

NATIONAL & FOREIGN

# If I had died it would have been worth it, says Angel of Mostar

British nurse Sally Becker who has rescued five critically ill children from the besieged Bosnian town of Mostar, returned to Britain yesterday — and dismissed fears for her safety.

Miss Becker, aged 33, dubbed the "Angel of Mostar", made headlines by driving a borrowed ambulance with the children — two of whom had lost an arm — and negotiating her own cease-

fire between the warring Croat and Moslem forces.

She said that espionage allegations against her were "rubbish" and added: "If going across the line to rescue children is spying, then I will happily continue being a spy."

"The Croats and Moslems know exactly who I am and what I'm trying to do. I go across the line to bring

back both Moslems and Croats. I hope I will continue to do so as long as I am needed," she said after arriving at London's Heathrow airport.

It is a high-risk thing to do, but for me the rewards are worth it. I have saved 15 lives in five or six days. If I had been shot, at least I would have known that my life was worthwhile."

Miss Becker, from Hove, East Sussex, said that claims about her being a spy — from Spanish UN personnel — came after their embarrassment at being seen in front of the media refusing access to injured children.

"They were very embarrassed by the whole thing and I think that I was their chosen target. I think they hoped that I would leave the country as a re-

sult of this, but I intend to go back next week once I have had a rest and sorted a few things out."

She has been offered the use of an armoured ambulance by a well-wisher.

But urging others not to follow her example by acting alone in the region, she said: "It is very dangerous and it has taken me a long while to get the confidence of people on both sides."

# Karadzic shrugs aside Clinton's threat of force

Bosnian Serb leader Mr Radovan Karadzic yesterday brushed aside a US warning that Nato could intervene against Serbs in the Bosnian conflict if it intensified.

Mr Karadzic was responding to a statement by US President Bill Clinton, aimed at both Serbs and Croats that Nato military option is very much alive.

Mr Karadzic denied any Bosnian Serb involvement in current fighting which is mainly between Moslem and Croat forces trying to gain territory in southern and central Bosnia.

"I think someone is misinforming President Clinton," Mr Karadzic said. "The Serbs are not in the war any longer. We haven't fought the Croats for five months. We don't fight against the Moslems except for some border incidents."

Mr Clinton issued his warning after talks between Moslem, Serb and Croat leaders with international negotiators in Geneva failed to produce agreement on Moslem demands for more land.

He specifically mentioned attacks on the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, which has been under Serb artillery siege during the 17-month civil war, and interference with UN aid convoys.

The likeliest form of intervention would be air strikes.

## Escort for gunrunners

Two British aid workers who disappeared after running guns to Moslem fighters were last night on their way out of Bosnia escorted by UK troops.

Mr Stephen Pinnock, from Braintree, Essex, and Mr Lawrence Foster, from Potters Bar, Hants, said they wished they could have done more to help the Moslems fight back.

They went to the former Yugoslavia last month after charity Feed the Children to supply food to communities.

The men disappeared in central Bosnia last month after taking one of the charity's UN peacekeepers in Bosnia voiced public concern that the collapse of the Geneva negotiations could give fresh impetus to the fighting as all three sides grab for more territory.

All three sides reported clashes yesterday but there was no evidence of fighting on the scale the UN feared.

Moslem-controlled Sarajevo radio said yesterday defence lines around the northern town of Maglaj, which is mostly

Land Rovers to smuggle weapons to besieged Moslems.

Last night they were on their way from Vitez to the Croatian port of Split, where they will be met by the British consul.

It had been thought that after being dismissed by Feed the Children they might have joined the Moslem forces, but last week they were found in Travnik, detained by the soldiers they had tried to help.

A British Army spokesman in Vitez said the men had presented themselves to the UK battalion and asked for help to get home.

Moslem, were heavily shelled in the morning and that Serb artillery had attacked Moslem positions near Gradacac.

Fighting between Croats and Moslems at Gorinj Vakuf in central Bosnia has stalled a fuel convoy heading for Sarajevo with diesel, UN forces said.

Spanish UN troops in the Moslem quarter of Mostar were attacked by Croats with mortars and heavy machine-gun fire yesterday.



Back in Britain: Nurse Sally Becker hugs her mother Carol on arrival at Heathrow airport

## Typhoon sets off killer mudslide

About a dozen people were buried in a huge mudslide yesterday set off by Typhoon Yancy as it swept southern Japan.

The slide devastated an area set aside as an evacuation site. Several homes and a public building in Kinjo were destroyed and at least 15 people were missing.

Japanese TV reports said rescue workers found their way to the area on foot as roads had been blocked by torrential rain and 100mph winds.

Forecasters said the typhoon — one of the most powerful to hit Japan since the Second World War — was at its peak, but they warned of more violent gusts and torrential rain.

