1 MARCH 1992

No 8,741

Tara Fitzgerald





Price 80p

# Major's popularity rating takes a tumble



has fallen sharply over the popularity their biggest elecpast month of fierce pre-electional asset. Mori shows that tion campaigning. While the Major's satisfaction index prime minister still holds a big the difference between those lead over Neil Kinnock, his who are satisfied with his ratings have more than halved performance and those who since January, according to a are dissatisfied — fell from new Market & Opinion Re- plus 13% in January to plus search International (Mori) 4% in February. A year ago, at poll for The Sunday Times.

popularity meant an April 9 nus 18% and Major continues election was inevitable. "The to outscore him on all the key Teflon is starting to peel off leadership qualities. Major in the heat of the battle our source said.

ings will alarm Tories who It highlights deep public oppo- of John Major, who is anxious arity of football pools.

JOHN MAJOR's popularity consider the prime minister's has fallen sharply over the popularity their biggest electhe height of the Gulf war, Labour leaders said last Major scored plus 46%. Kinnight that the slide in Major's nock, meanwhile, records mi-

> The new poll, which shows ord to delay," one senior Lab- ahead compared to a threepoint Tory lead last month,

by David Hughes Chief Political Correspondent

sition to tax cuts in next vote resources to public serweek's budget, with more than vices. Only a quarter (26%) two-thirds (69%) of respon- would prefer tax cuts. If cuts dents saying they would prefer are made, most people want Norman Lamont, the chan-

cell of the exchequer, to de-

• Norman Lamont will anno- to make the budget as attract-

thresholds increased.

Major will, however, draw Gamble on £1m lottery

unce a new national lottery ive as possible. The lottery is run of damaging statistics would mean for taxes and with a top prize of £1m in his expected to raise up to £1 billbudget next week, according to ion a year for sport, arts, envi- mism. and the Tories just can't aff- Labour, at 40%, one point today's Observer. The lottery, ronmental projects and charitoriginally planned for the elec- ies. The scheme is going ahead tion manifesto, has been brou-despite Treasury warnings The slump in Major's rat-contains a warning for Major. ght forward at the insistence that it could affect the popul-

people still see the Tories as they think a hung parliament having better economic and is the most likely outcome. taxation policies despite presi- Support for the Liberal Demoding over the longest recession crats has increased for the secsince the war. Half of those ond consecutive month, questioned also believe they despite the disclosures about would pay more tax under a Paddy Ashdown's love affair Labour government.

The level of economic coners who feared the constant what a Labour government

win the election than Labour "economically illiterate" and

comfort from the fact that (18%) - although 40% say with his secretary.

The pre-election campaign fidence has also remained un- will continue with renewed changed over the past month, vigour tomorrow when the which will relieve Tory lead- Tories open a new attack on

SUNDAY TIMES MORE Opinion Poli

STATE OF THE PARTIES Conservative 39% 40% Labour Liberal 18% **Democrats** 1% Greens

would lead to electoral failure. Labour will continue to fowould create greater pessi- prices. Kenneth Baker, the cus the political debate on the home secretary, yesterday cal- economy this week. Party The government can take led on Kinnock to "come strategists believe they are more comfort from Mori's clean" on Labour's tax plans. scoring heavily with their atfinding that more people In a letter to the Labour lead- tack on Tory plans to "bribe" (29%) think the Tories will er, he said the proposals were voters in next week's budget. Poll details: page 7

# Churches in secret talks with IRA

## Archbishops back ceasefire attempt

THE FOUR main churches in Northern Ireland have established secret contact with leaders of the IRA and loyalist paramilitary groups for the a attempting to bring about a the jail have been made permanent ceasefire in the through church envoys.

province. after seven weeks of increased province's political parties on terrorist violence in the prov- their activity. Tomorrow ince and on the mainland, has morning, the Presbyterian the backing of Cardinal Cahal Daly, the leader of Ireland's veal details of its involve-Roman Catholic community, ment at a press conference in and his Anglican counterpart, Archbishop Robin Eames. Two other Protestant church leaders are also involved.

the terrorists have involved only junior church figures. But the situation is being monitored by Daly and Eames and the other church leaders, Rodney Sterrist, moderator of the Presbyterian general assembly, and Winston Good, president of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

This latest attempt to end the violence follows growing pressure for peace in the province. John Major, the prime minister, and Albert Reynolds, the Irish premier, have placed Ulster at the top of their political agendas. Talks reconvene.

have made a joint visit to hind the short ceasefire called IRA bomb explodes in London

Police said the 6.38pm blast

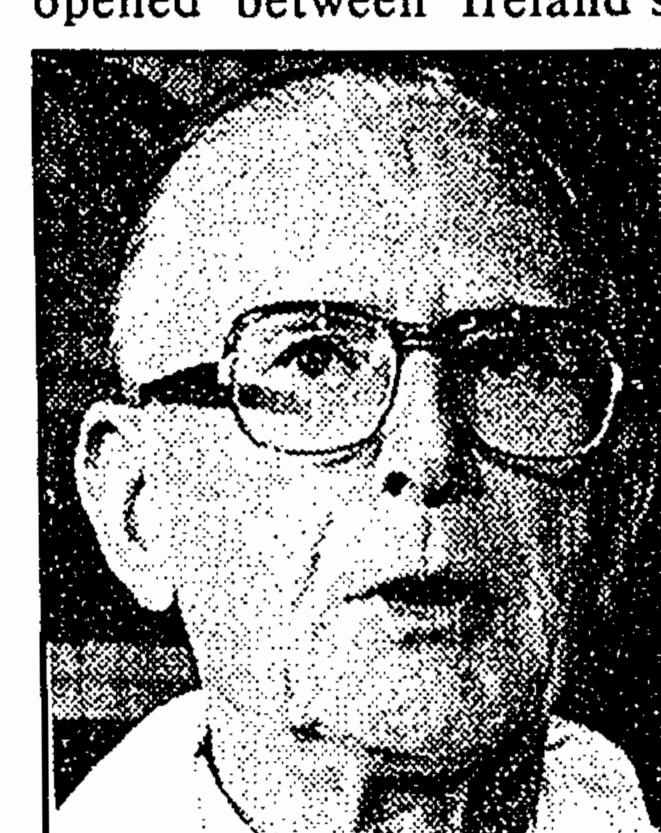
Holborn.

