

<p>Corporal William Thomas Savage and Fusilier Samuel Flint both from The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment Of Scotland (2 SCOTS); and Private Robert Murray Hetherington from 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment Of Scotland (7 SCOTS). They died of injuries sustained on Tuesday 30 April 2013.</p> <p>They were part of a patrol travelling along Route 611 between Forward Operating Base Ouellette and Patrol Base Lashkar Gah Durai in Nahr-e-Saraj District when their<br />vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. They were evacuated by air to the military hospital at Camp Bastion where it was confirmed that they had been killed in action.</p> <p>PRIVATE ROBERT MURRAY HETHERINGTON 51st HIGHLAND, 7TH BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND (7 SCOTS)</p> <p>Born in the United States of America in 1987, Private Hetherington was raised and educated in Scotland where he achieved a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geography. During his time at university he became heavily involved in the Officer Training Corps which sparked his passion for the Army. Private Hetherington enlisted in the Territorial Army in October 2006 and was mobilised to join The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland for Operation Herrick 18 on 30 November 2012.</p> <p>Private Hetherington was an intelligent and thoughtful soldier who was always quick<br />with a smile. Since being mobilised he had been an extremely dedicated soldier with<br />ambitions to attend the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst following his deployment.<br />His intelligence and enthusiasm for soldiering made it likely that he would have<br />excelled at Sandhurst.</p> <p>Private Hetherington deployed to Afghanistan on 9 March 2013 as a Rifleman in 1<br />Section, 1 Platoon, in a District Enabling Company composed of Bravo Company Group,<br />2 SCOTS, part of the First Fusiliers Battlegroup. He was based in Forward Operating<br />Base Ouellette in the Northern Nahr-e-Saraj District of Helmand Province,<br />Afghanistan.</p> <p>Outside of his Army life Private Hetherington represented Scotland at lacrosse and<br />had a passion for music.</p> <p>Private Hetherington was a gifted soldier with a genuine natural talent for the<br />profession. He was destined for great things, both in his military and civilian<br />life. His loss has left a huge hole in his Section and his Platoon and he will be<br />deeply mourned by all who knew him.</p> <p>Lieutenant Colonel Robin Lindsay, Commanding Officer, The Royal Highland Fusiliers,<br />2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:</p> <p>"Private Robert Murray Hetherington epitomised everything that is excellent about<br />the Reserve Forces. He joined the Battalion after being mobilised from 7th Battalion<br />The Royal Regiment of Scotland in November 2012 and took to life in the Regular Army<br />with gusto. He threw himself into Mission Specific Training with real verve and he<br />was immediately singled out as a highly effective infantryman; rated right at the<br />top of his peer group in both the regular and the Reserve Forces. He was never<br />daunted by complex situations and was praised by his chain of command for his<br />performances throughout the Battalion's build up training.</p> <p>"Private Bobby Hetherington was a thoughtful and humorous soldier who was always<br />quick to find the fun in Army life and to keep the chain of command on our toes with<br />his sharp wit and insightful mind. He was gregarious and open and this made him a<br />much liked and respected member of his Platoon and the Battalion. Following<br />Operation Herrick 18, Private Hetherington aspired to complete the Commissioning<br />Course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and I have no doubt that he would<br />have excelled. It is a hard blow that such potential will not reach fruition.<br />Private Bobby Hetherington was talented in many other walks of life too; he had a<br />degree in Environmental Geography and played for Scotland in his favourite sport of<br />lacrosse.</p>

"He will be sorely missed by us all in the Battalion and we take great pride in having served alongside such an impressive young man. We will never forget his sacrifice and he will forever be a part of our Battalion and Regimental family. Our best wishes and thoughts are with his family and especially his parents at this most difficult of times."

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Little OBE, Commanding Officer, 51st Highland 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland said: "Private Hetherington was an outstanding soldier who was held in high regard across the Battalion and who had a very promising military career ahead of him. He was everything you would wish for in an Infantryman, and far more. He was intelligent, robust and committed, and he had the strongest leadership qualities which would have served him well during officer training at Sandhurst. He willingly volunteered as a Reservist to go to serve with his brother Battalion, 2 SCOTS, in Afghanistan. Robert will be sadly missed by all and the thoughts of all soldiers in 7 SCOTS are with his family and his friends at this time."

Lieutenant Colonel Jon Swift, Commanding Officer First Fusiliers, Transition Support Unit Nahr-e-Saraj, said: "The loss of Private Robert Hetherington will be keenly felt by all in the First Fusiliers Battlegroup. Private Hetherington was on his first tour of Afghanistan and it was immediately apparent to all those who he served alongside in B Company that he was a mature, balanced and thoroughly professional infantryman as well as a model Reservist. Private Hetherington's sacrifice has reminded us all that we should be so very proud of those who risk their lives so willingly in the pursuit of peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this most difficult of times."

