

Father tells a packed funeral service of his love for fallen serviceman

MARK PASSMORE



A salute is fired in memory of Marine Jamie Hutton at St Andrew's Church in Plymouth

Brigadier pays moving tribute to Marine son

A SERVING brigadier has paid tribute to his Royal Marine son killed in a training accident – thanking him for his love.

In a moving tribute to 23-year-old Jamie Hutton, Jim Hutton yesterday addressed a packed funeral at St Andrew's Church in Plymouth and said: "Thank you for your love, son; you have gone away but we will never forget you."

Hundreds of people gathered at the tearful but touching full military funeral of the Royal Marine who was based at 42 Commando in Bickleigh.

At least 200 Marines from his unit attended as well as countless other friends and military top brass.

As the hearse carrying the body of Mne Hutton arrived at the church, an eerie silence fell over Royal Parade.

Dozens of members of the public stood and watched as the hearse passed through a military guard of honour.

The family of Mne Hutton, known to his friends as "Colonel", then got out of the convoy of cars and made their way into the church where they were met with hundreds of well-wishers.

Brigadier Hutton was the last speaker at the hour-long funeral and kept his composure throughout.

He said he last saw his son in May when he returned from a deployment in

TRISTAN NICHOLS

Kabul. "He was really taking shape as a Royal Marine and finding his feet as a leader," he told the packed congregation.

"A lovely boy lost his life training for the job he loved. He was in the corps for three years but he was in the corps family all his life."

Mne Hutton died last week in Dorset on a military training exercise in preparation for the forthcoming tour of Afghanistan.

'Thank you for your love, son; you have gone away but we will never forget you'

He was killed instantly when a Land Rover overturned during a training exercise.

Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Stickland, Commanding Officer of 42 Commando, also paid tribute to Mne Hutton.

He said: "He was a larger-than-life character, his death sent a shockwave through the band of warriors that are the Recce Troop which he was a member of."

One of Mne Hutton's friends, Sam

Taylor, son of the Commanding Officer of Stonchouse Barracks, said: "Jamie had a unique gift which has touched us all here today and our lives are so much better for knowing him."

Another friend, Matt Lee, said: "I am still struggling to come to terms with the fact I will never see him again."

Chris Pascoe, vice-chairman of OPMs rugby club – which Mne Hutton had been a member of for three years – club, said: "He was just such a carefree and happy-go-lucky person."

"He was young and energetic and a likeable character."

He said the team paid tribute to Mne Hutton last weekend during a game in Newquay with the whole squad wearing the number two and "Hutton" on their shirts.

Matt Glastonbury, first-team captain of OPMs, said he spoke on behalf of the whole team by saying it was a "privilege" knowing him.

As the coffin containing Mne Hutton's body was carried out of the church, the Last Post was played on a bugle. Once again, the sun-kissed Royal Parade fell silent.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev Tudor Borwood, 42 Commando's chaplain, and the Rev Karl Freeman, 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery's padre.



Marine Jamie Hutton



Brigadier Jim Hutton with his wife Sally and son Ewan