



Cpl Peter Thorpe

Peter was born on 3rd Jan 1979, and lived in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. He joined the Army in Aug 1995 as an Apprentice Tradesman at Harrogate, and went on to complete his Comms Training at the School of Signals at Blandford, Dorset.

He was then posted to 216 Para Sig Sqn in 5th Airborne Bde, prior to its change to 16th Air Assault Bde.

Peter went on to qualify as a military parachutist, and fully embraced his role as an Airborne Communicator. He completed his first Operational Tour of Afghanistan in 2001.

Peter then completed a two-year tour in Northern Ireland, returning to base in Brawdy, Pembrokeshire, in January 2006, to prepare for further operations in Afghanistan. During this Tour, his duties included leading patrols in the 3 PARA Battle Group area. On 1st July 2006, a rocket-propelled grenade struck the regional HQ in Sangin, Helmand Province, killing Peter, and his colleague LCpl Hashmi. A further four personnel were injured in the blast.

Peter, 27, was single and survived by his family.

Peter was a keen sportsman, turning his hand to a wide variety of pursuits, as well as being an Assistant Instructor of Physical Training. He was a well-respected member of the Sqn, whose outstanding trade and soldiering skills, combined with his infectious sense of humour, endeared him to all.

His Commanding Officer, Major Steve Vickery, said, "Cpl Peter Thorpe was a highly motivated, talented, and tremendously popular soldier, who constantly inspired those around him, whatever the situation. A gifted instructor, he had acquired a huge range of military skills and qualifications, and was happiest when passing on this knowledge. He had been selected for promotion to Sgt, and was keen to work in an Army Training Regt. He undertook his role as a Patrol Commander, with an absolute professionalism, in support of 3 PARA Battle Group, in the demanding environment of Afghanistan. An outstanding man, his sad loss is felt by us all."

(Extract from Pegasus Journal, 2006; edited by RAH, 2012)