

THE LOAN SOLDIER

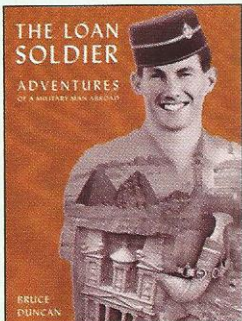
By Bruce Duncan

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Personal histories can be a mixed bag, sometimes illuminating, sometimes simply a blow by blow account of what the author did next. Bruce Duncan's story is very much in the former category. A soldier in the aftermath of Empire, he saw service across the world and had a habit of finding himself in far flung places in testing times. As a young subaltern embarking on his career he was thrown in at the deep end – becoming an acting company commander in the Brunei Malay Regiment on operations during the confrontation with Indonesia and very shortly after that, an observer at the heart of government as ADC to the Sultan of Brunei. Towards the end of his career, as Head of a Training Team in Kuwait on the outbreak of the First Gulf War, he was initially in hiding, then in Iraqi custody and ultimately had to face the awful tragedy of his eldest son's death whilst they were being held. This is a book of enormous breadth; it is above all a story of family and faith and coping with adversity, but told against a backdrop of great events and changing countries from Nigeria and Sudan to Jordan, Iraq, Oman and the Far East. It is a good read and all the more so because despite the tragedy, the author's optimism and hope constantly shine through.

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