by Liam Clarke Belfast

"pastoral role". Contacts first time in 18 years. They are with terrorist leaders outside

On Friday, the church lead-The initiative, which comes ers briefed the leaders of the Church in Ireland plans to re-

> most 18 years that direct lines of communication have been



This is the first time in al-So far direct contacts with opened between Ireland's



Daly: support for secret talks on constitutional change in churches and the terrorists. In Northern Ireland resumed December 1974, a meeting belast week after an unexpected tween Protestant churchmen agreement between the and the IRA at Feakle, Co political parties there to Clare, resulted in a ceasefire which lasted several months. The four religious leaders Church influence was also be-

• A suspected IRA bomb ex- followed two warnings. The mitted responsibility for the

slightly injuring a woman run- warning, given to the same jured. Last night's explosion

ning to catch a bus. The device organisation at 6.28pm, spoke followed several bomb alerts

opposite the CPS building in nearly a mile from the explo-some of London's busiest

Hours earlier, the IRA ad-

sion site in Furnival Street.

ution can be achieved.

The present move was spurred by John Hume, leader of the mainly Catholic | Catholic nationalist party, the SDLP, who last month appealed to church leaders not to "sit in ivory towers" but instead to talk to the terrorists.

"It is obviously going to take a long time to get political movement going," one church source said. "But we hope it won't take so long to get a cessation of violence."

Clerical sources said: "The view of the leaders is that they would be failing in their duty they didn't open every opportunity to try and influence the situation."

The moves are tentative, however. "It could be a group of clergy meeting a group of paramilitaries," one insider said. "A ceasefire is a different matter and it is early days

The question of a direct meeting between church leaders and armed groups is a delicate one because they have already publicly ruled it out while the violence continues. Last August, Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, the

political wing of the IRA, wrote to Daly, Eames, Sterritt and Good proposing discussions. In November, they sent an open letter to him in reply, saying that they would not meet him until he either renounced the IRA campaign or the campaign was ended.

Since then, however, senior paramilitary prisoners in last year over Christmas. This have discerned some soften-Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim, has encouraged the churches ing of their position by the where, they say, they acted in to see if a more lasting sol- terrorists and their supporters.

shopping streets.

Full story: page 26

## Mass murder raises fear of total war in crumbling empire Revealed:



Survivors: a woman and child arrive in Agdam after Armenian soldiers had destroyed their village. Photograph: Grigory Dukor

## Armenian soldiers massacre hundreds of fleeing families

THE spiralling violence gripping the outer republics of the former Soviet Union gained new impetus yesterday with church figures believe they the cold-blooded slaughter of Wednesday morning when up hundreds of women and to 1,500 people were trapped children in war-racked Na- in a gorge and surrounded by gorno Karabakh.

Survivors reported that The attackers killed most of bayoneted more than 450 defending the women and Azeris, many of them women children. They then turned ploded outside a central Lon- first, just after 6pm, told a rush-hour bombing of London and children, who were fleeing their guns on the terrified don office of the Crown Prose- news organisation of a bomb Bridge railway station on Fri- an attack on their town. Hun- refugees. The few survivors cution Service last night, in a Holborn pub. The next day, when 29 people were indreds, possibly thousands, later described what hap-

had been left against a wall of a device in Turnmill Street, earlier in the day which closed

by Thomas Goltz Agdam, Azerbaijan

Armenian soldiers.

Armenian soldiers shot and the soldiers and volunteers were missing and feared dead. pened: "That's when the real Survivors who struggled slaughter began," said Azer across snow-covered moun- Hajiev, one of three soldiers tains in sub-zero temperatures to survive. "The Armenians to Agdam in Azerbaijan said just shot and shot. And then the massacre took place on they came in and started cary-

ing up people with their bayonets and knives."

"They were shooting, shooting, shooting," echoed Raisa Aslanova, who arrived many of the wounded being The transport department in Agdam with other women shot in the legs and groin. their way through Armenian fears that the already bitter [ (InterCity, Southern Region,

killed in front of her. been shot in the back said: completely out of control. "We were walking through the Though more than 1,000 have brush. Then they opened up died since civil war broke out on us and people were falling four years ago, a massacre on all around. My wife fell, then this scale seems likely to lead my child."

when they, too, came under

fire. They returned with reterrible mutilations, with and to monitor safety.

A 45-year-old man who had baijani territory, could flare to all-out war.

Helicopters had to abandon The survivors said 2,000 attempts to rescue survivors others, some of whom had Continued on page 26

# the Tory plan to sell BR

by David Hughes and Ian Birrell

THE government has abandoned plans for the wholesale privatisation of British Rail. After weeks of Whitehall wrangling, ministers have agreed a "hybrid" solution that will combine private-sector investment with a radically-overhauled BK.

BR's monopoly will be broken by throwing open the rail network to competitors who will bid for the right to run their own rail services.

Under the plan, which will feature in the Conservative election manifesto later this month, InterCity, the most profitable part of BR, will not be sold off in its entirety, as once seemed likely. But most of it will no longer be operated by BR. Instead, private companies will lease its rolling stock and other facilities and operate them along the existing routes. A new track authority, similar to the Civil Aviation Authority, will administer the system.

