

Deepcut: Soldier was 'humiliated' before his death

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A YOUNG soldier who died at the notorious Deepcut Army barracks told his sister he was "shackled" and "humiliated" at the base, a fresh inquest heard.

Private Sean Benton, 20, was found with five bullets in his chest in June 1995, shortly after he had been told he was to be discharged from the Army.

He was the first of four young soldiers to die of gunshot wounds at the Surrey barracks between 1995 and 2002, and a fresh inquest into his death began at Woking Coroner's Court yesterday.

The inquest heard that Pte Benton told his sister in the month of March before his death that he was "jailed" at the base for 10 days.

The detention period is understood to have been a punishment for breaking a window.

Tracy Lewis, who attended the hearing with Pte Benton's twin brother Tony, told the inquest that she was surprised to see her brother at their cousin's house on a Thursday, as it would usually be Friday when he would leave the base.

"I was surprised that he turned up and I think he was shocked that I was there."

"He stayed with my cousin that night and then he came round to see me on the Friday," she said.

Ms Lewis said he told her that he had "been in jail for 10 days", and also said that he was "shackled".

"He used that word," she said, referring to "shackled", add-



PRIVATE SEAN BENTON: A new inquest is taking place into his 1995 death from gunshot wounds.

ing: "He was made to parade around the canteen which embarrassed him and he felt really humiliated."

Asked if he had told her he felt humiliated, she said: "Yes."

Pte Benton's family have campaigned for years for a full investigation into his death amid allegations he suffered prolonged physical and psychological bullying.

A Royal Military Police investigation led to an initial inquest finding of suicide in 1995, even though no evidence was given about his experiences at Deepcut.

Ms Lewis and Tony Benton, represented by Liberty, applied for a second inquest in July 2015, which was granted last year.

Ms Lewis said her brother told

"I want to find out what happened to my brother."

Tracy Lewis, brother of Private Sean Benton.

her that he declined to eat on that occasion and asked to go back to the cells.

Also during that visit, Pte Benton told his sister about another incident.

"He told me he was pushed out of a window," she said.

Describing how her brother seemed during that visit, she said: "He was different. He appeared different."

Ms Lewis also told the inquest that Pte Benton smoked and drank more alcohol when he joined the Army.

Reflecting on the impact of his death on their family, Ms Lewis said in a statement, partly read to the court: "The impact on our family was immediate and profound."

"It changed the course of all of our lives."

She added: "I want to find out what happened to my brother. I have no agenda other than I want to know the truth."

The inquest also heard that Pte Benton took two overdoses of paracetamol - one when he was 16 and on another occasion in the Army.

Pte Benton's mother Linda died in 2015, believing she had never discovered the truth about what happened to her son.

Statements made by his mother before she died were read out, and one from September 2002 questioned why his death was "very quickly treated as suicide".

The statement said her main concern is that there is "something not right about Sean's death", adding that the initial investigation did not answer her concerns.

The inquest continues today.

Party's challenge to decision on slogan

THE LEADER of a political party has launched a High Court challenge against a decision to brand one of its electoral slogans "offensive" in the wake of Jo Cox's murder.

The Batley and Spenningsdale MP, inset, was stabbed and shot in her constituency by Thomas Mair in June 2016, during the final week of the referendum campaign. Following a review after her death the Electoral Commission removed the phrase "English Democrats - England worth fighting for!" from ballot papers for the by-election for her former seat in October of that year.

The commission concluded the word "fighting" would be associated with its "violent, primary, literal meaning" by a significant number of voters in the

polling booth. Robin Tilbrook, the founder and chairman of the English Democrats, argued the commission was wrong to remove the slogan and said the party should have been consulted.

Representing himself, Mr Tilbrook, who is a solicitor, told the High Court: "We didn't think it was offensive. We are a small party with very little money and we rely on being visible on the ballot paper to get our message out."

Lawyers for the commission said Mrs Cox's "politically motivated murder by Mair, who shouted 'Britain First' as he killed her, created 'electorally extreme' circumstances for the by-election."

Mr Justice Supperstone reserved his ruling on the case until a later date.

Spoken word artist's plea over teaching poetry

SPOKEN WORD artist Caleb Femi has called for a more "diverse" approach to teaching poetry.

The Young People's Laureate For London has penned a poem about Heathrow, called A Tale Of Modern Britain, which will be shown on terminal screens at the airport. The poem explores what it means to be British through the lens of arrivals and departures. Femi, 27, said that he had "met so many people who enjoyed poetry at school and I'm one of those people" and that he did not "want to speak generally".

