



Record of an Inquest

Following the Inquest heard before His Honour Peter Rook QC, Assistant Coroner, sitting at HM Coroner's Court, Surrey and concluded on 20 June 2019, the following statutory determinations and findings were made:

1. Name of Deceased: Geoff Gray		
2. Medical cause of death: Gunshot wounds to the head		
3. How, when and where, and for investigations where section 5(2) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 applies, in what circumstances, the deceased came by his or her death: At approximately 01.10 hours on 17 September 2001 in the grounds of the Officers' Mess of the Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Surrey, Private Geoff Gray shot himself with a SA80 rifle that was set to automatic, causing two wounds to the head. He died rapidly at the place where his body was found. No third party was involved in the shooting. At the time Geoff fired the shots he intended to take his own life, although that state of mind may have only been transient. Geoff's actions could not reasonably have been anticipated at the time. He did not suffer with any known psychological difficulties nor had he been the recipient of any ill treatment. Any concerns Geoff may have had did not relate to the camp regime. However the army had failed adequately to address the risk of self-harm that might arise in respect of young and inexperienced trainees performing guard duty with unsupervised access to firearms. Proposals that trainees should not provide the Barracks' guard, but be replaced with a professional guard force had not yet been acted upon. Whilst it was entirely Geoff's decision to take his own life, the above failures provided Geoff with an opportunity to go to an isolated location with a firearm where he could act as he did.		
4. Conclusion of the Coroner as to the death: Suicide		
5. Further particulars required by the Births and Death Registration Act 1953 to be registered concerning the death:		
(a)	Date and place of birth	28 January 1984, Sunderland
(b)	Name and surname of deceased	Geoff Gray
(c)	Sex	Male
(d)	Maiden surname	n/a
(e)	Date and place of death	17 September 2001 at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Surrey.
(f)	Occupation and usual address	Occupation: Phase 2 Trainee Soldier (Private) in the Royal Logistic Corps. Usual address: 9 Iveagh Close, Victoria Park, Hackney, London E9 7BW.
Signature of Coroner		20 June 2019