

BRIGADIER JANE ARIGHO CBE RRC

Pro-Chancellor,

Brigadier Jane Arigho is a perioperative nurse who has served with great distinction in the British Army's medical services. After a series of increasingly senior posts in Army hospitals in the UK and overseas, and in the training of nurses, she became Director of Army

further senior posts in the administration and training of Army nurses, in 1995 she was appointed Director Army Nursing Services, Matron-in-Chief (Army) and Queen's Honorary Nursing Sister. As head of the QAs her main priority was implementing the 1995 Defence Cost Study's decision to close military hospitals and replace them with military-staffed wards and military wings in NHS hospitals. Success in this high-profile project led to still greater challenges as she was promoted Brigadier, the highest rank at that time of any woman in British Army, and Director Defence Nursing Services. This gave her responsibility for all the nursing resources of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force until her retirement in 1999.

The end of the Cold War brought great changes to the armed forces and to military nursing. Jane Arigho presided over these changes in her years of senior leadership, and the medical services which have distinguished themselves in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts owe much to the developments she introduced. Nurses of all services now train and work together, and their training inevitably focuses more strongly on current geopolitical and military situations, and on responses to accident and trauma. The care of injured service personnel has come a long way from the scenes portrayed in the TV series *MASH* to the high-technology field hospitals that we now see on the news. Medical, technological and organisational advances mean that casualties in Afghanistan can now be taken to a UK hospital, in a flying intensive care ward, in 19 hours if necessary.

But frontline military medical services face many of the same challenges as did previous generations, and Jane is no stranger to the harsh realities of war. Visiting her teams of nurses in Bosnia, during the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s, she witnessed scenes of devastation far worse than television could show. Grim experiences of this kind impact as heavily on nurses as other military personnel, and Jane has given much time to the sensitive management of personal issues arising from service in war zones. 'What I joined', she says, 'was a family', and even as Director she was always happiest leaving her desk and spending time with her nurses in hospitals or on exercises with them in the field.

Jane Arigho's distinguished service and notable successes have been highly honoured. She was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross in 1987, and was advanced to the Royal Red Cross in 1995. This decoration, created by Queen Victoria in 1883, is awarded for exceptional services, devotion to duty and professional competence in British military nursing, and its first recipient was none other than Florence Nightingale. On retirement Jane was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In addition to these high distinctions, in 2005 Her Majesty The Queen appointed her Colonel Commandant of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. This honorary role, akin to that of a non-executive director, brought Jane the great pleasure of working with senior nurses she had trained at Aldershot years earlier.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Brigadier Jane Arigho, and ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.