

deepcut shots in the dark

A Private Eye special report by Heather Mills and Brian Cathcart

WHEN NICHOLAS BLAKE QC published his report last March into three of the four deaths of young recruits at the Deepcut army barracks in Surrey, he concluded that all were probably suicides, that the trainees themselves were solely to blame, that they hadn't been "bullied to death" and that a public inquiry would serve no purpose.

Delighted ministers declared the Deepcut affair over: there had been no murders; there was no need for a public inquiry; and problems at the barracks had largely been dealt with so there was nothing more to be said. Just as they had hoped, discussion in the media petered out in days and a scandal that had caused public concern for four years seemed to be fading into history.