The railway workforce of 130,000 is expected to be cut to 70,000, and most of these workers will be employed by the new franchise holders.

A white paper on privatisation, which was to have been published in January, will now appear after the general election. It will show how John Major has compromised on his own preference for a recreation of the four regional railway companies that operated before BR.

The government also plans to set up a national rail reguports of "mountainsides filled | latory authority to ensure that with corpses". Others spoke of | there is effective competition

originally wanted to split BR and children who had made The massacre has provoked into different companies lines. She said her husband, fighting in Nagorno Kara- | freight and so on) and to sell Kayun, and a son-in-law were bakh, a mostly Armenian en- them individually, but Downclave surrounded by Azer- ing Street and the Treasury Continued on page 3



# The YORKON building promise

To construct the building with quality assured

To complete efficiently - on time and to the quoted price To To provide total customer service and satisfaction





The YORKON single source building service plus the proven YORKON building system now offers you a complete building package. From offices to multi-storey projects ... buildings in industry, commerce, healthcare, education and local government.

For an information pack or to see the YORKON video call Mark Feldon on (0904) 610990 or return the coupon today.

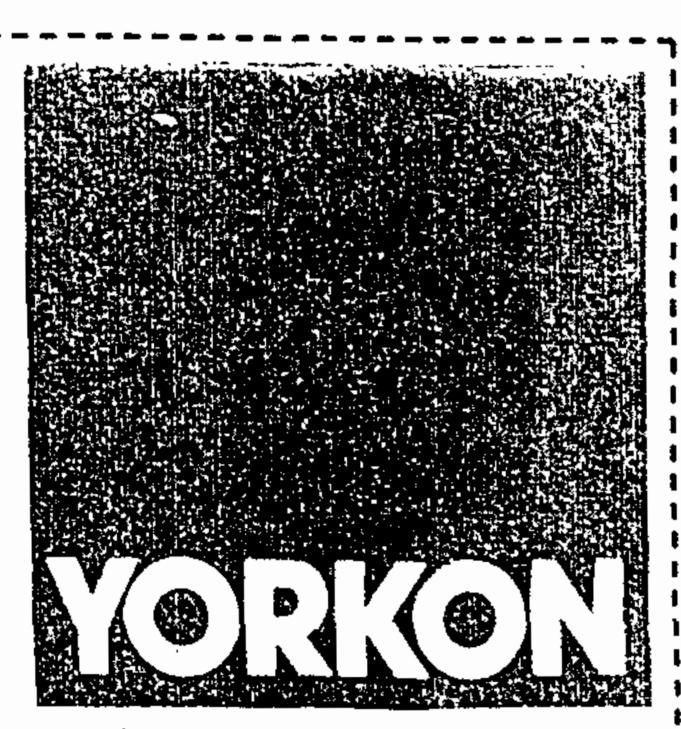


YORKON Limited, Freepost, York YO1 1UT.

