

Corporal Barry Dempsey

The Ministry of Defence has confirmed today that Corporal Barry Dempsey, a medic from the Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland, attached to 1st Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment, was killed on patrol in Afghanistan on Monday 18 August 2008.

In a statement, the MoD offered tributes from comrades and senior officers. Lieutenant Colonel Nick Borton said that Cpl Dempsey "was a stalwart of the Medical Centre; a hard worker, he always volunteered for any task, and was always at the centre of the team, motivating and encouraging the younger medics." Lieutenant Colonel Ed Freely praised Cpl Dempsey's "great humility and character", whilst Defence Secretary Des Browne said that Cpl Dempsey was a "selfless and brave professional".

Signaller Wayne Bland

On 11th August, the Ministry of Defence announced the death in Afghanistan of a soldier from 16 Signal Regiment Motor Transport Troop, named on 14th August as Signaller Wayne Bland. Sig. Bland died whilst on patrol in Kabul as a result of a suicide attack upon the vehicle he was travelling in.

In a statement, the MoD presented tributes from comrades and senior officers who served with Sig. Bland in Operation Herrick ("popular and capable", "a leader amongst his peers"), and from the Secretary of State for Defence Des Browne ("a model British soldier").

The full statement can be viewed at the Ministry of Defence website.

Not just for those who have sadly lost their lives in service. Good news from the MoD that they are double compensation for troops injured and disabled in combat.