Major Stephen Dallard, Officer Commanding B Company, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said: "Private Bobby Hetherington joined B Company from 7 SCOTS in November 2012 for its tour on Operation Herrick 18. A mature and confident soldier, Private Hetherington immediately made an impression on me. Strong, fit and intelligent, he quickly grasped the complexities of pre-deployment training and demonstrated a real aptitude for soldiering. Integrating smoothly into his new Platoon as one of only a few Army Reserve personnel attached to B Company, Private Hetherington became a key character, loved for his jokes, an infectious laugh and for his genuine and warm character. Private Hetherington put on hold his civilian career as an engineer to fulfil his military ambitions; in doing so he willingly put his life in harm's way as B Company supported the Afghan security forces. He truly touched the lives of all who got to know him; I have yet to meet a more perfect example of what the Army Reserve has to offer the wider Regular Army. A true friend to those serving with him, Private Hetherington will be sorely missed by all in B Company. His loss is deeply felt and our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends."

Lieutenant Robin Hold, 1 Platoon Commander, B Company, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said: "Private Hetherington was a mature, educated and responsible soldier. I became aware of his potential the instant I met him; he was confident, articulate and highly professional. He possessed the ability to succeed in any given task, establishing himself as a role model for the rest of the Platoon. He was always a focal point of conversation in the Platoon due to his enthusiastic and amicable nature, making him a huge asset to the Platoon in barracks and on operations. As a talented and well-rounded soldier Private Hetherington set an example for others to follow. He constantly displayed all the characteristics essential to be a successful soldier and a potential officer. His loss is an insurmountable tragedy that will be felt not only in the

Platoon, but across the Regiment.

"My thoughts are with his family, friends and with his girlfriend Maeve in these extremely difficult times."

Warrant Officer Class 2 Stevie Main, Company Sergeant Major, B Company, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:

"Private Hetherington was a reservist of pure quality. Very confident, with outstanding ability and enthusiastic in everything he did. His willingness to learn was second to none, it was a pleasure to have him in my Company."

Lance Corporal Russ MacLean, Rifleman, 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, attached to 2 Platoon, B Company, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:

"I first met Bobby on a TA exercise in the south of France in the summer of 2009. I instantly bonded with him due to his infectious and riotous laugh which made even my most feeble jokes seem to be stadium stand-up comedy. Following the exercise we became firm friends; out with the TA, enjoying many legendary nights out as our 'bromance' flourished. Like everyone he met, he endeared himself to my fiancé Jen and my daughter Grace. He had an almost spell-binding captivation over small children who would go from shyness, hiding behind the sofa, to presenting various toys and long monologues about soft play and CBeebies. Grace would always be delighted to hear that Bobby was coming over for a visit."

"Bobby, like myself, had a passion for infantry soldiering and pushing yourself to physical and mental limits. He certainly helped me get through demanding exercises with his constant stream of morale. He loved soldiering and was heartbroken when a hernia operation delayed his ambitions of becoming an officer at Sandhurst, which no doubt he would have completely excelled at."

"Bobby was my best friend. He was the life and soul of the party and one of the kindest and friendliest people I have ever met. He was always at the end of the phone or across the table at a pub if you had problems you needed to talk about. He was delighted to be an usher at my wedding after I told him I was getting engaged. When my pregnant fiancé had her scan last week and we found out it was a girl, Bobby was the first one I told and he was delighted."

"My heart truly goes out to his family who will be as distraught as I am. He had a loving and caring family, along with his girlfriend Maeve and my thoughts are completely with them. Love you mate."

Fusilier Robbie Morton, Rifleman, 2 Platoon, B Company, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:

"Bobby Hetherington, for the short time I knew him, quickly became a great pal of many of the lads in B Company; kind, and always putting others before himself. He was a great laugh and always talking about his girlfriend. He will truly and sorely be missed, from the whole of B Company here in Ouellette and by myself."

Fusilier Martin Murphy, Rifleman, 1 Platoon, B Company, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:

"Robert Hetherington was a true friend, if only briefly, and a constant bag of morale. He was liked by all and will be sorely missed. My lasting memory will be of his infectious laugh and smile. RIP, Big Man, see you on the other side of the pearly gates."

Fusilier Connor Kelly, Rifleman, 1 Platoon, B Company, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:

"Private Hetherington was an exceptional soldier and will be missed by us all. It's very sad to have lost him and my heart goes out to all his family and friends."

Fusilier Jimmy Hall, Rifleman, 1 Platoon, B Company, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:

"Big Bob Hetherington. A dear friend, a true gentleman, a legend who will always be remembered by all. RIP."