

03-26-2018 Wiltshire UK George Partridge –Army Dive Training - Deep -Update 01-02-2019

## British Soldier Dies In Diving Accident During Final Week Of Training Course

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/british-soldier-dies-diving-accident-12289709>

2 APR 2018 BY DAVE BURKE

***Lance Corporal George Partridge was based at Perham Down in Wiltshire with 26 Engineer Regiment***

A soldier has died in a diving accident during the final week of a training course.

Lance Corporal George Partridge was based at Perham Down in Wiltshire with 26 Engineer Regiment.

A statement on the regiment's Facebook page said: "It is with great sadness that we must announce the death of Lance Corporal George Partridge on Monday 26 March, during the final week of his Army Diver Course.

"This is a tragic loss to his wife, family, 26 Engineer Regiment and the Corps of Royal Engineers. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues and we ask you respect their privacy in these difficult times."

Colleagues have paid tribute to the soldier.

Ben Smith wrote: "You were one of the most respectful and nicest blokes I've ever worked with. Such a tragic loss - you will be missed George. We will remember."

And Dan Corthorn posted: "One of the most genuine men I've had the pleasure to serve alongside. Top soldier and a top mate. You'll be sadly missed brother, see you at the bar in the sky."

Michael Baillie wrote: "Absolutely heartbroken. Genuinely great guy. It was a pleasure to have known you George. RIP bro."

In another tribute posted on Facebook, Andrew Lawlor wrote: "RIP Gorgeous George such a pleasure to have served with you and to also grace the football pitch with you.

"Such a pleasant lad who I don't think anyone can say a bad word about. You were a genuine top guy and my thoughts are with your wife and family Rest easy mate x"



**Lance Corporal George Partridge died during a training exercise (Image: Facebook)**

## Soldier George Partridge dies in 'tragic diving accident' in Forest of Dean

<https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/soldier-george-partridge-dies-tragic-1410827>

3 APR 2018 By **Conor Gogarty** Reporter

The 27-year-old was expecting his first child

A soldier has died in an accident during the final week of his Army Diver course in the Forest of Dean.

Lance Corporal George Partridge, of Wiltshire's 26 Engineer Regiment, died on March 26 at the National Dive Centre in Tidenham, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed.

The 27-year-old, whose wife Zoe is expecting their first child, had long aspired to become an Army diver and had recently been selected for promotion to corporal. A statement on the regiment's Facebook page said: "It is with great sadness that we must announce the death of Lance Corporal George Partridge on Monday, March 26, during the final week of his Army Diver Course.



**Lance Corporal George Partridge**

"This is a tragic loss to his wife, family, 26 Engineer Regiment and the Corps of Royal Engineers.

"Our thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues and we ask you respect their privacy in these difficult times."

The MoD added that it is investigating how the "tragic diving incident" happened.



A regular in the regiment's gym every evening, L/Cpl Partridge was also a talented sportsman who played in the regimental rugby team and the under-23 army football squad.

The motor transport expert was awarded the prize for Fittest Recruit while doing his basic training in Cambridgeshire.

Paying tribute, Lance Corporal Ash Skerten said: "If I could be half the man he was I would be proud. He was the best soldier."

Corporal Anthony Matthews added: "George was a motivated and determined individual, who was a role model to all those around him.

"His peers also looked up to him and would come to him for advice.

"He was a family-orientated man who was looking forward to starting his family with wife Zoe.

"He was both a physically and mentally fit person who relished any challenge thrown in his direction."

Colleagues also paid tribute to the soldier on social media.

Ben Smith wrote: "*You were one of the most respectful and nicest blokes I've ever worked with. Such a tragic loss - you will be missed George. We will remember.*"

And Dan Corthorn posted: *"One of the most genuine men I've had the pleasure to serve alongside. Top soldier and a top mate. You'll be sadly missed brother, see you at the bar in the sky."*

Michael Baillie wrote: *"Absolutely heartbroken. Genuinely great guy. It was a pleasure to have known you George. RIP bro."*

In another tribute posted on Facebook, Andrew Lawlor wrote: *"RIP Gorgeous George such a pleasure to have served with you and to also grace the football pitch with you."*

The National Diving and Activity Centre, which launched in 2003, is a large flooded quarry.

The centre is an inland scuba-diving site with depths of up to 80m.