Please send me the YORKON information pack I would like to see the YORKON video

Organisation

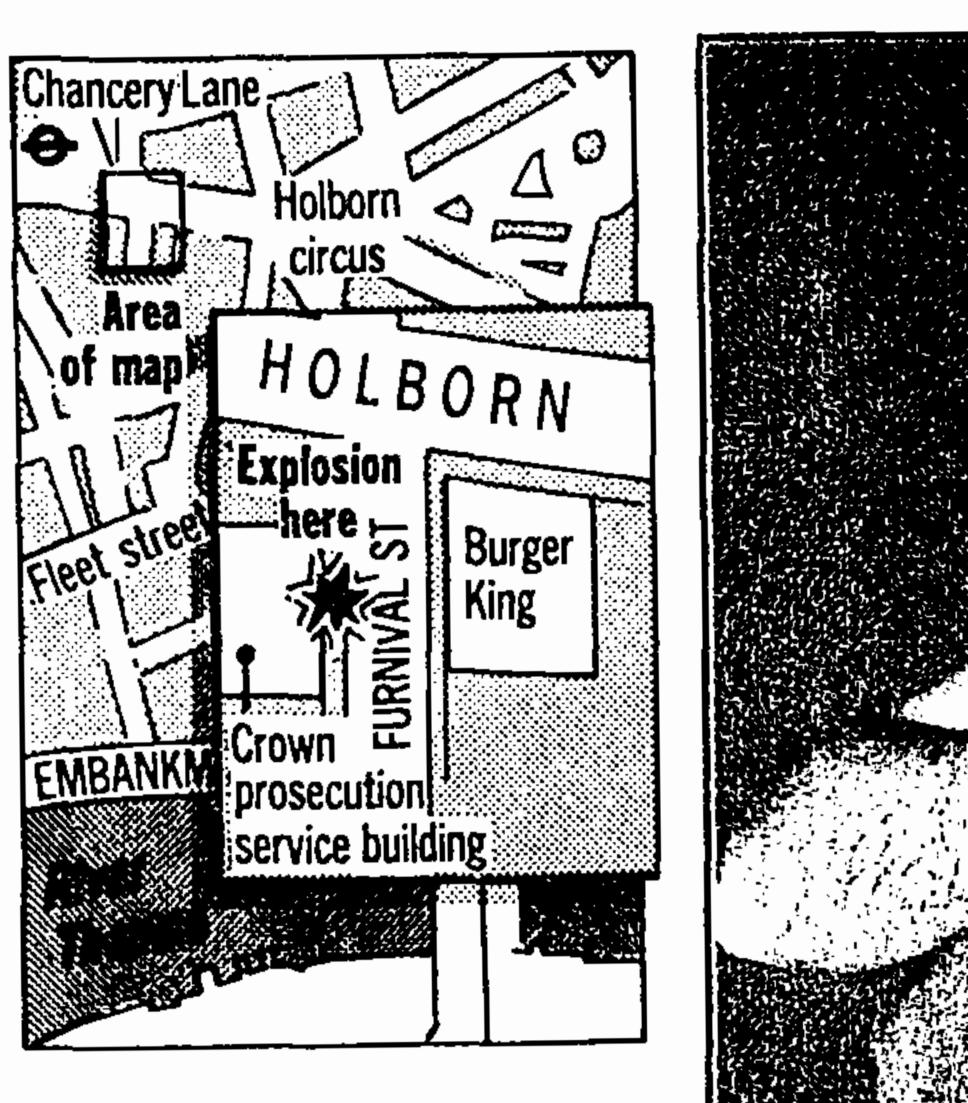
YORKON is a registered trade mark



A better way to build

# Woman hurt as bombers strike London again

5XL



by Ian Birrell and Mark Ellis

ANTI-TERRORIST police were last night investigating a suspected IRA bomb that exploded outside offices of the Crown Prosecution Service in central London.

One woman was slightly injured in the blast, which occurred at 6.38pm. Two coded commuters at London Bridge messages were given to a news railway station. organisation. The first, 36 minutes before the explosion, in Furnival Street as police warned that a bomb had been left in an unspecified pub in

the area. London's busiest shopping shook surrounding buildings. streets were closed by hoax A woman running to catch a bomb alerts, and the day an bus was taken to hospital,



Aftermath of terror: a woman is comforted after the explosion in central London last night. Firemen, right, arrive at the scene of the second blast in the capital in two days. Pictures: Andre Camara

The latest incident occurred

evacuated pubs throughout the Holborn area. Glass was IRA bomb blast injured 29 along with two male police

officers suffering from shock. Passers-by comforted each other at the scene.

Tracy Twydale, 27, was in tears after standing only yards from where the explosion hapsprayed over the street, cars pened. "People just started The explosion took place were damaged and the explo-running and I heard screams only hours after some of sion, heard four miles away, and glass shattering. I have coming from the end of the just come here for a holiday and I can't believe this has happened," she said.

Michael Stewart,

driver, was waiting for a fare including a customer who ennearby. "All of a sudden I tered seconds before the was caused by "a small explo- for gunrunning were arrested heard this huge bang come explosion. "He was very sive device". It said there were in Dublin yesterday evening from all around me. I sat terrified as my cab shook and then I heard someone screaming and glass breaking. I could see a huge plume of smoke

There were nearly 20 people in a Burger King restaurant near where the bomb went off.

lucky. Seconds earlier and he two coded warnings. The secwould have taken the full ond, 10 minutes before the force of the blast," said Ali explosion, said the bomb was Khalid, the manager.

After the explosion, police cleared busy bars and reslarge swath of the capital while they checked for other

in Turnmill Street, nearly a mile from Furnival Street.

after the IRA admitted it was responsible for the bombing of London Bridge railway station on Friday.

Vatican warns: avoid tax

Scotland Yard said the blast • Two men jailed in France arsenal destined for the IRA

after flying back from Paris on completion of their sentences. James Coll and James right to start construction of Doherty were part of a five- the road. man team captured on board The incident came hours, the Eksund in October 1987. The ship carried a huge Additional reporting by Michael Prescott

#### Families get £3m boost

MINISTERS yesterday announced a £3m package to " help working parents and families facing difficulties. The money will be available over three years to promote charity-run childcare schemes such as "out of school" clubs. Cash will also be available to support families where children might otherwise have been taken into care.

#### Game off and on

HUNDREDS of soccer fans invaded the pitch after a controversial goal in the last minute of yesterday's match between Birmingham City and Stoke City. The referee was attacked and it was announced that play had been abandoned on police advice. But after the 22,162 crowd had been cleared from the ground, the teams reappeared to play the last 35 seconds in a 1-1 draw.

#### Chain protest

PROTESTERS chained themselves to a home-made fence on the proposed route of the M3 extension at Twyford Down in Hampshire, where bulldozers will be able to move into a protected watermeadow from today. Jonathon Porritt, of Friends of the Earth said: "We will remain here for as long as it takes." About 150 people joined the action in the hours before the government gained the legal

#### Peace move

MORE than 1,000 peace campaigners from the Irish republic travelled by train to Belfast for a shopping expedition in protest against bomb attacks there.

### **Smoking action**

TOUGHER laws against the sale of cigarettes to children come into effect today. Shopkeepers selling cigarettes to those under 16 will face fines ranging from £400 to £2,500.



**Bond winners** 

### and you'll become a sinner criticism from Catholics who want the church to relax its approach. "The church is going back on itself," said Peter Stanford, editor of The

Does one flick a V-sign before or after being introduced to her Majesty?'

THE winner of the £100,000 prize in the weekly Premium Bond draw, annlives in Wandsworth, southwest 17BF 781757, of Hampshire, and the £25,000 prize to 35DT 412746, of Oxfordshire.

## Fleeing Azeris RERBAILAN MILES AGDAM massacred

#### CONTINUED FROM P. 1

fled separately, were still missing; many could perish from their wounds or the cold. Those who made it to Agdam, some carrying their dead and wounded, said many more bodies remained behind.

The massacre began with an Armenian assault on the town of Khojaly on Monday. "It started at around 10 at night," said Bahram Nigmatal, a de- in the middle of the gorge the serter from the army who had Armenians opened fire from been hiding in Khojaly. "They the ridges." The major was overran the airport and then shot through the head and attacked the town. We tried to died instantly. Thirty soldiers help the women and children and 19 airport guards were get out. I saw 12 of our group killed, leaving the column of get killed. I don't know how women and children defencemany others died."

