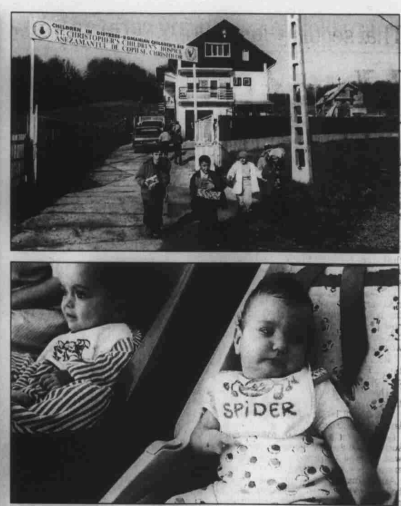




Young victims: Nurse manager Jennifer Horton, left, holds nine-month-old Alexandru, who suffers from spina bifida. Top, the exterior of St Christopher's, and, above, baby Blanca, who has a chromosome abnormality.

MONEY RAISED FOR THE
YORKSHIRE POST
Shoebbox appeal

£150,000

£125,000

£100,000

£75,000

Money raised
£54,499.14

£50,000

£25,000

£0

£0



Monday 14 February £109

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Thank you for giving us a very happy Christmas

St Christopher's Hospice, at Curtea de Arges, in Romania, cares for the most tragic victims of the country's health crisis. Nearly all the patients are babies, who are dying from illnesses including cancer and spina bifida. Without the loving care of the hospice staff, they would be left to die in pain and squalor. Here, the nurse manager of St Christopher's, Jennifer Horton, 24, from Kidderminster, gives a flavour of life at the hospice over the last couple of months. **Andrew Vine reports.**

LIFE here at St Christopher's Hospice has been pretty busy during the last two months. But I'll try to give you a quick rundown on how things were for Christmas and New Year.

About two weeks before Christmas the opportunity arose for us to take Alexandru and Valentine (two of our children) to a leading surgeon in Bucharest to see if there was any possibility of operating on them. Two nurses stayed with the children for four days and hopefully in the near future we will return and if still possible the children will be operated on.

This put all the preparations for Christmas a little behind, but we all ran

around and by the time Christmas Day arrived, we had a beautiful tree, decorations, presents and shoeboxes, good food and just about everything else we needed to make a Christmas.

Our children at the hospice were not the only ones to enjoy shoeboxes given by Children in Distress, hundreds of children in the town also received a gift. It was such a great pleasure to actually give out the gifts that people in England worked so hard to organise. There were a lot of very happy children!

Christmas Day started with work for us here at St Christopher's. All the children were bathed and dressed in their best clothes. Then

we all went into the playroom to find that Santa had been.

Stefan and Larisa were fortunate enough to be taken home by their

Church donations boost appeal fund

MONEY is continuing to come in to the Yorkshire Post Shoebbox Appeal from readers touched by the plight of the most vulnerable children in Europe.

Our fund-raising total now stands at £54,499.14 - but there is still a long way to go to our target of £150,000, which is needed to expand the work of the three hospices in Romania run by Children in Distress, the think-based charity we support. Churches continue to do sterling

work on behalf of our appeal, and the latest contributions include £75 from Church Fenton Methodist Chapel, a further £50 from a member of the chapel's congregation, and £50 from Cottingham Methodist Church.

The Yorkshire Post Shoebbox Appeal intends to help Children in Distress extend St Christopher's Hospice and St Laurence's Hospice, at Cervanova, which cares for older children with

collapsed in the playroom to watch TV. Now the New Year is here and we are all back into things. We are busy finding new children to care for in any way. Best wishes and God's blessings from everyone at St Christopher's.

Santa still found him and he was home on Boxing Day to enjoy the remainder of Christmas with us. So after a big dinner and lots of chocolate, everyone

We want to thank everyone in England who supports us in any way. Best wishes and God's blessings from everyone at St Christopher's.

AIDS. The money we raise will also be used to extend a hospice unit for babies at York Hospice, the refuge for homeless children in Bucharest that was opened with the proceeds from our initial appeal last year.

Fund-raising is now our primary aim after the first part of our appeal - to deliver 200,000 presents to the poor children of Eastern Europe in time for Christmas - was an outstanding success.

Donation coupon

- ☐ I would like to make a donation to Children in Distress of £5 £10 £15 £20 £ (other) and I enclose a cheque payable to 'Yorkshire Post Shoebbox Appeal'. Donations can also be paid directly into Lloyds Bank account number 0218567, sort code 30-00-02.
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Historian 'ignored stupidities of Auschwitz report'

HISTORIAN David Irving was yesterday accused of basing his rejection of the existence of homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz on a report he knew to be "rubbish".

The 62-year-old author of *Hitler's War*, who is seeking High Court libel damages against American academic Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Books over a claim that he is a "Holocaust denier", firmly rejected the allegation made during cross-examination by his barrister.

Richard Rampton QC dismissed as "rubbish" the 1986 findings in a report written by

a man called Fred Leuchter, who had taken samples from various parts of the remains at Auschwitz and concluded that there were never homicidal gas chambers there.

