

Captain Thomas (Tom) Ellis Clarke, Army Air Corps, was from Cowbridge, Wales, was 30.

His Commanding Officer said of him:

"Captain Thomas Clarke was a fantastic young officer, full of life and immensely committed to his soldiers and friends. In the short time he had served in the unit he had proven to be an exceptional aviator and forthright leader who always placed himself at the centre of squadron life. His loss will be keenly felt both at RAF Odiham and within the wider Army Air Corps. Our thoughts and sympathy are with his wife, family and friends at this most difficult of times".

The Commander for the deployed Lynx Detachment said:

"Captain Tom Clarke was a hard working, loyal and gifted aviator who was a privilege to command. His brightness, character, humility and charm will be remembered by all. He brought a smile to people's faces and I was fortunate enough to have worked with him at RAF Odiham as well as in Afghanistan. A rising star of the Army Air Corps his loss will be deeply felt and I feel honoured and privileged to have called him a friend. He will be deeply missed by the Air Detachment and by his Squadron. My thoughts and prayers are with his loving wife Angie and his family and friends at this difficult time".

His family has paid the following tribute:

"We cannot express enough our devastation at the loss of a truly wonderful husband, son, brother and friend. Tom brought so much happiness and love to everyone he knew with his sparkling blue eyes and cheeky smile. He had an absolute passion for life and was the best part of us; we are all poorer today without him. 'We carry your heart, we carry it in our heart'".