

**John Francis Littlewood** (3/72) was born into a military family in Melbourne on 30 December 1946. His father, 'Jack' Littlewood, served in the ARA and at one time was Quartermaster at 2 RVR (now 8/7 RVR) Ballarat, a unit that both John Sonneveld (2/68) and Neil Leckie (commenced with 2/68) would serve in. John completed his secondary education at Melbourne High School and at 17 years of age joined the CMF with 2 RVR, transferring to Melbourne's 1 RVR and then 6 RVR before being commissioned into 5 RVR on 4 November 1969 as a 2Lt. Over an eight-week period in early 1972, John and Neil served together at 22 RVR at Puckapunyal, a 'Special Conditions' battalion that had been raised in 1966 to service the needs of country Victorians wishing to take-up the options of CMF service in lieu of being drafted. Later in 1972 John volunteered for National Service, transferring directly to OTU on 5 July and commencing with Class 3/72 on 9 July. With the cessation of NS on 2 December 1972, John chose to serve out his eighteen months and on graduation from OTU, and now holding CMF and RAS (NS) commissions, John was posted to 9 RAR on 21 December 1972, transferring to HQ 6 Task Force on 9 November 1973. At the end of his NS John transferred back to the CMF, by then the Army Reserve, and served with 11 RWAR.



Not content with having served with the CMF, RAS (NS) and the Army Reserve, John transferred to the RAAF on 12 August 1974 with the 'Special Duties Branch – Ground Defence'. This led to another stint of Officer Training with the RAAF Officer Training School for three months. In the following twenty-six years of RAAF service John would serve in over 50 RAAF units with four overseas attachments including a posting to Washington. John retired from the RAAF with the rank of Wing Commander (Lt Col equivalent) on 4 May 2000.

In his later years John moved to Canada. He enjoyed his retirement driving the sports car of his dreams and taking pleasure in Vancouver Island life and views of Georgia Strait. John was an active member of the Scheyville Association, Royal Australian Regiment Association of NSW, Returned Service League and the Royal Canadian Legion.

John died peacefully on 29 November 2007 in Canada following a short battle with cancer. In his Eulogy it was said that 'He will be remembered as a man of honesty and integrity, a strong sense of duty first, and kindness. John enjoyed a quick wit and was generous with his sense of humour. He accepted his illness, not the cards he expected to be dealt, with his usual courage, strength and grace. He was especially grateful for his new and renewed friendships on the Island and was comforted by the many acts of kindness. ... He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.'

'John is survived by Rosemary, his adoring wife, his loving son Chris and loving daughters Karen and Stacey as well as grandchildren Zack and Ashley, his brother Robert and sister-in-law Kathy, several nieces and nephews, as well as sister and brother-in-law Jane and Sterling Lesniowski.' John's funeral service was held on 7 December 2007 at St Mary's Anglican Church, Nanoose Bay, British Columbia, Canada.