Shaun Andrew Brierley





Rank: - Lance Corporal

Number: - 25022246

Regiment: - 212 Signal Squadron, 1 (UK) Armoured Division

Died: - Killed in non-hostile vehicle accident in Kuwait when taking part in Operation Telic (19 March 2003 – 22 May 2011) Iraq, 30 March 2003.

Cemetery: - Batley Cemetery, T 1281.

Shaun Andrew was born in Batley in 1974 the son of Peter and Christine Brierley. His siblings were, Craig, Graham and Helen. Shaun attended Batley Parish Church School and was also a choir boy at the church. From there he went to Batley Grammar School where he joined the RAF Section of the Combined Cadet Force. The Headmaster Brian Battye described him as “A bright pupil and charming pupil who achieved 8 GCSE’s and was a bit of a prankster but had a serious side. Always did well at RAF camps and was a fine chap.”

Shaun wanted to join the RAF but went along with a friend to a recruitment office who was taking a test to join the Army. Shaun was persuaded to take the test and passed whilst his friend failed. Shaun joined the Royal Corps of Signals being a radio systems operator, and served in Bosnia, Kosovo, Oman, Canada and Germany. As a boy he played cricket for Birstall but later played rugby for the army. In Germany Shaun had a girlfriend and they had a son in 2000.

Operation TELIC was the United Kingdom's contribution to the overall Coalition effort to remove Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime in Iraq in Spring 2003. It was the United Kingdom's largest operational military deployment since the 1990–91 Gulf War. Shaun was deployed to Kuwait and on Sunday, 30 March 2003 whilst driving along in a convoy, in a Land Rover, as a passenger, there was an accident. Shaun suffered severe head injuries.

Shaun was flown to Brize Norton along with nine other service men who had lost their lives, and to meet the RAF Globemaster transport aircraft were the families and the Duke of Gloucester and the Armed Services Minister Adam Ingram.

Major Jim Wood, OC 1 (UK) Armoured Division Signal Regiment's Rear Party, gave the following statement:

Lance Corporal Shaun Andrew Brierley, 28, was a member of 212 Signal Squadron which provides communications for HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division. He was a Radio Systems Operator of nine years experience and was a highly regarded and well-known member of the Squadron.

Shaun Brierley had served in Germany for over four years, having seen service in the UK, Canada, the former Yugoslavia, Oman and Poland. He was unfortunately killed as a result of a road traffic accident that occurred whilst he was serving in Iraq.

Shaun's family live in West Yorkshire and he was the father of a three-year-old son. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A bright, cold wind tempered the bright spring sunshine as for a second time in a little over a week, RAF Brize Norton braced itself to receive those who died whilst serving in the gulf. The solemnity of the occasion was marked by the single beat of the drum.

An RAF Globemaster transport aircraft landed and the coffins draped in union flags were carried one by one by bearers from the aircraft whilst the band from the Scots Guards, resplendent in their red uniforms and black bearskins began their own

respects in musical tribute. The bodies, watched by their families and friends and three senior military chaplains, were loaded into nearby hearses. The scene was witnessed by the Duke of Gloucester. Ten serving soldiers returned that day.

Shaun was interred at Batley Cemetery on 23 April 2003 with full Military Honours.

Shaun is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Sombre ceremony to receive war dead
By Bob Sinkinson
BBC correspondent at RAF Brize Norton

A bitterly cold wind tempered the bright spring sunshine as for the second time in a little over a week, RAF Brize Norton braced itself to receive those who died while serving in the Gulf.

The bodies arrived on board an RAF Globemaster transport aircraft.

It taxied slowly to the airfield's main terminal of the building where relatives had been patiently waiting.

The solemnity of the occasion was marked by the single beat of a drum.

Then as the coffins draped in union flags were carried one by one by bearers from the aircraft, the band of the Scotsguard, resplendent in their red uniforms and black bearskins, began to pay their own respects in musical tribute.

A cold wind swept across the airfield, as the ceremony proceeded, watched by family and friends of the servicemen and three senior military chaplains, their heads bowed as the coffins were loaded onto nearby waiting hearses.

The scene was also witnessed by the Duke of Gloucester and the Armed Services Minister Adam Ingram.

After being placed onto hearses the coffins were then driven away to a nearby mortuary on the base.

From there they will be released to relatives and taken away for private funeral ceremonies.

Each family has been offered a funeral with full military honours.

Returning home:
Lieutenant Anthony King
Lieutenant Philip West
Lieutenant Andrew Wilson
Lieutenant Philip Green
Lieutenant James Williams
Marine Christopher Maddison
Sergeant Steven Roberts
Lance Corporal Barry Stephen
Lance Corporal Shaun Brierley
Lance Corporal Matthew Hull