The defendants claim that the Leuchter report was "bunk" and that Mr Irving knew it was "bunk" and that he ignored the "stupidities" of it because he wanted it to be true.

During a visit to Florida in 1986 he was "categorical" in his denunciation of the findings of the Leuchter report.

Mr Irving, of Duke Street, Mayfair, central London, who is representing himself during

the lengthy trial before Mr Justice Gray in London, replied: "I still am."

Mr Irving, who rejected the claim he is a Holocaust denier, is suing Professor Lipstadt and Penguin over her 1994 book, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*, which he says generated waves of hatred against him.

The author, who does question the number of Jewish dead, and denies the systematic extermination of the Jews in concentration camps, has been accused by the defendants of being "a liar and a falsifier of history".

At the start of the case Mr Rampton told the court that in 1989 a man of German origin, Ernst Zundel, was put on trial in Canada for publishing material which denied the existence of gas chambers at Auschwitz.

In defence of this charge Mr Zundel's lawyers recruited Mr Leuchter "who seems to have made his living as some kind of consultant in the design of execution facilities in the USA".

He was dispatched to Auschwitz to seek evidence of the use - or otherwise - of homicidal gas chambers. Counsel said his report was declared

inadmissible by the Canadian judge on the grounds that Mr Leuchter had no relevant expertise.

Mr Rampton said Mr Irving gave evidence at the trial and during his visit he read the Leuchter report and "shortly thereafter he declared himself convinced that Leuchter was right and that there were never any homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz".

One of the main reasons Mr Leuchter advanced for his conclusion was that it was to be expected that any residual traces of hydrogen cyanide - the killing agent in the Zyklon B pellets used by the SS - should be very much higher in those parts of the remains of Auschwitz which were identified as gas chambers for killing people than in those parts which were known to have been used for killing lice.

Mr Rampton said the report recorded very small traces of hydrogen cyanide in the gas chamber remains and relatively large traces in the delousing remains. "Therefore," said Mr Leuchter, the alleged gas chamber remains could obviously never have been gas chambers at all.

Mr Rampton said the report recorded very small traces of hydrogen cyanide in the gas chamber remains and relatively large traces in the delousing remains. "Therefore," said Mr Leuchter, the alleged gas chamber remains could obviously never have been gas chambers at all.

Helicopter finds missing climbers cold but safe

A SEARCH for two climbers from Yorkshire ended when they were found safe by a rescue helicopter yesterday.

Simon Berry, 33, of Archer Road, and Chris Hague, 28, of Stanton Road, both Sheffield, had been reported overdue from an ice climb at Hell's Lumb in the Calgroms.

They were spotted by a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth walking out of Coire An Lochan.

Police said both men, who were well-equipped, were unhurt but cold after spending a night on the mountains.

The incident was one of a number in the Scottish mountains over the last few days.

Alex Guild, 33, a father of two, spoke yesterday of how he escaped with a

broken shoulder, cuts and bruises in a 1,000ft fall which killed his climbing partner.

He crashed to the bottom of an icy corrie in Lochan in the Calgroms on Saturday.

The body of David Bearfield, 40, of Pickthill Avenue, Aberdeen, was found later by an RAF mountain rescue team on a training exercise.

Mr Guild, a health and safety inspector, of Henderson Avenue, Kintore, Aberdeenshire, said from his bed in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary that they had lost their way in mist.

They ended up on a grade five climb rather than the easier grade three they had planned to attempt. "Had we known we were on a grade five we would have turned

round and abelled straight back off it."

He said they were roped together a mere 30ft from the top when they fell, but he could remember little about the incident.

"I remember falling. I remember a rapid acceleration and then blackness, and that was it."

Mr Guild said the fact he had landed on hard-packed snow rather than boulders probably saved his life.

"I was out cold for about an hour and when I woke up I was confused as to whether I had been climbing or not. I followed the rope and at that point I had landed on my back."

He walked for about a mile before coming across fellow climbers who were helping him of the mountain side when rescue teams arrived.

Hearing adjourned for pair accused of outraging public decency on flight

A COMMITTAL hearing for two married strangers who allegedly got caught in a passionate embrace in a public place in the business class of a transatlantic flight was adjourned for four weeks yesterday.

Amanda Holt, 37, of Moorside Crescent, Bacup, Lancashire, and David Machin, 40, of Woodland Road, Wakefield, face two charges each of being drunk on board an aircraft and outraging public decency.

Solicitors for the pair told Manchester City Magistrates that the case should be adjourned to investigate whether or not the charges constituted an offence under American law.

They said they needed

four weeks because of the time delay involved with liaising with American police officers.

The charges follow an incident last year on a 16-hour flight from Dallas to Manchester airport. The two, who had

never met before, allegedly got carried away with passion.

The case was adjourned until February 21.

Holt, wearing a navy trouser suit and accompanied by her husband

Steven, was given conditional bail on the condition her passport remains with police.

Machin, who wore a dark suit and blue tie and arrived alone, was given unconditional bail.



Strangers when they met: David Machin and Amanda Holt.