An estimated 500 people were killed, and it was at that and bayoneting at will. point that Major Alef Hajiev,

kilometre-long ravine. national guards, 30 airport Hajiev rounded up the 33 security officials and volunteer militiamen to form a ragtag fighting force. "The major had the women and children and other civilians go down into the bottom of the ravine children and three women. while we ran cover for them on the hillside," said Asif Usubov, another survivor.

"At dawn, when we arrived less, Usubov said. The soldiers then moved in, shooting

By late yesterday, 479 head of the local national deaths had been registered at guard, organised a break-out the morgue in Agdam's through Armenian lines to mosque, and 29 bodies had lead civilians to Agdam down been buried in the cemetery. the Askeron gap, a 10- Of the seven corpses I saw



awaiting burial, two were

Agdam hospital was a scene of carnage. Doctors said they had 140 patients who escaped proved by the Pope. It is ex- Liberal Catholics will be upthe slaughter, most with bullet injuries or deep stab wounds.

Nor were they safe in Agdam. On Friday night rockets fell on the city, destroying several buildings and killing 15. Refugees fled towards Baku, the Azeri capital. "The Armenians won't stop until they get to Baku," said one fleeing government official. "That's when the real fighting will begin."

• Seventeen people were commandments by spelling An international committee killed and 121 seriously injured when a rocket fired by anti-government Afghan guerrillas exploded in Kabul.

#### THOU shalt not avoid taxes. by Rebecca Fowler

Thou shalt not place bets. Thou shalt not profit from slavery or cheap Third World labour. Thou shalt not take

of businessmen. ance are among the officially mains a must for priests. listed aberrations introduced and awaits papal signature.

signed to update existing allowed into heaven. out their implications in of 11 doctrinal experts was set contemporary society. The up to write a new catechism catechism, untouched for 400 six years ago. When an early years, could alarm the busi- draft was sent to bishops

ness community by its injunctions against contemporary financial habits and practices

among Roman Catholics traditional line on sexual throughout the industrialised morality. Divorce, free love, world and ruffle the feathers homosexuality and masturbation are still classified as grave Gambling and tax avoid- moral errors. Celibacy re-

The draft resurrects the in the revised Universal Cate- Catholic doctrine of purchism, which has been ap- gatory, where sinful souls not proved by Vatican officials condemned to hell after death are punished for their misde-Many of the rules are de- meanours before being

worldwide for their comments, it drew protests that it was too stringent. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's traditionalist doctrine overlord, set about including Catholic Herald and co-au-

pected to cause consternation set that the catechism takes a sexual matters. Sex before described as "degrading" if expressed in homosexual acts. Christ never told us to be Divorce is condemned as guilty about. Christ wasn't "harmful of the convenant of salvation", and divorcees will continue to be refused the maintain it is the backbone of

eucharist. Perversions". It is labelled a the right time for a new one. adults, according to the draft. more and this will remind us

A new set of religious commandments for modern sinners is about to be approved by the Pope. It is expected to cause constant and co-augretation an "They are destroying the marriage is classified as a church with these unworkable grave sin. Homosexuality is rules and regulations, telling us to feel guilty about things

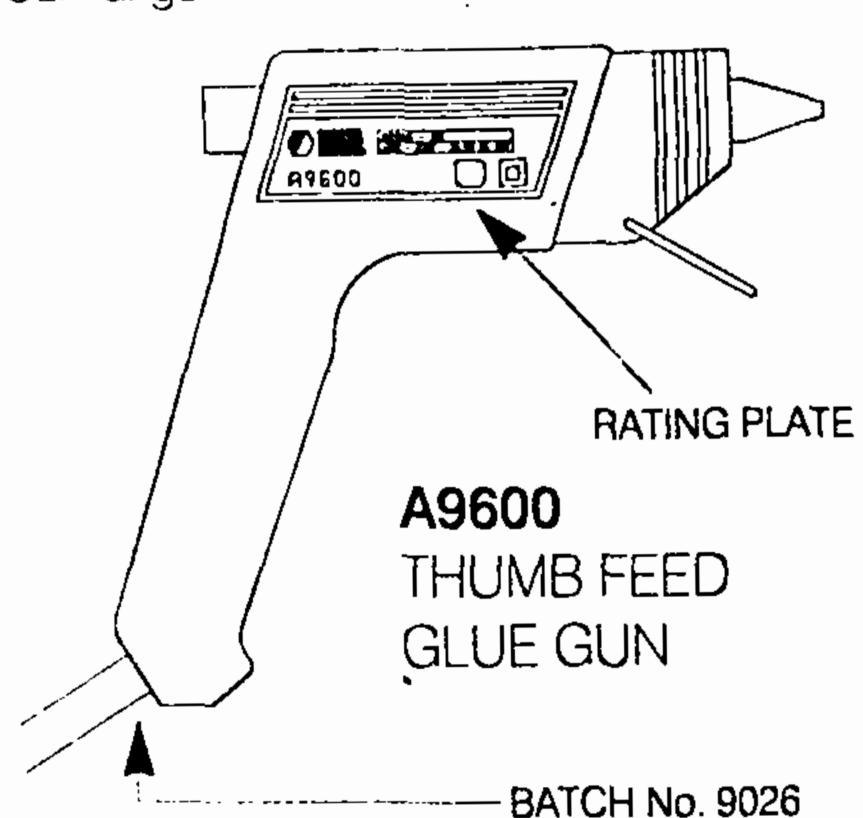
> worried about masturbation." Defenders of the catechism the Catholic Church and as Masturbation is classified relevant today as 400 years under the heading of "De- ago. Piers Paul Read, a Cathoviations, Abnormalities and lic novelist, said: "It's exactly "grave moral disorder", lot of liberal Catholics have ounced yesterday, was the holder of though the sin is less grave said there are certain things bond number 12HW 198988, who among adolescents than you don't need to believe any London. The £50,000 prize went to

# Such attitudes draw intense what we should believe."

## BLACK & DECKER® SAFETY NOTICE

A9600 GLUE GUN

In the course of our continuous quality programme we have discovered a possible electrical insulation problem on a small quantity of one model within our Glue Gun range



This notice is only relevant to one model, the A9600 Thumb Feed Glue Gun, purchased over the last 2 years, with the batch no. 9026.

