

Geoff Butts (1/72) (by Tom Butts, son). A follow-up from The Scheyvillian 1 of 2020.

Geoffrey Leonard Butts was born in Brisbane on 11 May 1946 and completed his secondary education at the Church of England Grammar School, Queensland. Deferring his service until 1972, before entering the Army as a National Serviceman 'Buttsy' was a law student and completed his articles of clerkship with Morris Fletcher and Cross. Geoff entered the Army on 26 January 1972 and graduated from OTU Scheyville with Class 1/72 on 9 July 1972. He was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and posted to 7 RAR and completed his National Service 18 months after the abolition of NS.



Following in his father, Leonard William Henry Butts' footsteps, not only as a serviceman but in law, Buttsy went on to work as a solicitor forming the Butts & Barkley Solicitors practice in Sunnybank, Brisbane, which he continued to own and run for 30+ years. Father of one loving son, Thomas Leonard Butts, Geoff formed a mid-life passion for snow skiing which saw him and Tom travel to the snow fields of Australia, the USA and Europe regularly for the best part of two decades.

Buttsy retired relatively early at age 55, and soon after growing bored of golf (or perhaps fed up with a stagnant handicap), set off on what would be his final adventure, selling his house in Clayfield and moving to the UK where he would remain for the next 15 years, living permanently on a narrowboat on the British canals. A keen historian, Geoff would spend the summers cruising in his boat 'The Black Pearl' exploring castles, remote villages, manor houses et al for approximately 6 months of the year. UK winters were typically avoided by mooring up for 3 months and joining Tom in Bondi Beach for the Australian summer.

Buttsy was an early stalwart of the OTU Queensland monthly lunches, which started in mid-1995, never missing one until he moved to the UK. He was a regular 'returnee' to the annual Christmas Lunch, where his presence was feted – before he enjoyed the Bondi Summer. Most common pastimes in Australia were Sunday afternoons on Sydney Harbour following the 18-foot skiff races from the spectator ferry, having a punt and a drink. Strolling the boulevard along Bondi Beach, or having a quiet signature rum and coke at the 'bird watchers cage' at Hotel Ravesis. One month out from another summer in Australia as well as some planned time in Bali, Geoff suffered a stroke onboard 'The Black Pearl', and passed away comfortably with Tom at his bedside in the ICU at Royal Derby Hospital on 9 November 2019, aged 73. According to Tom, Geoff lived his life by the saying "Live fast, die young and have a beautiful (military) Corps". We lost a good one - he will be sorely missed.