

Letters to the editor can be sent by:

Regular mail: *Police Journal*, PO Box 6032, Halifax St, Adelaide SA 5000
 Email: editor@pasa.asn.au Fax (08) 8212 2002
 Internal dispatch: *Police Journal* 168

Ex-Nasho police entitled to medals

Dear Andy

Several hundred police officers and cadets were among more than 300,000 young men who were called up to serve their country in two post-war national-service schemes. Some, who did not accept the task, chose to fulfil their obligation with six years' service in the CMF.

Between 1951 and 1972, 212 national servicemen died on active service, and more than 1,500 were wounded.

The National Servicemen's Association of Australia is now the second-largest ex-service organization in the country and is represented in all states of Australia.

Many former national servicemen, who served overseas and in Australia, remain unaware of their entitlement to apply for and be issued with the Anniversary of National Service Medal. It was established in 2001 after a long, intensive NSAA campaign.

In 2006, the Australian Defence Medal was established and approved for issue to all regular and reserve personnel who served an initial enlistment period of four years, whichever is the lesser.

If you were a "Nasho", or are the next-of-kin, and have not applied for your medals, application forms are available from your state NSAA branch and local RSL. Alternatively, you can contact the Directorate of Honours and Awards, T-1-49, Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT, 2600.

Those who served with the CMF (later the Army Reserve)

qualify as national servicemen.

The NSAA has also worked hard to win recognition for Nashos through a memorial in Canberra. It has succeeded in that endeavour and raised \$550,000. The construction of the memorial, which will be situated next to the main entrance to the Australian War Memorial, is now underway.

A dedication ceremony will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, after a parade of national servicemen along Anzac Parade at 10:30am.

To be part of the occasion, you must register with your state branch of the NSAA to be able to obtain seating.

Please go to www.nashoaustralia.org.au for more details on the dedication and the memorial design.

Barry Presgrave OAM

*Member of the NSAA
National Council*

50-year reunion of F and G troops

Dear Andy

Seventeen members of F and G troops, which formed in 1959, got together for a day of nostalgia in late October last year. Our day began with a tour of the barracks, where we got reacquainted with the dormitory, classrooms, stables, garage and other areas. We also had a quick tour of the museum, which is a credit to the Police Historical Society.

Some of our troop members were police officers until retirement age, but many left the job years ago. So this tour gave us all a chance to get reacquainted, and to reminisce



50-year reunion of F and G troops

in a place that had been home to us as young men for at least nine months of our lives, sometimes more.

We were informed that, for reasons of occupational health and safety, the manure-holding area had been removed to a place far away from the stables.

When we were ourselves in the barracks, this area was heavily soaked with water after lunch on a Friday. Then, late in the afternoon, some hapless junior constable was thrown in and buried, possibly without a clue why. He at least didn't have long to wait before he could shower and change for the weekend.

From the barracks we travelled into town for a tour of the Communications Centre and the State Operations Centre. We thought of our first patrol cars, which were FB Holdens with antiquated radio installations.

The giant strides in communications struck us as mind-boggling, as Supt Colin Cornish explained the systems of today and those which are planned for tomorrow.

Our final stop was the Police Club, not only for lunch but also to exchange some tales, which

we did through the afternoon. As the cynic I am, I'm sure some of the stories had gained interest and content over the years.

It was great for us to catch up, as some of the fellows had not seen each other for more than 40 years. One highlight was the attendance of retired chief superintendent Clair Bottroff at the luncheon. He was an inspector and second-in-command to Superintendent Eric Meldrum when we went through our training.

Those who attended (and pictured above) were:

- » Jim Llewelyn, Barry Newman, Ivan Cunningham, John Smith, Jeff Rawson, John Pearce, Jeff Hogben, Robert Lloyd (rear).
- » Ian "Butch" Grose, John Murray, Gary Ling, Dave Reuther, Tony King, Ron Monck (centre).
- » Neil McKenzie, Noel Vears, Clair Bottroff, Dave Eason (front).

We agreed that we would continue with the reunions, and have planned to get together next year at around the same time.

Dave Eason