

LANCE CORPORAL OLIVER MATTHEW THOMAS, 3 MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
BATTALION, INTELLIGENCE CORPS

Lance Corporal Thomas, killed in the Lynx helicopter crash in Afghanistan, joined the Army Reserve in June 2011, and after moving to London he joined 3 Military Intelligence Battalion in July 2012. He volunteered to be mobilised from the Army Reserves for deployment to Afghanistan and arrived on 11 December 2013 to be part of the United Kingdom's contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Commanding Officer, 3 Military Intelligence Battalion, said:

"The news of the death of Lance Corporal Oliver Matthew Thomas is devastating to his friends and companions in 3 Military Intelligence Battalion. This tragic incident has taken a young, enthusiastic and highly capable Intelligence Corps soldier away from us and his loss is deeply felt by all members of the Unit and the Intelligence Corps as a whole. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, particularly his parents, at this most difficult time".

His Officer Commanding said:

"Lance Corporal Oli Thomas was the embodiment of his generation: bright, gifted with an enquiring mind and laser focussed on the task in-hand. The bonus for us was that he was also blessed with a natural flair and the happy-knack of always being able to raise a smile with his keen sense of wit. The future and uncertainty did not disturb him. He only saw opportunity ahead and, ultimately, it was his irresistible addiction to the life-force that took him away. It is with regret and to my loss that I did not know Oli for longer - but in only a short time he made an immediate and lasting impression. His absence has left an enormous gap in a close-knit team. We will remember him".

His family paid the following tribute:

"Oliver was a truly amazing person, living his life to the full, while fulfilling some of his many dreams and adventures. He was very much loved and will be greatly missed by his grieving family and friends".