He added: "But, I know that there are a huge percentage of young people and also teachers who think that we need to rethink the approach we take to teaching poetry. We need to diversify the poets we study in school. Most of the time they are very limited in their variety."

A Tale Of Modern Britain is at www.heathrow.com.

FRONT PAGE SPLASH: THE PICTURES THAT TELL A STORY



YP team under lens of experts at national awards

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FROM MEMORABLE sporting moments to images which put a human face on the biggest news stories of the day - an eclectic range of pictures has secured *The Yorkshire Post* a hat-trick of nominations in the UK Picture Editors Guild Awards.

Simon Hulme, whose portfolio included a striking image of former Olympic diver Jane Cooke and a picture of police threatening to arrest tea lady Jackie Brookes during an anti-fracking demonstration at Kirby Misperton, has been nominated for both Bloomberg Business Photographer of the Year and Genesis Regional Press Photographer of the Year.

Bruce Rollinson has also been nominated in the latter category, thanks to a submission which featured *Flying Scotsman*



"It is the Oscars of the Press photography awards."

Yorkshire Post picture editor Gerard Binks.



crossing the Dent Head Viaduct to mark the re-opening of the Settle-Carlisle Railway.

The Yorkshire Post's picture editor, Gerard Binks, said: "I am very proud that our photographers Simon Hulme and Bruce Rollinson have been shortlisted for the 2017 Picture Editors' Guild Awards."

"It is the Oscars of the Press photography awards and highly regarded throughout the industry. Simon and Bruce have shown technical expertise, and an exceptional eye for detail when capturing their images."

"Simon won the regional award last year and in 2005 and has been shortlisted six times. It's Bruce's first time on the shortlist for Regional Photographer of the Year and we wish them both the best of luck."

The winners will be announced at the Honourable Artillery Company Headquarters in London on March 12.

PORTFOLIO: Diver Jane Cooke, main image, and left, Jackie Brookes facing arrest at the Kirby Misperton protest, both by Simon Hulme. Gareth Ellis and Danny McGuire at full time in the Leeds Rhinos v Hull FC Super League Semi Final, right, and above, Flying Scotsman crossing Dent Head Viaduct, both by Bruce Rollinson.

Plea to trace doctor who treated child

A MOTHER has started an online search to find the doctor who helped when her one-year-old daughter was taken seriously ill on a flight home to the UK.

Lesley Keeley and her partner Ben Rigg were flying from Egypt to Birmingham when little Nancy's temperature spiked and she was at risk of having convulsions.

She said Nancy became pale and unresponsive, started having

nose bleeds and her eyes rolled back in her head.

The doctor, known only as "Jo", came forward and took charge of the situation, getting Nancy's parents to strip her down and put cold flannels on her head.

She even stayed with the family for two hours until emergency services arrived once they landed at Birmingham airport.

Ms Keeley, 28, from Leeds,

West Yorkshire, has launched a campaign to find "Doctor Jo" and thank her again for her help.

The only details Lesley and Ben have are the doctor's first name - Jo - and the fact she lives about 40 minutes from Birmingham. She flew from Marsa Alam to Birmingham on January 22.

Writing a post on Facebook directed to the doctor, Lesley said: "I know as a doctor that is a duty

to look after others, however you could have easily sat there and not come forward. You also didn't have to stay with us until the paramedics arrived."

When Nancy's temperature rocketed on the flight Lesley called on cabin crew for Calpol but it made little difference to her condition. Once home Nancy was diagnosed with an acute virus. She has now recovered.

Briefing

Concern over drop in good causes cash

LOTTERY: A drop in National Lottery income for good causes has left distributors "very cautious" about ensuring they can meet commitments for future spending, a committee of MPs has heard.

Those responsible for distributing the funds are monitoring the situation "like a hawk" after the amount fell by 15 per cent over the year to April, the Public Accounts Committee heard.

Apple acts to stop iPhone shutdowns

TECHNOLOGY: Apple has confirmed its next iPhone software update will include a feature that enables users to turn off a tool that slows down phone performance.

In December, the firm revealed the tool was used to reduce performance as a battery ages to prevent it shutting down unexpectedly. Now, the company has issued a software update available by the spring.

Hormone therapy plan for cancer sufferers

HEALTH: Some breast cancer patients could be offered hormone therapy for a decade under new NHS guidelines.

And all women who have a mastectomy due to breast cancer should be offered immediate breast reconstruction, under draft National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines. Meanwhile, Nice said many breast cancer centres do not offer reconstruction to all women.

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