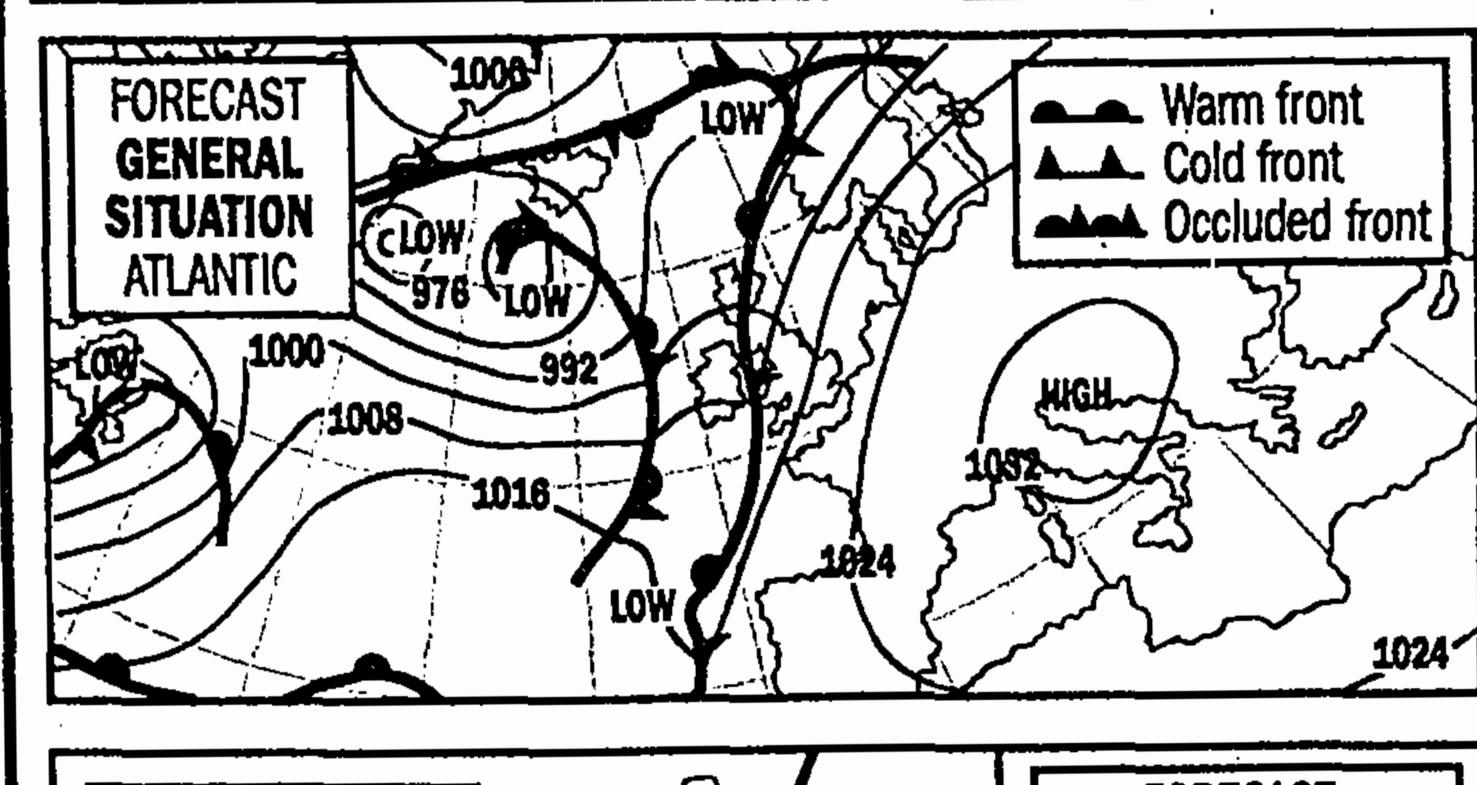
To identify the product locate the rating plate on the side of the gun. Amongst other information will be the catalogue no A9600. Assuming this is the case. look at the base of the gun where the cable joins the casing. The number stamped on the base is the batch number. Only A9600's with the batch number of '9026' are affected.