# Arafat battles to save self-rule plan

PLO leader Mr Yasser Arafat was fighting yesterday to drag his fractious organisation into line behind the plan for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories.

As he headed into fresh talks to sell the idea to leaders of his own Fatah movement, Palestinian sources said some of 12 leaders at the Fatah Central Council meeting, which ended a first session early yesterday, were against the plan.

Meanwhile the PLO was still holding secret negotiations with Israel somewhere in

Europe to finalise a deal on mutual recognition — something Mr Arafat appears to be banking on to neutralise opposition.

"Arafat is delaying approval at the self-rule deal by the instructions of the PLO until he gets mutual recognition so he can calm fears of the leaders opposed to him," said a Palestinian source.

PLO executive committee member Mr Yasser Abed-Rabbo said the PLO was ready to consider Israeli conditions that the organisation renounce terrorism and scrap that part of the Palestinian National

Charter which calls for the destruction of the Jewish state.

"We can deal with these formulae on the basis of our Palestine National Council's decisions and peace strategy," he said.

A PLO official in close touch with the negotiations said disagreement over the charter issue was now the main stumbling block to mutual recognition.

But Mr Abed-Rabbo said they were working to issue two statements of recognition, one Palestinian and one Israeli, which could be finished within days.

unadorned grinding rock sound, also were honoured at the 10th annual awards. Nirvana's *In Bloom* won the alternative video trophy. Stone Temple Pilots won the top new artist honour for *Plush*.

## Patten vows to push for democracy

Hong Kong Governor Mr Chris Patten insisted yesterday that Britain would press ahead with democratic reforms for Hong Kong, with or without China's blessing.

"If we can't get an agreement we would have to discharge our responsibilities before 1997," he said.

In April Mr Patten put off a debate on the main reform Bill to allow for Sino-British talks on the issue.

But the past nine rounds of talks have done nothing to reduce Beijing's fury over the plans, which will allow Hong Kong's people to elect the majority of the legislature for the first time in 1995.

The next round of talks will start in Beijing today.

# TV trail to raiders of the lost archives

The British Film Institute is on the trail of lost treasures of television.

Under a new initiative entitled "Missing - Believed Wiped", the BFI aims to unearth many precious programmes previously assumed lost, destroyed or erased.

The project, which is officially launched at a one-day conference in October at the National Film Theatre.

Recent efforts by archivists, researchers and collectors have uncovered episodes of classic comedy, drama, music and science fiction programmes, thought only to survive in the collective memory of a fond public.

Episodes of shows including *Septice & Son*, *Z Cars* and *Dr Who* are all now safely back in archive collections.

Regularly major discoveries are made — tapes found to be misfiled, directors, producers and technicians unearth versions of lost shows in their own collections.

Private collectors salvage TV treasures from derelict studios, rubbish tips, and discarded computers and car boot sales.

The BFI's project aims to build on that success, but the best concerted effort may yield even greater rewards.

The BFI has produced a list of twenty key TV programmes which it would be delighted to recover.

Project patron Michael Palin said: "Many of these programmes are not only classics in themselves but they reflect the life, spirit and preoccupations of the country at a given time."

The 20 key missing programmes are:

**Armchair Theatre: No Trams to Lime Street** (1959) ABC

Armchair Theatre, ITV's landmark drama anthology series, drew vast audiences in the 50s and 60s. Some survive, many do not.

*No Trams to Lime Street* by

Alan Owen is arguably the greatest. Only one has survived.

**A Suitable Case for Treatment** (Nov 1962) BBC

One of a series of missing plays by David Mercer. It was successful enough to be re-made as a feature film but the original remains in the archives, dir. Don Taylor. With Ian Hendry.

**Madhouse on Castle Street** (1963) BBC

Director Philip Saville had seen Bob Dylan performing in New York and cast him in this BBC drama as an anarchic young man - before Dylan was known in Britain. He also sang. The number one missing Dylan item according to many fans.

**Message for Posterity** (1967) BBC

Every Dennis Potter play is a TV event these days but this example of his early work has long been lost.

**A for Andromeda** (Oct-Nov 1961) BBC

This classic BBC sci-fi series was to the 60s what *Quatermass* was to the 50s. Julie Christie was discovered for the title role - an alien intelligence in a beautiful human form. Only fragments have survived, including the last 20 minutes, although rumours of the existence of more material abound.

**Doctor Who**

**The Tenth Planet** (Ep 4) (1966) BBC

A concentrated effort by fans and programme archivists has led to the discovery of many missing *Doctor Who*'s but there's still more to come.

This adventure, featuring the first appearance by the Cybermen and the transmission of the Doctor from William Hartnell to Patrick Troughton, would be a great find.

**Out of the Unknown Series 3** (1969) BBC

Adult classic sci-fi series. Recognised masterworks of the genre from writers such as Isaac Asimov and Robert Shekley

were adapted for the small screen. Only one has survived.

