

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF SMOKING

From Lt M Cardwell, RAMC(V) and Maj J Bennett, RAMC

207 (Manchester) General Hospital RAMC(V) was recently deployed to provide medical cover at the International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford where two Russian MIG 29 fighters collided. To many the lasting image will be that of one of the downed pilots immediately lighting up a cigarette. This was well publicised on television and the front page of newspapers such as *Today*. What might not be so well known is that of the first twenty members of the rescue team seen at 207 for suspected smoke-inhalation injury, no less than twelve were, on admission, smoking cigarettes! One might perhaps forgive the pilot,

who was on his second by the time he got to us, for a mid-air collision must be pretty stressful, but should publicity be given to the relief of such stress in such a manner? Fortunately our padre managed to whisk him back to his countrymen or maybe by now he might be replacing the Marlboro cowboy as a role model for the impressionable.

We are etc
M Cardwell
J Bennett

207(Manchester) General Hospital RAMC(V)
TA Centre
Kings Road
Manchester
M16 7RS

OBITUARIES

Regimental Headquarters would welcome self written obituaries and when completed they should be forwarded to Regimental Secretary RHQ, RAMC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants GU12 5RQ.