## **MOD confirms death of Lance Corporal George Partridge**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mod-confirms-death-of-lance-corporal-george-partridge>

Published 2 April 2018 [Ministry of Defence](#) and [The Rt Hon Mark Lancaster TD MP](#)

It is with regret that the Ministry of Defence confirms the death of Lance Corporal George Partridge who died in a tragic diving incident on 26 March 2018 at the National Dive Activity Centre, Chepstow.

Lance Corporal George Partridge joined the Army on 13th June 2010 at the age of 19.

After completing his basic training at Basingbourn in Cambridgeshire, where he was awarded the prize for Fittest Recruit, he moved to 3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment at Minley in Surrey for combat engineer training, and from there to Leconsfield for vocational driver training, qualifying as a Military Engineer (Driver) in April 2011.



**Lance Corporal George Partridge**

His first years in the Army were spent at 21 Engineer Regiment in Ripon, North Yorkshire, where he qualified as a Class 1 Royal Engineer Driver and deployed to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 17 in 2012-13. Successfully selected for promotion he moved to 26 Engineer Regiment in Perham Down, Wiltshire where he served as a motor transport Lance Corporal within 38 Headquarters and Support Squadron. He was responsible for allocating drivers to tasks on daily driving details as well as scheduling maintenance and repairs for the Regiment's large fleet of wheeled vehicles.

Popular and hard-working, Lance Corporal Partridge was at the hub of the Regiment and was always to be seen out in the vehicle park ensuring that his vehicles were in good condition and ready for the next task. A genuine expert in the complex area of motor transport management, he was well known across the Regiment for his frank advice and his ability to find a vehicle for every last-minute important job.

Whilst at 26 Engineer Regiment he deployed to Canada, supporting armoured engineer training and construction exercises as well as deploying in support of UK operations. He recently achieved a long-held ambition to commence training as an Army diver, successfully completed his Junior Commanders Course, and had just been selected for promotion to Corporal.

Lance Corporal Partridge loved sport and fitness. A regular in the Regiment's Gym every evening, he was also a talented sportsman who had represented the Regimental Rugby Team and the Army as part of the Under 23 Army Football squad. He also tried his hand at luge ice sports where he represented the Corps. The loss of such a popular and capable soldier is hard felt by his Squadron, the Regiment and the Corps, as well as everyone in the wider Army who had the privilege of working with him. He will be remembered fondly by his many friends and colleagues throughout the Corps. He leaves behind his wife Zoe, who is expecting their first child, parents Alyson and Stephen and siblings Lucy and Ben.

**Armed Forces Minister Mark Lancaster said:**

It is with great sadness we must confirm the death of Lance Corporal George Partridge. It's clear from the testaments of his colleagues that he

had a bright future in the Army and was held in the highest regard. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this extremely difficult time.

**Lance Corporal Ash Skerten said:**

If I could be half the man he was I would be proud, he was the best soldier.

**Corporal Anthony Matthews said:**

George was a motivated and determined individual, who was a role model to all those around him. His peers also looked up to him and would come to him for advice. He was a family-orientated man who was looking forward to starting his family with wife Zoe. He was both a physically and mentally fit person who relished any challenge thrown in his direction.

**Sergeant Chris Brignull said:**

I have had the honour and pleasure of knowing LCpl George Partridge for well over 2 years now, from the start he was an outstanding character and a great role model for younger Sappers within the troop.

George had a very calm and collected approach to everything he did, robust and professional during all tasks put his way, which he always tackled head on. He was a true leader and had the potential to progress through all ranks. Well liked throughout the whole Regiment and Corps, he will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. Royal Engineers like George are a special type of person who are hard to find.

**His Troop Commander, Lt David Thornett said:**

Lance Corporal George Partridge was a gift to me as a Troop Commander. He had everything that I could have expected of a Junior Non Commissioned Officer. He could always be relied upon to carry out a task to the best of his ability and to get the best out the individuals who were working for him. Having already been selected to promote to Corporal, I have no doubt he would have climbed through the ranks with ease and had a very successful Army career. On top of this he was genuinely a good bloke who knew how to make people laugh, he will be sorely missed.

**His Squadron Commander, Major Matt Walker said:**

Every member of the Squadron, regardless of rank, looked up to and respected Lance Corporal George Partridge - we all aspire to be as fit, humble and capable as he was. The loss of this epic Junior Non Commissioned Officer leaves a void in the Squadron that can't be filled.