**The Likely Lads** (1964) BBC

Clement and La Frenais' wonderful scripts and James Bolam and Rodney Bewes' wide boy double act are fondly remembered but key episodes have gone.

**On the Margin** (1968) BBC

Alan Bennett's wonderfully whimsical comedy and music show, now sadly absent from the archive shelves.

**Till Death Us Do Part** (1968) BBC

The controversial and ultra-successful sit-com from Johnny Speight dragged the sit-com into the modern world. Most of the early series' finest moments are AWOL.

**Julie Box Jury** (1959 - 1967) BBC

Tragic survival rate for this series (only two, from 1960, exist) but the greatest loss is undoubtedly the show where the four Beatles were the panel judges and their contemporaries, almost drowned out by screaming fans (transmitted December 7 1963).

**Thank Your Lucky Stars** (1961 - 1966) ABC

Missing music. *Thank Your Lucky Stars* attracted all the top pop names and gave us Janice (I'll give it love) Nicholls.

**Sunday Night at the London Palladium** (1955-65) ATV

The who's-remembered long-running variety programme set the standard for TV entertainment. Anyone who was anyone appeared on the Palladium but surprisingly few editions of the show are still around.

**Opportunity Knocks** (1956-1977) ABC

Once a stalwart of the schedules, talent shows have all but vanished from our screens. Even the genre's flagship

*Opportunity Knocks* has hardly survived, despite featuring the first television performances of many top names.

**Space**

Coverage of the first moon landing. The actual NASA footage does, of course, survive but sadly the BBC's live commentary by Patrick Moore and James Burke is lost in space. (July 1969)

**New Ten** (July 3, 1987) ITN

ITN's revolutionary late night news bulletin still makes the news but that ground-breaking first bulletin, together with many early programmes, is no longer in the archives.

**A Tale of Two Cities** (1965) BBC

(and several other Sunday serials from the 50s and 60s)

Another vital part of the 60s schedule, the Sunday tea-time classic series. Despite the obvious long-term appeal of the subject matter, some of the series were wiped.

**Emergency Ward 10** (1957-1987) ATV

First of the really modern British soaps, *Emergency Ward 10* shirked domesticity and instead concentrated on the life-and-death drama of hospital life. A crucial programme from TV history, yet it is now missing.

**Jazz Goes to College** (1968-67) BBC2

Many stunning performances, including Ben Webster and Coleman Hawkins no longer available for viewing. The greatest loss is the Albert Ayler programme, recorded but never transmitted (too innovative) — and now gone.

**The Crucible** (1959) Granada

This version, starring Sean Connery and Susannah York, exists in part. (One 60-minute tape survives — the final 18 minutes are missing.) Tracing missing reels, or combining incomplete copies is another vital undertaking.

## WIN FREE BEER FOR A YEAR

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## Sunday Mercury

WORLD DIGEST

### Strip club owner in hit man charges

LOS ANGELES: The founder and owner of Chippendale's, Los Angeles' most famous male strip club, was yesterday charged with hiring hit men to kill three former staff.

Somen "Steve" Banerjee was remanded in custody on six counts including conspiracy to commit murder for hire.

The prosecution claimed he plotted to kill a choreographer and two other dancers in a rival male dance show called Adonis.

### Judge arrested

MILAN: Milan's top commercial judge, Diego Curto, was arrested yesterday in connection with Italy's biggest-ever bribery scandal.

### Luck of the Irish

DUBLIN: Part-time farmer Michael Murray and his wife Elizabeth, from Athlone, Co. Westmeath, won more than £100,000 after they both unintentionally entered the same Irish national lottery.

### Bandits kill pilot

NAIROBI: An American pilot ferrying aid to Somalia was shot dead yesterday after bandits attacked a relief camp in north Kenya.

### Call for ceasefire

LISBON: Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi yesterday renewed his call for a ceasefire with the government and said he was ready to lay down his arms on a date to be set by the United Nations.

### Peace day deaths

JOHANNESBURG: Three men were killed at a workers' hostel near Johannesburg and two were shot dead in the city centre, while South Africans of all races marked the final hour of national Peace Day.

### Gorbachev fined

MOSCOW: A court ordered former Soviet president Mr Mikhail Gorbachev to pay a second, successive fine of 30 roubles (2p) yesterday for failing to turn up to answer libel charges. It was the fourth time he had failed to show up to answer charges from Moscow Mayor Mr Yuri Luzhkov.

### Antient egg show

PERTH: Six children who found a giant fossilised egg of the Madagascan elephant bird, which floated 2,000 years ago to Australia, handed it over to a Perth museum yesterday until a decision is made on who now owns it.

### PostScript

CORK: An 18th-Century former Catholic church, now a family home with a sundial, a sauna, whirlpool bath and ten internal phone lines, is up for sale in County Cork at £200,000.