Intake- I will put your "bit" in the next newsletter.

**A few items contributed by "members"**

Barry Hocking

**3/53 – 12Bn Holsworthy – 11 Platoon Charlie Company**

One of our most hated regular instructors, whose name I will suppress, a Korean Veteran, always gave us a bad time. He appeared to be 10 feet tall, a bully and very aggressive. In retrospect, he was only doing his job and in fact was only about 5 feet 2 inches in height. (I was 6' 2")

After National Service I went back to my civilian life of being a police officer and some years later, whilst performing traffic duty in Bankstown, I had occasion to stop an erring motorist. To my surprise it was "my hated regular instructor". By this stage he had left the army. Here I was, now in a position to extract revenge for all his seemingly unnecessary aggressive actions.

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It was at this point that I realised that he wasn't such a bad bloke and now that I had matured up from my Nasho days, I realised that his aggressive attitude to us was only to make us try harder and be better

#### Perspective

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father

The son answered:

"I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing?

Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.

Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!

Offered without comment.

**From Bill O'Neill from San Antonio Texas, USA.**

I read through your Newsletter again and there was no bulletin in the intake I was in. Instead they decided to appoint a battalion photographer. I had just bought a new camera and knew very little about it. I asked if they would keep it for me in the orderly room safe. A few days later I was told that I had to report to the battalion office. The colonel (or light colonel) had been told by my company commander "that he had a photographer who was keeping his camera in the

safe.". I knew next to nothing about the camera or photography but that must have been more than the guys interviewing me. They appointed a trainee from Newcastle who was working as a professional photographer in civilian life and to my surprise, made me his assistant. He taught me a lot and if between regular training we had to wander around taking pictures. I can't remember if they sold them or what. I do know that we were supposed to replace the bulletins.

I remember one night there was an inter-company boxing tournament. Our company had a professional. I think his last name was O'Keefe. I went along to photograph the event. The bell sounded and I switched on the camera to activate the flash. Before it was charged our guy had knocked his opponent out and was leaving the ring. That illustrates what little I knew about cameras.

We had to supply copies of everything we took to the colonel's office. I have no idea what they did with them.. I still have a few, but nothing noteworthy.

Regards again. Bill.

From Harry Healey

The web site [www.diggerhistory.com.au](http://www.diggerhistory.com.au) offers an excellent and accurate history concerning Aust. Army matters. It even boasts full copy in colour of the unique colour flash system used previously in our early military history (and gradually returning I am happy to say)..

I believe that your members who have not known of this source of information might like to hear of it.

Additionally, a new publication came on the market only last month on Australian medals. Called AUSTRALIANS AWARDED published by Rennik P/L @[www.renniks.com](http://www.renniks.com) and priced at \$64.95 +pp of \$8.50 it is a great reference with detail of the history of medals and their value.

For example on pages 294/5 & 6 it deals with the National Service Medal and the unofficial medal as sold by RSM. and the Australian Defence Medal.

The book values the official National Service Medal @ +\$250.00 the Defence Medal @+\$150 and the unofficial medal which was of two types. Type 1 with crude riveted suspender is valued @ +\$75 while type 2 ,a one piece construction @ + \$50.00.

regards

HARRY

If you are a "newby" and would like to receive back copies of the newsletters please send a stamped, self addressed envelope to Lawrie Maher PO Box 8160, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