**His Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Simon Doyle said:**

Quietly determined, hard-working and immensely popular, Lance Corporal George Partridge was an exemplary soldier. Humble but hugely capable, he was always ready to lend a helping hand where it was needed the most and at some point everyone in the Regiment has had cause to be grateful for his ability to find you a car when the vehicle park seemed empty. Our clearest memories of him will always be on the rugby pitch and in the gymnasium,

where he was the epitome of a Royal Engineer Junior Non-Commissioned Officer, always pushing himself and his soldiers to the next level, and always with a smile on his face. He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with his wife and family at this sad time.

## **Tributes paid to Lance Corporal George Partridge from Somerset who died in 'tragic diving accident'**

<https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/tributes-paid-lance-corporal-george-1411873>

3 APR 2018 BY **PA TOMAS MALLOY** REPORTER

### **He died in a diving accident at the National Dive Activity Centre**



**Lance Corporal George Partridge, from Broadway near Ilminster, died on March 26**

A British soldier, who was expecting his first child with his wife, has died in a "tragic diving incident", the Ministry of Defence has confirmed.

Lance Corporal George Partridge, from Broadway near Ilminster, died on March 26 at the National Dive Activity Centre in Chepstow and has been described by his commanding officer as an exemplary soldier.

The 27-year-old, who joined the army in 2010, had previously served in Afghanistan in 2012 and was based with the 26 Engineer Regiment in Perham Down, Wiltshire.



**The National Dive Activity Centre in Chepstow**

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Simon Doyle said: "Quietly determined, hard-working and immensely popular, Lance Corporal George Partridge was an exemplary soldier.

"Humble but hugely capable, he was always ready to lend a helping hand where it was needed the most and at some point everyone in the regiment has had cause to be grateful for his ability to find you a car when the vehicle park seemed empty.

"Our clearest memories of him will always be on the rugby pitch and in the gymnasium, where he was the epitome of a Royal Engineer junior non-commissioned officer, always pushing himself and his soldiers to the next level, and always with a smile on his face.

"He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with his wife and family at this sad time."

Having been selected for promotion to the rank of corporal, the MoD said he had "recently achieved a long-held ambition to commence training as an Army diver".



26 Engineer Regiment posted on Facebook stating L/Cpl Partridge died "during the final week of his Army diver course".

An army spokesman said they are investigating the incident, adding: "Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this extremely difficult time."

The MoD said L/Cpl Partridge loved his sport and fitness, and leaves behind his wife Zoe who is expecting their first child, parents Alyson and Stephen and siblings Lucy and Ben.

Armed Forces Minister Mark Lancaster said: "It is clear from the testaments of his colleagues that he had a bright future in the Army and was held in the highest regard".

Sergeant Chris Brignull described L/Cpl Partridge as an "outstanding character and a great role model for younger sappers within the troop".

Corporal Anthony Matthews said: "He was a family-orientated man who was looking forward to starting his family with his wife Zoe.

"He was both a physically and mentally fit person who relished any challenge thrown in his direction."

His squadron commander Major Matt Walker said the loss of this "epic junior non-commissioned officer leaves a void in the squadron that can't be filled".

While Lance Corporal Ash Skerten added: "If I could be half the man he was I would be proud, he was the best soldier."

Troop commander Lieutenant David Thornett said he was a "genuinely good bloke who knew how to make people laugh" and that he will be "sorely missed".

L/Cpl Partridge's first years in the army were spent at 21 Engineer Regiment in Ripon, North Yorkshire, before moving to 26 Engineer Regiment after promotion, the MoD said.

He served as a motor transport Lance Corporal and was responsible for allocating drivers to tasks on daily driving details, as well as scheduling maintenance and repairs for the regiment's large fleet of wheeled vehicles.

## **Investigation Begins Into Death Of Tidworth Soldier**

<https://www.thebreeze.com/southdevon/news/local-news/investigation-begins-into-death-of-tidworth-soldier/>

April 3rd, 2018

**An investigation's underway into the death of a Tidworth-based soldier who died in a diving incident in Chepstow.**

Lance Corporal George Partridge, who was 27, was in the final week of an army diver course

It's emerged Partridge's wife is expecting his first child.

His Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Simon Doyle has paid tribute - in a statement, he's said, "Quietly determined, hard-working and immensely popular, Lance Corporal George Partridge was an exemplary soldier.

"Humble but hugely capable, he was always ready to lend a helping hand where it was needed the most and at some point everyone in the Regiment has had cause to be grateful for his ability to find you a car when the vehicle park seemed empty.

"Our clearest memories of him will always be on the rugby pitch and in the gymnasium, where he was the epitome of a Royal Engineer Junior Non-Commissioned Officer, always pushing himself and his soldiers to the next level, and always with a smile on his face.

