

Cpl Steven Thomas Dunn 4th October 1983 – 21st December 2010



Cpl Dunn was deployed to Afghanistan on 19 September 2010 as part of 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regt Battlegroup (2 PARA). He was based at Patrol Base 2 in the Nahr-e-Saraj district of Helmand Province. On 21 December 2010, he was working with 2 PARA Patrols Platoon on a deliberate operation to interdict insurgents in the Bowri desert. He was travelling in a Jackal vehicle which hit an improvised explosive device at 1722 hours local time. He did not suffer.

Steven was born on 4 Oct 1983 in Gateshead where he grew up and attended St Joseph's School Hepburn. On joining the army in Sep 2000 he successfully completed Basic & Trade Training before serving with 216 (Para) Sig Squadron as a Communications System Operator. Following a brief spell at 2 Sig Regt, he returned to 216 and to the environment in which he felt most comfortable. With a tour in Iraq and two previous tours of Afghanistan already under his belt, he relished the opportunity to deploy again on OP HERRICK 13. He thrived in the challenging role of providing communication support at Battlegroup level, and was in his element when deployed forward on the ground with his infantry counterparts. He led by example and was a rock to his Rear Link Detachment.

Cpl Dunn's future was bright and he was already earmarked as a man that would return to 216 (Para) Sig Squadron as he was promoted through the ranks. His passion for Newcastle United FC knew no bounds, and his thirst and excitement for life was apparent in everything he did. Thoroughly dedicated to his family, his job, and those he served with, this potent blend won him the highest accolades and the respect of all.

Major Alistair Fawcett, OC 216 (Para) Sig Squadron, said, "Cpl Steven Dunn died doing a job he loved while supporting 2 PARA BG, a unit he had already served alongside on a previous OP HERRICK tour.

216 (Para) Sig Squadron was a richer place for his presence, and he is missed deeply already. At every turn he strove to improve the lot of his men. He was always in the thick of it and his time in Afghanistan was no exception; with a spark in his eye and his devilish Geordie sense of humour, he tackled his work with a sense of purpose and in the pursuit of making a difference. His support of the "Magpies" was equally potent - a good man to share a beer with and an excellent barometer of unit life. He will be sorely missed and he leaves a void that will be extremely challenging to fill. His untimely passing marks a black day in the Squadron's proud history, but he was not the timid type or one to shy away from the challenges that our profession presents. We have lost a gifted soldier and a Son of the Squadron and, although this loss cuts extremely deep, we remember him with the utmost fondness, as the courageous and professional signaller he was. Our loss will be nothing compared to that of his family; at this extremely difficult time, the thoughts of the entire Squadron go to his new bride Cheryl, his 6-year-old daughter Emily, and his family and close friends. Certa Cito."

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