

It is with deep sadness that the Ministry of Defence has confirmed the death of James Thompson in Afghanistan on 19 May 2008. He was patrolling on foot as part of operations in the Musa Qaleh area when he was caught in an explosion and tragically lost his life.

His family have released the following tribute to him: "James Thompson was a loving son, brother and friend to many. His tragic and untimely death has devastated the family and touched all those who knew him. James was proud to be a soldier ♦ he died doing the job that he loved and will be sadly missed by all."

His Commanding Officer said: "James Thompson was a special individual. A professional and reliable soldier in every respect - we were all privileged to serve alongside James who excelled in all that he did."

"His death has come as a great shock and he will be sadly missed by all his colleagues. Our thoughts are of course with his family, at this most difficult time."

The family request that they be allowed to grieve in peace and privacy at this time.