



## **Soldier found dead at Tidworth**

**A 21-year-old soldier sent texts to his father, then hung himself in his room at an army barracks.**

His worried father at once contacted staff at the welfare department at Swinton Barracks, Perham Down, near Tidworth.

A shocked colleague then found Sapper Dylan Gibson hanging from a chord over a wardrobe after he dashed into his room, an inquest heard yesterday.

Wiltshire Police rushed to the scene but he was confirmed dead. Troop Commander Lt Daniel Porteous was in 26 Engineer Regiment.

He was found just seven miles from where Corporal Anne-Marie Element was found hanging at Bulford in October, 2011.

Wiltshire Coroner David Ridley was told Mr Gibson – from Wakefield, Yorkshire – died from hanging.

Wiltshire Police launched a top level probe into the death but there are no suspicious circumstances.

Mr Ridley – sitting at Salisbury – adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed.

After the inquest, Tidworth Mayor Chris Franklin – a former top soldier – said: “I wish to express our deepest sympathy at this sad loss of life that the regiment has suffered. Loss of life is always very sad but particularly so in these circumstances.”

The Ministry of Defence said: “We regret to confirm a soldier from 26 Engineer Regiment died on February 25. Our thoughts are with the soldier’s family and friends at this difficult and sad time. Wiltshire Police are leading the investigation into the circumstances of the death and, therefore, it would be totally inappropriate of us to comment about this.”

**Valley News 12 March 2014**