"He will be sorely missed, and our thoughts are with his wife and family at this sad time."

## **Soldier dies in 'tragic diving incident'**

<https://www.bluebaydiving.com/soldier-dies-in-tragic-diving-incident/>

April 7, 2018 Scuba Diving



**MOD Image caption:: L/ Cpl George Partridge was described as an "exemplary soldier" by his commanding officer**

A soldier has died in a "tragic" collision during the final week of his Army Diver Course.

L/ Cpl George Partridge died on 26 March at the National Dive Centre in Gloucestershire, the Ministry of Defence ( MoD) said.

The 27 -year-old, whose wife is expecting their first infant, was based with 26 Engineer Regiment in Wiltshire.

An MoD spokesman told "our thoughts are with his family and friends at this extremely difficult time".

[Paying tribute, his commanding officer Lt Col Simon Doyle](#) described him as "quietly determined, hard-working and vastly popular".

"Lance Corporal George Partridge was an exemplary soldier, " he continued. "Humble but hugely capable, he was always ready to give a helping hand."

L/ Cpl Partridge joined the Army in June 2010 at persons under the age of 19.

His first years were spent at 21 Engineer Regiment in Ripon, north Yorkshire, where he qualified as a Class 1 Royal Engineer Driver and was deployed to Afghanistan.

He also served in Canada after being promoted to 26 Engineer Regiment. The statement told L/ Cpl Partridge had a long-held ambition to be an Army diver and had recently been selected for promotion to corporal.

Armed Forces-out Minister Mark Lancaster said: "It's clear from the testaments of his colleagues that he had a bright future in the Army and been established in the highest regard."

Cpl Anthony Matthews said his colleague was a "role model" who was "looked up to" and his peers "would come to him for advice".

"He was a family-orientated human who was looking forward to starting his family with wife Zoe. He was both a physically and mentally fit person who enjoyed any challenge thrown in his direction," he added.

The MoD said it was investigating how the "tragic diving incident" happened. The National Diving and Activity Centre is a large inundated quarry at Tidenham in Gloucestershire, near Chepstow in Monmouthshire.

It was formerly Dayhouse Quarry, information sources of limestone, which was flooded in 1996.

The diving centre, which opened in 2003, is described as an inland scuba diving site and is popular with technical and free divers due to the depths of up to 80 m (260 ft).

It has yet to comment on the soldier's death.



**Image caption: The National Diving and Activity Centre is a large flooded quarry at Tidenham, Gloucestershire**



**L/ Cpl George Partridge was stationed at the Wiltshire based 26 Engineer Regiment**

## Soldier's Dive Death Due To 'Systematic Failures', Family Claims

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-45437590>

7 September 2018

**The family of a soldier who died in a diving accident during an army course claim "systematic failures" led to the tragedy.**

L/Cpl George Partridge died on 26 March at the National Dive Centre in Tidenham, Gloucestershire.

A coroner was told the family believed deep-water diving was dangerous and "sufficient controls should be put in place" to minimise risks in the course.

County coroner Katy Skerrett has ruled the inquest will be held before a jury. Seven deaths at the centre have been reported by the BBC since 2004.



**L//Cpl George Partridge was described as an "exemplary soldier" by his commanding officer**

It is the UK's deepest inland dive site where people can swim to depths of 76m (249ft).

The 27-year-old, whose wife was expecting their first child at the time, was based with 26 Engineer Regiment in Wiltshire.

At a pre-inquest review at Gloucester coroner's court, legal representations were heard on behalf of the family claiming controls to minimise risks "should be put in place".



**The National Diving and Activity Centre is a large flooded quarry at Tidenham Gloucestershire**

"It shouldn't have happened but it has and it is felt there were systematic failures which led to this tragic accident," the coroner heard.

Mrs Skerrett said the inquest would be held in front of a jury next year.

### National Dive Centre

The National Diving and Activity Centre is a large flooded quarry at Tidenham in Gloucestershire, near Chepstow in Monmouthshire.

It was formerly Dayhouse Quarry, a source of limestone, which was flooded in 1996.

The diving centre, which opened in 2003, is described as an inland scuba diving site and is popular with technical and free divers.

There have been several diving fatalities at the 80m (260ft) deep lake.

---

L/Cpl Partridge joined the Army in June 2010 at the age of 19.

His first years were spent at 21 Engineer Regiment in Ripon, north Yorkshire, where he qualified as a Class 1 Royal Engineer Driver and was deployed to Afghanistan. He also served in Canada after being promoted to 26 Engineer Regiment.