



Milk Hill. Marlborough

Army Hero Killed in Air Accident

Lieutenant Colonel Bucklow

Family and friends have paid tribute to Army hero Lieutenant Colonel Ian Bucklow after he died from injuries sustained in a paragliding accident. Lieutenant Colonel Bucklow, 45, of All Cannings, died at the Great Western Hospital in Swindon last Wednesday, two weeks after the accident on August 28th at Milk Hill, near Marlborough. Lieutenant Colonel Bucklow was paragliding with other members of the Joint Services Paragliding Club, of which he was chairman when his canopy malfunctioned and he fell to the ground. He was airlifted to hospital but never gained consciousness.

One of his closest friends, Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Wilson, said: "There are only about three of these kind of accidents in the UK every year, so it is a relatively safe sport. Certainly safer than motorcycling, which he also did."

Lieutenant Colonel Bucklow, who had lived in the village with his wife Anne, 46, and children Richard, 15, David, 12, and Rachel, eight, for six years, had recently achieved a Master of Philosophy degree in international relations at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He was due to be posted to Iraq as the assistant military attach to the special representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations. His funeral with full military honours will be held at 2pm today at All Saints Church, Stanton St. Bernard, where he was married 16 years ago.

All Cannings Parish Council chairman Tim Daw said: "I was drinking with him the night before the accident. "He was a wonderful man who lived life to the full and beyond." "For a young, fit man to die like that is unbelievable. He was about to go off to Iraq for a year." "That was the way it was with Ian. He would disappear for a while, but when he came back, he'd throw himself into community events as if he'd never been away."

Lieutenant Colonel Wilson, who had known Lieutenant Colonel Bucklow for over 25 years, said he was an unconventional man who loved life. He said: "I first worked with him in 1979 when we were posted together in Germany. He was always at the centre of every community event. He was extremely popular with people, maybe because he was unconventionally rude. He always put in for the toughest training he could get, and did several SAS selection courses and military parachutist courses. He loved to push his body to the limit. "He died doing what he loved best."

Mrs. Bucklow, who was born and brought up in Stanton St. Bernard, where her family still lives, said of her husband: "He lived life to the full and was a most memorable personality." "When he walked into a room, it lit up. He is going to be very badly missed. He became the centre of every community he lived in."

Wiltshire Gazette & Herald, 22nd September 2005