

# the short life and death of **my little brother** (8) **lack of bitterness**

Guy's inquest was \_\_\_\_\_ reported in the national press and also, bizarrely, in the National Enquirer, the US weekly magazine. The headlines seized on the mistake by the hospital and the fact that two anaesthetists had, \_\_\_\_\_ when they realised their error, kept quiet about it for 14 hours. Recording a verdict of misadventure, Gordon Davies, the coroner, \_\_\_\_\_ them of "keeping a schoolboy code" of silence and added: "There is no room for this where people's lives are at \_\_\_\_\_." At the inquest it was also disclosed that the manufacturers of the ventilator were changing the design. Afterwards my father was interviewed by reporters, who were probably disappointed by his lack of bitterness and his declaration of \_\_\_\_\_ in the hospital. "I would go there myself," he said. "The \_\_\_\_\_ are marvellous."

However, \_\_\_\_\_ support from our local MP, over the months and years ahead, my father never \_\_\_\_\_ the overhaul of hospital training methods that he was convinced would mean a similar tragedy could be \_\_\_\_\_. He never fully recovered from Guy's death. Later he suspected that carcinoid syndrome, the slow-growing cancer he had unknowingly suffered from throughout his fifties and early sixties, had been \_\_\_\_\_ on by grief over Guy's death. Shortly after his death from the cancer at the age of 63 in 1990, I found typed notes among his papers. He had written: "Any man who has \_\_\_\_\_ to keep 50 per cent of his children alive should be able to find compassion for others."

Many years after Guy's death my father had also written: "Andrew suffered most from Guy's death. Guy's bad heart made them closer by enhancing the naturally protective role of an older brother. All else apart, I could not begin to calculate how many miles Andrew carried Guy during his short life. Paula \_\_\_\_\_ that Andrew's childhood ended with Guy's death. He never got his toy cars out again. Instead he went out with his contemporaries, played football, \_\_\_\_\_ his bike, watched television, read or, for long periods, sat doing nothing. For years after Guy's death Andrew suffered from depression. I had been accustomed to two small bright-eyed boys who chatted and asked questions \_\_\_\_\_. Now I had only one small boy and he had lost the light from his eyes."

**accused » achieved » avoided » brought »  
despite » endlessly » even » failed » faith »  
remarked » rode » staff » stake » widely**