OBITUARIES

Viscount Younger of Leckie

Crossbench peer from an old brewing family with Conservative political ties and a strong sense of noblesse oblige

THE 3rd VISCOUNT YOUNGER OF LECKIE, who has died aged 90, was the grandson of one prominent Conservative and the father of another; his own ideals, though, were never confined within the straitjacket of party politics.

For if Teddy Younger belonged to a family which was only ennobled in his lifetime, his notions of social obligation were very much of the old paternalistic school.

Edward George Younger was born on Nov 21 1906, into a brewing family whose business had been founded by his great-great-great-great grandfather in the 18th century.

His grandfather, George Younger, was the first member of the family to come to national prominence. A popular member of the House of Commons as MP for Ayr District from 1906 to 1922, George Younger was created a baronet by his Liberal political opponents in 1911. Subsequently he was largely responsible for the creation of the Conservative and Liberal coalition which won the "coupon" election of 1918.

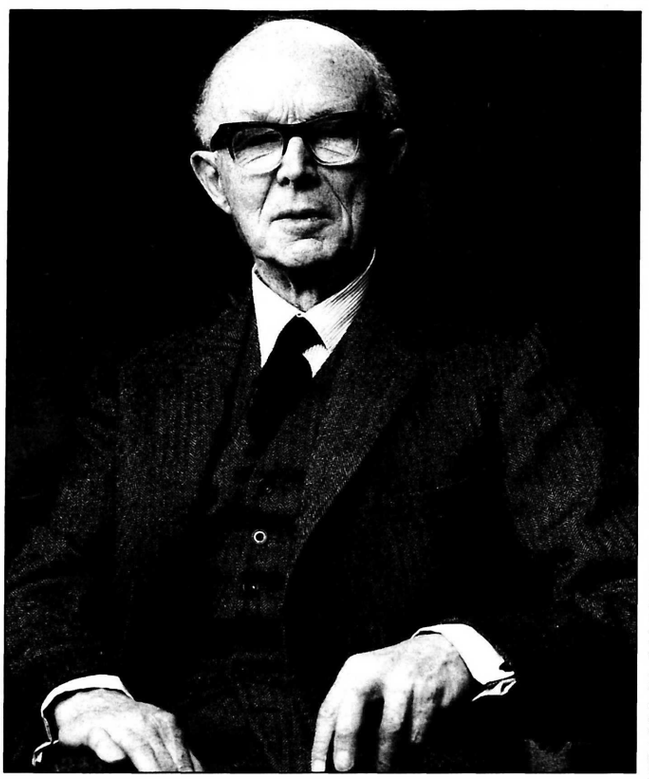
In October 1922, though, he argued at a meeting of the Carlton Club that the Conservatives should leave the coalition, for which he was memorably stigmatised by Lord Birkenhead as "the cabin boy" who was running the ship. The next year, after the Conservatives had won the election, the cabin boy was created Viscount Younger of Leckie, and became treasurer of the party.

In 1924 he was involved in the publication of the Zinoviev letter. The letter, which purported to be from Grigori Zinoviev, the president of the Comintern, urged British Communists to prepare for the forthcoming British revolution by infiltrating the armed forces and by putting pressure on their supporters in the Labour Party.

There is no doubt that Younger believed the letter to be genuine. He agreed to pay £5,000 to a former Intelligence officer, who had informed Central Office of its existence. Though it became received wisdom that its publication in the *Daily Mail*, just before the 1924 election, won that contest for the Conservatives, the Labour Party increased its vote by a million. It was the wholesale transfer of Liberal votes that carried the day for the Conservatives.

The 2nd Viscount Younger of Leckie, who succeeded his father in 1929, was content to be chairman of the family brewery and a director of the National Bank of Scotland. He married the elder daughter of Sir John Gilmour of Lundin, 1st Bt, and had two sons and two daughters.

Teddy Younger and his younger brother Kenneth were educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford. But since their parents were a distant influence, the boys and their sisters were dependent for affection and guidance upon their excellent and much-loved nanny, who instilled her Left-of-centre principles.



