

LEADING SEAMAN STEPHEN HUGHES - MOUNT PLEASANT

Vietnam and Afghanistan

Stephen Hughes was born in Marbury, Cheshire England in 1951 and migrated to Adelaide in 1964 after spending time in Pakistan and England while his father was in The Royal Air Force.

He settled with his family in Elizabeth and left Elizabeth Boys Technical School to join the Navy, where he trained as a marine technician, finishing on 7 June 1968.

Stephen was a career Navy man who joined the Australian Royal Navy on 4 October 1967 at the age of 16. He served in the Australian Royal Navy from 1967 to 2016 with two short breaks to raise his family. In total, he served over 45 years from age 16 to his retirement at 65. He was one of the longest serving sailors in the Royal Australian Navy.

He served on HMAS Brisbane, his fourth ship, from 1970 to 1973. In 1971, Brisbane was sent on its 2nd deployment to Vietnam to provide gunfire line support and relief for US ships. Its performance during the year was recognised with the awarding of the Duke of Gloucester's Cup for 1971.

His last serving ship was HMAS Melbourne. During this time deployment was to the gulf regions to be involved in Operation Slipper, Australia's operation in Afghanistan. Their role was to take part in counter-piracy and maritime security. The ship and its crew were there to disrupt piracy and armed robbery on the eastern coast of Somalia.

During his time in the navy, Stephen served on twelve ships and, between 1983 – 1989 trained as a submariner and served on three of the six Oberon class submarines. Besides war service in two conflicts, some of Stephen's deployments included touring the USA for its bicentenary, a goodwill world trip, protecting Macquarie and Heard Islands' protective waters from Patagonian fishing boats, and a number of RIMPAC naval exercises in Hawaii.

Stephen retired in 2016 and returned home to settle in Mount Pleasant where he was very happy. Leading Seaman Stephen Hughes passed away from service-related cancer on 27 March 2022.

Lest We Forget.



LS STEPHEN HUGHES
Mount Pleasant
VIETNAM & AFGHANISTAN