



THE MIGHTY 12TH

Newsletter of the 12th National Service Battalion

Issue No 3 May 2008 ~ email lamaher@bigpond.net.au www.themighty12th.org

Welcome one and all to our third newsletter.

Thanks to those who have ordered badges and books. I hoped to have the badges out for Anzac Day but the supplier was late- ——happens!!!

Personally I was very pleased with the badge design- not a circle as I expected but a “cut out” version. Looks great on my Nasho coat.

I am requesting that as many nashos as can afford to do so will purchase the book (\$15 posted) as it is the sale of these that will keep the newsletters and communications coming for a while at least. With 130+ registered and only about 30 on email, it means a cost of approx \$50 for each mailout.

The badges are just covering their own cost and mail/handling.

The Mystery of 4/52

I was contacted about the table I put in the last newsletter which showed 4 conscripts in intake 4/52. As most of you will know, there was not time available to have 4 intakes in one year. Some serious phoning and research may have solved the unsolvable.

The last intake in 1952- August to November- was the third intake for that year (see 12 Bn Booklet) but members have photos of their platoon clearly displaying Intake 4/52.

There are two possible solutions that I would like to offer.

1. Whoever made up the board for the platoon photograph st——ed up!
2. The board was prepared stating that it was the year 1952 and that the intake was the 4th since conscrip-

tion commenced.

I have since been told that the Airforce intakes were numbered consecutively and referred to as the 6th, 7th etc intake.

Perhaps this solves the problem.

I would be interested to hear what the 3 and 4 42 intake guys feel about this.

Contributions:

Don't forget I am looking for bits and pieces to include in the newsletters;

Bill O'Neill sent this item:

“I read though you 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.

And from Don Clark

Some sporting stars in 1/56 intake 24 Platoon were:

Brian Allsop

Lawrie Maher - Editor
lamaher@bigpond.net.au
Please send content as text file and
pics as jpg file to editor.
Colin Wood - website
turton37@bigpond.com
Suggestions and constructive
criticism welcomed.
www.themighty12th.org

Brian played 80 matches for Eastern Suburbs Rugby League 1st grade team between 1955 and 1959. Obviously his army training would have interfered with his football!! In his first year with easts he scored 5 tries against Parramatta. He also played 74 games with Manly.

Peter Johnson

A great hooker and Australia's longest serving Wallaby. Peter played 42 tests for Australia in a career which lasted from 1959 to 1972. Peter played club rugby for Randwick and was named in their Dream Team!! He also played with Sydney Uni.

He has been inducted into the Aust Sport Hall of Fame.

I spoke at a View Club Meeting prior to Anzac Day and following my talk a very sweet older lady came up to me and said she remembered the 12 Bn camp very well. She lived at East Hills at the time and remembered that sometimes the boys would catch the train there rather than to Liverpool especially if they were "running late".

For those with internet access or family who could help, I highly recommend a poem I used for my talk called "The Anzac on the Wall" The address is

http://www.acgq.org.au/articles-detail.php?id_art=25

Once again for our internet "buffs" the current Army Magazine can be found on line at

http://digital.realviewtechnologies.com/default.asp?xml=defencenews_army.xml

For those who are not into computers and are on a pension I thought I would mention that if you have a TAFE college close by, they run really good computer courses and there is no enrolment fee (might be a small charge for consumables).

If you hate computers, just remember that your newsletter is being done on one.

A couple of years ago I edited a book entitled "Nasho Tales" which contained stories contributed by ex Nashos about their time "inside".

I would like to share a couple of these in this newsletter from a 12 Bn conscript.

Bob Worsley

2/706318 12 NSTB

When I was called up for national service I was allocated to the 12th National Service Training Battalion, Holsworthy Army Barracks.

I was part of the first group which went to the New Holsworthy Barracks. We were put into tents at the rear of the Barracks and I was allotted the second bed from the tent entrance. On that first day we didn't have time to get to know many of the blokes by name. When it was time to retire for the night, the bloke in the

first bed from the entrance found a big dead snake amongst his bedding. He went completely out of his mind and was discharged medically unfit after that first day.

The second incident I remember was of another bloke who drank a fair bit and spent the rest of the night snoring. One night some of the young blokes tied him to his bed, carried him outside, and left him by the side of the creek which ran at the rear of the grounds. It got rather cold towards the end of March that year, and when he was found the next morning, he was nearly frozen.

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.

Owen Thomas 2/745992

My Nasho Tale

Number 1.

I left the New England town of Walcha and about 16 blokes from the country were put in a marquee at Holsworthy Army Camp, 12 Battalion, A Company.

April and May were good months but June and July were extremely cold and our blokes, including myself, were always hungry. We agreed, among ourselves, that if any one of us was put on kitchen duty, then it was that person's job to knock off whatever food they could scrounge and bring it back to the marquee to share among its dwellers.

Well, it started off with a loaf of bread, some butter, jam and that was pretty good. However, as each Nasho took his turn in the kitchen they tried to outdo the items of the previous chap.

Items such as tinned fruit, fruit cake, bread, jam, cold meat, carrots, dried fruit, etc, were some of the items that found their way into our marquee for a "midnight snack".

Towards the end of the camp, I was on kitchen duty so I decided to "go for broke" and beat all of the previous contributions. Looking around the kitchen

area and freezer room, I spotted a full case of big red apples. In two shakes they were on my shoulder and I was almost out the kitchen door when a regular army Corporal said, "Hey! What are you doing with those apples?"

I replied hastily that I was supposed to take them over to Charlie Company, to which the Corporal replied, "Well, leave them there for the moment as I have a quick job for you to do first."

The job took about five minutes and when I returned to highjack the case of apples to our marquee, some lousy, thieving, bloody scoundrel had knocked them off.

Number 2 from Owen Thomas

Another interesting item during our camp was that a young lady reported to Liverpool Police that she had been raped by a soldier. When asked for an identification, she said that he had a 12th National Service Training Battalion badge sewn on his uniform. The next day, all five Companies (A to E) were to appear on parade. The girl in question was to do a "drive past" in an open vehicle so she could identify the chap. Word got around the camp before the parade was due and we found out later that the girl had been unable to identify the chap...also, there were no less than 26 Nashos absent from parade who later gave excuses that they had diarrhoea, migraine headaches, fell asleep, etc. No one was found out but there must have been a few worried Nashos who were "active" while on evening leave in Liverpool.

(Anyone remember "Liverpool Lil"?)

Just a gentle reminder before closing-

Books are available for \$15.00 (up to 80 pages now) and badges are \$12.00 posted.

Lawrie Maher

(One must be touched to undertake a project like this!)

If you have an email address and you haven't let me know please do so- saves on postage!!!

DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOU 12 BATTALION MATES TO REGISTER.

Name, address, phone number, email if they have one, intake, platoon and company.

Lawrie Maher, PO Box 8160, Wagga Wagga NSW. 2650 email: lamaher@bigpond.net.au

Phone (02) 69263123

Our most distant member is Bill O'Neill from San Antonio , Texas, USA. From 2/55

Catchya next time- keep in touch,

Lawrie.

Email recipients, I have included an order form and a couple of enrolment forms in case you "run into" other 12's

