

RIP PRIVATE MATTHEW LAMBERT

PICS LAMBERT COLLECTION AND ADF



FALLEN FAMILY MAN



Private Matthew Lambert, serving with Mentoring Task Force Three and a proud member of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) based in Townsville, was killed in action in the early hours of 22 August 2011.

Private Lambert was conducting a mentored patrol with elements of the Afghan National Army and other coalition forces in the Khas Uruzgan region of Afghanistan, 85km north-east of Tarin Kot when an IED detonated at approximately 0230 hours local time.

He was seriously wounded and received immediate first aid from his patrol mates before an aero medical team transferred him by helicopter to the Role 2 medical facility in Tarin Kot where he received further medical treatment. Unfortunately, he died from his wounds shortly after arrival.

The fatal patrol was on a reconnaissance mission, operating from Patrol Base Anaconda located in the region of Khas Uruzgan, when the incident occurred.

Another ISAF soldier was also seriously wounded in the same incident but was assessed as being in a stable condition at Tarin Kot.

Matthew Lambert was born in Kogarah, NSW, in 1985 and joined the Army reserve from southern Queensland, enlisting in the

9th Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment in August 2005. He transferred to the Regular Army in February 2007 and was posted to 2RAR in Townsville.

He was a well-respected soldier who excelled in any task he was assigned, evidenced by his acceptance and dedication as a sniper in the infantry battalion.

Private Lambert was a keen soldier who looking forward to deployment to Afghanistan. He had previously served in East Timor.

He is survived by his spouse, Ellesse, mother Vicki and her partner Gregg, father Chris and his wife Amanda, and his sister Jess.

In a statement published by Defence on behalf of the family, they said, "Matthew was a son both his parents Vicki and Chris were extremely proud of. He had just bought his first home in Townsville and he loved to take his treasured motorbike for long rides with friends around the area."

"He was loved very much by all his family and friends and made an impact on anyone who was part of his life."

Matt's father Chris said Matt was an inspiration and, for a man, there was no greater gift than to have a son like him.

"He was an extraordinary young man with everything, including incredible physical and mental agility," Chris said.

"Matt had a great enthusiasm for living life, generously sharing his time, thoughts and ideas and inspiring us all by walking the talk."

Vicki, his mother, said Matt believed the world could be made a far better place and he had a very positive outlook on life. He always encouraged and motivated others.

"He was very adventurous and an inspiration to all who met him," she said.

"Matt was an extremely focussed person who really wanted to help make the lives of other people better."

Ellesse said Matt was the love of her life, everything she had ever wanted in a partner and no one could ever replace him.

"He was the most special man in my life and we had planned our whole life together," Ellesse said.

"Matty made me a better person, he is my best friend and I will always love him. Matty always protected me and was the best part of my life, he was my everything."

Matt and his sister Jess were inseparable. She said he was her best friend and the big brother who always looked after and protected her. They shared a unique sense of humour and Matt sent his love to Jess in his last message from Afghanistan.

Private Matthew Lambert was farewelled by colleagues and friends in Afghanistan with a ceremonial ramp ceremony on 25

August and was reunited with his grieving family four days later at RAAF Base Amberley.

His flag-covered casket was carried off a RAAF C-17 Globemaster by soldiers from his Townsville-based unit, led by a lone piper.

Chief of Army Lieutenant General David Morrison paid his respects as Private Lambert was carried through the 2RAR Honour Guard.

"Private Lambert's ultimate sacrifice to this country will be felt by his family, friends and his Army family, and we will remember

him as a true Australian soldier," Lieutenant General Morrison said.

In a short but immensely moving traditional ceremony, the Chief of Army presented Private Lambert with the Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Coalition Against Terrorism, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal with clasp International Security Assistance Force and the Infantry Combat Badge.

Private Lambert was laid to rest in a private ceremony on 5 September.

