

RIP CORPORAL SCOTT JAMES SMITH

THE HEAVIEST CASKET

Corporal Scott James Smith, from the Special Operations Engineer Regiment working as a member of the Special Operations Task Group was killed by an IED in northern Helmand province on 21 October 2012.

Corporal Smith was part of a small team tasked with clearing a suspected insurgent compound and, on entering buildings within the compound, his team identified several rooms stacked with functional IEDs and associated components.

The commander on the ground ordered his men to get out and, during the withdrawal, an IED detonated, killing Corporal Smith instantly.

The buildings – containing more than an estimated 100 IEDs and components – were subsequently destroyed in what Chief of Joint Operations Lieutenant General Ash Power described as a very bittersweet result.

Australian forces farewelled Corporal Smith from Afghanistan on 26 October in a moving memorial service and ramp ceremony at Multi-National Base Tarin Kot.

Special Operations Task Group commander Lieutenant Colonel I said the 24-year-old soldier exemplified what it took to be a special-forces combat engineer.

"Scott's sense of obligation, his sense of loyalty and his sense of purpose made him the epitome of the calling of a combat engineer," he said.

"The type of physical and moral courage required of our special-forces combat engineers is what we all hope for ourselves, but in the case of this man he displayed it every time he deployed on missions and tasks."

Scott's mates remembered a dedicated professional soldier and the type of bloke everybody wanted as a mate.

Corporal Smith was returned to his family and comrades at another solemn ceremony at RAAF Base Richmond on 28 October.

Members of the Special Operations Engineer Regiment formed an honour guard and bearer party to escort Corporal Smith's casket to his grieving family.

Perhaps the most moving and poignant statement of all came from Corporal Smith's commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Scott Corrigan.

"Our soldiers deploy with free spirit ready to walk into the face of danger for their country and their mates.

"And, sometimes, when they've given all they have to give, we get the privilege of carrying them home again.

"The greater the soldier, the heavier the load.

"Today the casket is solid stone."

Corporal Smith was finally laid to rest with a funeral service in Lyndoch, South Australia, on 7 November.

He is survived by his partner Liv, his parents Katrina Paterson and Murray Smith and sister Roxanne.



Statement from Corporal Smith's family

Scott was a tremendous soldier. It is openly acknowledged that he was well respected within his workplace and by those who knew him. We knew the Army was Scott's second family, his home away from home.

Scott truly believed his actions made a difference. He was a truly dedicated soldier, who also knew how to relax in his time away from work.

Scott lived life to the fullest. He was born in the Barossa Valley and was water skiing as soon as he could stand – it was one of his great loves. Scott attended school in the local area and used his school holidays to learn to barefoot water ski.

Liv, Scott's German princess, met him when she was an exchange student in Australia. After that, the pair could be found in all sorts of mischief together.

Scott loved being outdoors and keeping fit throughout his lifetime and pursued many sports – from long

distance running, to cricket and any sort of competition he could be involved in.

Scott had a great sense of humour and was very much into practical jokes. He could also be very relaxed when not at work, becoming renowned for his cheeky smile and kind words.

But mostly, Scott will always be renowned for being the loveable character that held the family together.

Scott had a lot of time for those who had time for him, and his generosity in all things was often spoken about. One of the things you could rely on Scott for was calling whenever he was able and was thinking of you, at midday, midnight, or anywhere in between.

Scott had a larrikin charm that endeared him to all those around him, and these qualities ensure he will always be held in the hearts of those who knew him.

Our family is united in grief as we try to come to terms with our loss.

We thank everyone for their heartfelt wishes and messages of condolences.