



SOLDIER COOK KILLED BY AN ALLY

Lance Corporal Andrew Gordon Jones was killed during operations in Afghanistan on 30 May 2011, the victim of a rogue Afghan soldier with whom he was working.

Twenty-five year old Lance Corporal Jones, a cook, was from the 9th Force Support Battalion home-based at Amberley, Queensland, but on rotation with Mentoring Task Force 2 in Afghanistan when he was shot by the Afghan soldier who, apparently, acted alone.

This was his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Jones leaves behind his loving parents, two younger siblings and a girlfriend.

He was born in Melbourne in 1986 and joined the Army in 2004. After recruit training, he completed his initial employment training as a cook and was

posted to the Catering Platoon of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

He was posted to the 9th Force Support Battalion in 2008 and completed an operational deployment to East Timor the same year.

His second overseas deployment – to Afghanistan – commenced in November 2010.

Lance Corporal Jones was described as a loyal, reliable and trustworthy soldier who was dedicated to serving his country, and loved his job. He had a quiet personality but enjoyed a joke with his mates.

He was a skilled cook who was the first to volunteer to go on the road or on exercise. He displayed real leadership potential.

His family and girlfriend said, in a prepared statement, that Andrew was a dependable yet cheeky character who they would miss with all their hearts.

"Andrew enjoyed his role in the Army and was an excellent soldier. We are sure his mates will also miss him, his professionalism, but most of all his sense of humour.

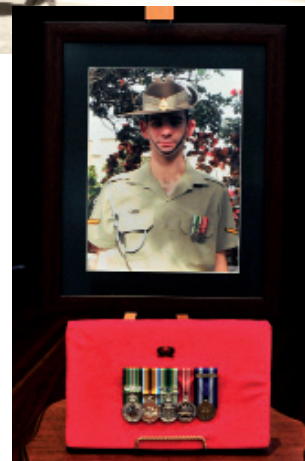
"His dedication to his role as a cook was second to none. He would always call on all his resources to provide the very best meals for his mates, including using his favourite family recipes.

"His mates within his unit loved him, not only for his great cooking, but for the great soldier and man he was. We believe Andrew was very, very happy, serving with his friends doing the job he loved.

"We would like to especially thank those who helped Andrew in his last hours. We know you did your best to save him and continue to face the big job ahead while also dealing with his death."

Lance Corporal Jones was about to undertake guard duty at Patrol Base Mashal in the Churah Valley when he was shot by an Afghan National Army soldier who was manning the guard tower. But, despite receiving substantial medical treatment at the base and being airlifted very quickly to a nearby ISAF medical facility at Tarin Kot, he died from his wounds.

The Afghan National Army soldier fled the scene and was fired upon by another Afghan National Army soldier, but he escaped, and managed to evade capture for some weeks until he was eventually killed in a capture attempt by Australian soldiers.



The then CDF Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, in announcing Lance Corporal Jones' death, said the particular circumstances of the incident were disturbing given that the perpetrator in question was thought to be a partner and was the recipient of Australian mentoring and training.

"The entire event is under investigation and we're obviously going to take a very close look at how this occurred, why this occurred, and what, if anything, could have been done to prevent it," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

On 3 June Lance Corporal Jones' life and career were commemorated at a service in Tarin Kot before the soldier's long, last journey home.

Commanding officer Force Support Unit-IV Lieutenant Colonel Ron Armstrong said Lance Corporal Jones was an Army cook doing what he loved best.

"Looking after one's mates in the field is a great honour and that was what Andrew was doing," Lieutenant Colonel Armstrong said.

"Andrew was regarded as a true gentleman who was always there for his mates. He was a very well-liked member of the team.

"While Lance Corporal Jones will be dearly missed, the FSU-IV soldiers will honour his efforts and sacrifice by remaining committed to their task."

Commander Australian forces in the Middle East Major General Angus Campbell said Lance Corporal Jones was an excellent example of the modern Australian digger.

"Lance Corporal Jones thrived in environments where he was helping his mates. He chose to take the challenge of working in a patrol base and he underwent additional weapons and other training to be part of the small, tight-knit teams that support our troops in Uruzgan province," Major General Campbell said.

"Without the efforts of Lance Corporal Jones and the hundreds of people like him, we would not be able to exist as a modern military. The efforts of people like Lance Corporal Jones often go unrecognised, but they are much loved and respected for their contribution and our farewell of Andrew today demonstrates how deeply his loss will be felt."

Lance Corporal Jones (and Lieutenant Marcus Case) was returned to Australia on 6 June and met by his grieving family and colleagues in a solemn and dignified ceremony at Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne.

He was finally farewelled at a moving funeral ceremony at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Preston, Victoria, on 11 June.

On June 20, Defence announced that the rogue Afghan soldier who killed Lance Corporal Jones had been killed by Australia SAS in an attempt to capture him.