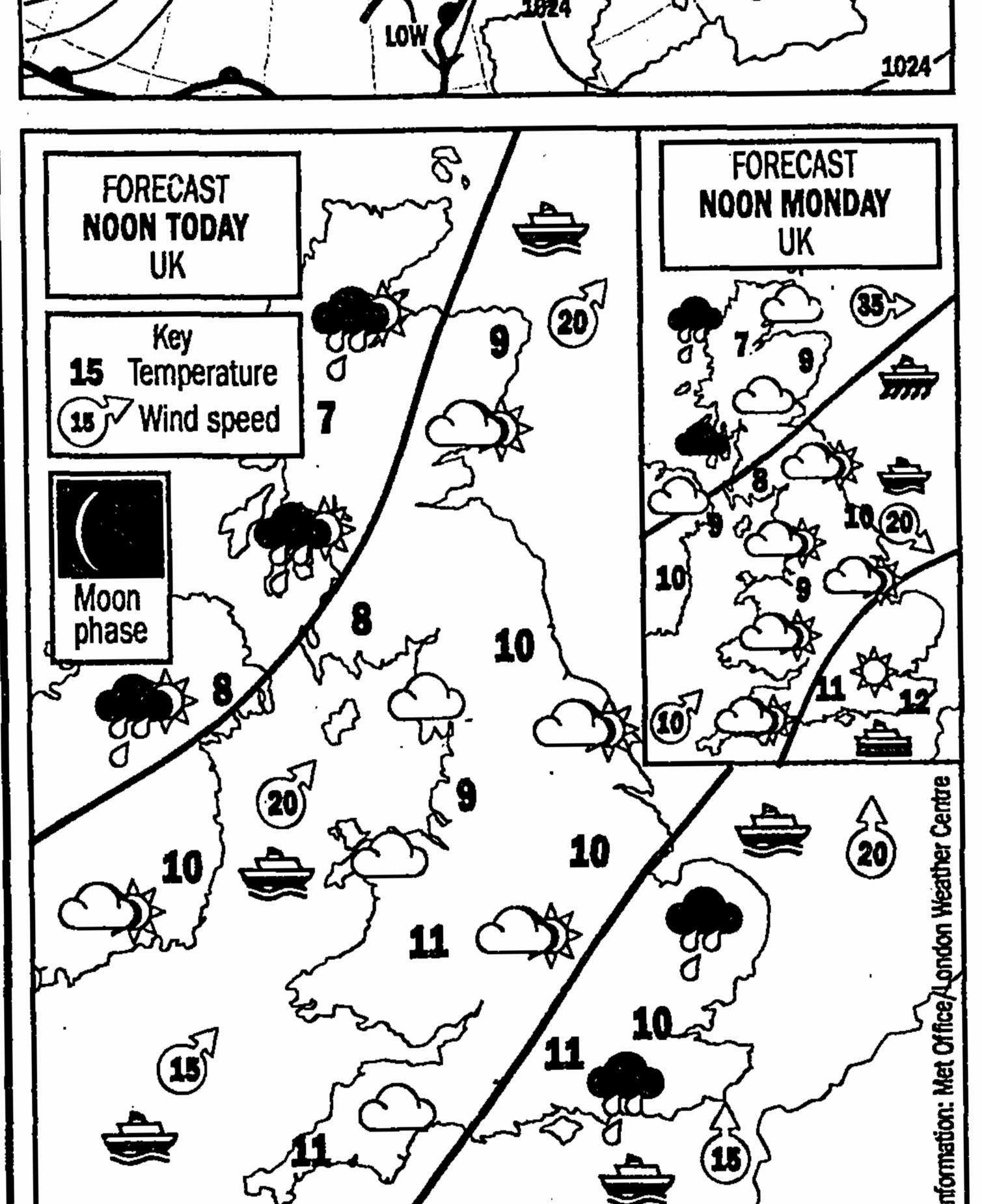
All other Black & Decker Glue Guns including A9600's with other batch numbers are totally unaffected

If you possess a A9600 Glue Gun of batch no. 9026, please cease using it immediately and contact us at your earliest convenience.

> We have set up a helpline on (Freephone) 0800 252 661

to take your calls between 9am and 5pm. Or simply call your local Black & Decker Service Centre (see Yellow Pages for details). Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.





The sky at night Jupiter, brighter than any star, is

conspicuous in the E at nightfall, crosses the S sky during the night and sinks into the W before dawn. It lies 660 million km away in Leo, 10 deg below-left of Regulus, and stood directly opposite the Sun in the sky vesterday. Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun, may be glimpsed - binoculars will

Today's tides High tide, Dover: 09.34 5.6m 21.48 5.8m Time differences: London Bridge +2hrs 52mins, Portsmouth +29mins, Newlyn'+6hrs, Milford Havan -4hrs 54mins, Liverpool +13mins, Glasgow +1hr 52mins, Oban -4hrs

51mins, Aberdeen +2hrs 31mins, Hull -4hrs

52mins. Lowestoft -1hr 33mins.

help - in the W evening twilight this The nova in Cygnus peaked at the fourth magnitude in brightness last weekend and remains visible in binoculars as it fades slowly. It lies 7.5 deg N of Deneb, the

before dawn. Sun Lights Moon rises sets on off rises sets

across the low N sky from the NNW in the

brightest star in Cygnus, and moves

evening to climb well up in the ENE

07.13 18.00 18.00 07.10 05.54 14.56 06.55 17.51 17.51 06.53 05.29 14.53 07.08 17.52 17.52 07.05 05.53 14.44 06.45 17.41 17.41 06.43 05.19 14.42 Manchestr 06.56 17.47 17.47 06.54 05.35 14.44 Newcastle 06.56 17.42 17.42 06.53 05.38 14.36

### Rain moving southeast

WEATHER AND TRAVEL OUTLOOK

GENERAL SITUATION to midnight tonight: Troughs of low pressure will move Agadir erratically southeast followed by a cool, showery, westerly airstream. Much of Algiers England will start dry and bright, but rain, already into Wales and some western Athens parts by morning, will spread to remaining parts of England, clearing the southest Canadies around midnight. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have bright or sunny Costs del sol 17 Fair intervals and scattered showers, these becoming frequent and wintry later. Cyprus 16 Fair Another very mild day over southeast England but becoming colder from the northwest. Windy in the northwest.

## District forecasts

London, SE England, E Anglia: Sunny spells, but cloud increasing with rain later. Wind S moderate. Very mild. Max 13C (55F).

Cent S England, Midlands E, E England, Channel Islands, Cent N England: Bright or sunny intervals at first, but rain by afternoon, clearing later. Wind S, becoming SW moderate. Mild. Max 11C

Midlands W, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals after early rain, scattered showers later. Wind SW moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Sunny intervals and showers, these becoming frequent and heavy with snow in places, mainly over hills. Wind SW fresh or strong. Max 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Serre Cheviler 30

Outlook Monday will be a mostly dry day with some sunshine, though showers are likely over Scotland at first. Rain will reach NW Scotland in the evening and this will meander S over England and Wales by Wednesday replacing the

### Irish Republic

Overnight rain will continue to move away leaving a rather cloudy morning, but with sunny intervals developing. There will be a fresh westerly wind with temperatures reaching a mild 10C (50F). Outlook for Sunday night and Monday: a few showers at first near west coasts otherwise fine and dry.

### The UK last week

Warmest by day: Cromer, Norfolk (27th) 15C. Coldest by night: Netheravon, Salisbury Plain (25th) -5C. Wettest: Glasgow Airport (22nd) 2.12in. Sunniest: Isles of Sciily & Torquay (28th) 9.8hr.

### Forecast: Mediterranean

Monday and Tuesday Cloudy, showers, warm 18 Fair Sun and showers, warm 18 Fair Sunny periods, showers Sunny periods, warmer 20 Cloudy Sunny intervals, showers Showers and sun, breezy Sunny periods, warmer Mainly dry, sunny periods 14 Sunny Dry and sunny Mainly dry but cool 18 Fair Cloudy, a few showers Warmer with some sun Mostly dry, sunny periods Dry with sunny periods Palermo Mainly dry and sunny

### Europe Amsterdam

Rain, then bright, breezy Rain then showers, cooler Rain, then sun but cooler Rain, then dry and bright Brussels Unsettled, breezy, cooler Copenhagen Mainly dry and sunny Dry, sunny periods Early fog, hazy sunshine 6 Rain Rain or showers, colder 16 Fair Sunny periods, less mild Stockholm Unsettled, windy, colder Mostly fine and dry Vienna Noon yesterday: Britain

Dry and sunny

Dry, sunny periods

### SKI SCENE

13/2 All areas in good condition

17/2 Excellent skiing to be found

17/2 Spring anow conditions

17/2 Excellent skiing, resort crowded

Alpine weather and resort conditions High pressure will dominate the weather morning with soft snow on lower slopes in

over the Alps, with severe overnight frosts the sunshine during the afternoon. A band and relatively mild, sunny days with very of cloud may produce a little snow in the little breeze. Pistes are likely to be icy in the eastern Alps on Tuesday.

Fair Varied Slush Fine

Hard Spring Good Sun

Good Varied Fair

Fair

40 235

Varied Fair Fine

Resort	L.	Ü	Piste	OH P	Resort	Wethr	°C	Snow	
Alpe D'huez	92	130	Good	Varied	Good	Sun	-1	17/2	Spring skiing, key am
Arosa	110	120	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	0	18/2	Great piste skling in all areas
Cervinia	40	140	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	3	25/2	Mostly good, slushy lower dov
Chamonix	70	275	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	0	16/2	Excellent piste skling continue
Crans Montna	50	180	Good	Heavy	Fair	Fine	3	17/2	Good sunny skling
Flaine	70	215	icy	Varied	Worn	Fine	3	17/2	Pleasant sunny skiing on ali ru
Grindelwald	25	175	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	8	17/2	Mainly good, lower slopes bar
Gataad	35	105	Good	Spring	Fair	Fine	-10	18/2	Lovely spring conditions
igis	10	100	Fair	Varied	Wom	Fine	6	18/2	Pistes icy in morning
isola	30	50	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	1	27/2	Best on N facing slopes
Kitzbuhel	65	150	Good	Varied	Slush	Fine	5	21/2	lcy in morning, soft in afternoon
Klosters	100	195	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	5	17/2	Excellent skling continues
Les Arcs	98	136	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	6	17/2	Good piste skiing, blue skies
Mayrhofen	40	160	Good			Sun	3	21/2	Generally good skiling
Megeve	45	155	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	3	18/2	Reasonable skiing throughout
Murren	95	220	Good		Good	Sun	2	17/2	S facing slopes rather slushy
Obergurgi	115	135	Good	_	Good	Fair	<sup>'</sup> 5	17/2	Good skiing under biue skies
Schladming	25	170	Good		Heavy	Fine	5	22/2	Superb above middle station

Key: L, U: Snow depth (cm) on lower and upper alopes; Off P: Off piste; Resort: Runs to resort; °C: 5pm temperature; Reports supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain Snow: date of last snowfall

## Spring skling

As March begins, most Alpine resorts are already enjoying typical spring conditions: warm days and cold nights resulting in south-facing slopes being icy early on and slushy in the afternoons. After very low temperatures in mid February, last week brought mainly warm,

sunny weather to the Alps. However the snow base is holding up well and runs down to resort level remain open almost everywhere, aithough slush and bare patches are occasionally causing problems. Above 2,000m almost all pistes are in first class

condition with dry, powdery snow. Resorts like Grindelwald, Wengen and Mürren in the Swiss Bernese Oberland continue to enjoy their best season for many years. Last Wednesday, for example, I skied from Mürren

right down to the valley village of Lauterbrunnen at just 800m. In Austria the best skiing is at St Anton and Lech, while in France the best places are the resorts in the Tarentaise like Val d'Isère Tignes and Courchevel. Italy generally has the least good conditions in Europe right now, but low temperatures enable snow guns to operate at night. Carnival time and school holidays mean long lift queues.

Alistair Scott

Goltz, Thomas. "Armenian soldiers massacre hundreds of fleeing families." Sunday Times, 1 Mar. 1992, p. [1]+. The Sunday Times Historical Archive, https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/FP1802831950/STHA?u=nypl&sid=STHA&xid=e1378a7e. Accessed 17 Oct. 2020.