Younger: influenced as a boy by his much-loved Scottish nanny's Left-of-centre principles

Kenneth Younger subsequently became a Labour MP and a notable Minister of State at the Foreign Office in 1950-51, when the health of the Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, was failing. Teddy Younger succeeded his father as 3rd Viscount and 3rd Bt in 1946, and (despite his wife being a committed Tory) sat on the cross-benches in the House of Lords, which he attended regularly for 55 years.

Younger made his maiden speech in the Lords in 1947, but waited another 16 years to make his next contribution, in which he brought the ideas of Adam Smith to bear upon the nation's economic plight. Subsequently Younger spoke on the necessity of civil defence, and (in 1977) on the need for the nation to unite in order to restore its finances.

Meanwhile his eldest son George Younger had been elected as MP for Ayr in 1964, having abandoned his candidacy at Kinross and West Perthshire in the previous year to allow Sir Alec Douglas-Home to win a seat in the Commons. His elevation to Secretary of State for Scotland in 1979, and Secretary of State for Defence in 1986 finally turned his father into a "Support the Boy" Tory.

The 3rd Viscount took some satisfaction in not having imperilled his son's political career by passing on the title too soon; and he lived to see George Younger created a life peer as Lord Younger of Prestwick in 1992.

Teddy Younger himself had found his greatest fulfilment in the Second World War, when he proved a superb staff officer. But his war began badly when his regiment, the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, after fighting in the Saar area, was moved across to St Valéry-en-Caux, on the coast to the west of Dieppe, where it was trapped by the German panzers. By luck Younger was on his motor cycle, taking a message to Brigade headquarters, and managed to escape. He was appointed OBE in 1940.

Thereafter he served under Major-General Douglas Wimberley, who was engaged in re-forming the 51st Highland Division, and then under General Sir Alan Cunningham in Northern Ireland. He taught at Staff College, and rose to the rank of colonel before being demobilised. After the war he remained active in the Territorial Army and was the organiser for Civil Defence in Stirlingshire.

Conscious of the need to provide employment for those who lived on the estate which he inherited from his father at Leckie, near Stirling, Younger started a dairy farm. This, and much replanting, seriously depleted his finances; nevertheless, he was proud of his success in providing a cushion for the estate workers in the changed social conditions prevailing after the war.

His decision to resign from the brewing business in 1962 (George Younger & Son Ltd of Alloa had been taken over three years before) further weakened his financial position. As Younger saw the matter, an undertaking had been given by the new directors that the brewery in Alloa would remain operational: when it was closed he left the company.

From 1964 to 1979 Younger was Lord Lieutenant of Stirlingshire. The high point of his tenure was the celebration in 1964 of the 650th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn; the low point, for which — quite unwarrantedly — he felt responsible, was the insulting behaviour towards the Queen at the opening of Stirling University.

Younger served as a trustee of the Nuffield Foundation and as chairman of the Scottish Multiple Sclerosis Society.

A talented pianist, he liked to play for dances and for children, but seldom simply for his own pleasure. Yet his rigour never disguised his native twinkle.

He married, in 1930, Evelyn McClure, who died in 1983; they had three sons and daughter. The youngest son, Bobby, is Sheriff of Tayside, Central and Fife. The eldest son, Lord Younger of Prestwick, born in 1931, succeeds as 4th Viscount and 4th Bt.

David Nendick

The king-pin of Hong Kong's finances

DAVID NENDICK, who has died aged 64, was Hong Kong's Secretary for Monetary Affairs from 1985 to 1995, a period of more than usual turbulence in the territory's financial markets.

There being no central bank in Hong Kong, the Secretary for Monetary Affairs has been the official chiefly responsible for the currency as well as for banking supervision and market regulation.

In the fast-moving circumstances of Hong Kong in the mid-1980s, this was a challenging portfolio, to which Nendick brought more than 30 years of experience in the Bank of England, and a measured, pragmatic style.

Through a series of crises he remained calm, avuncular and straightforward, commanding respect both for his expertise, and for his clear commitment to the interests of Hong Kong.

He arrived shortly after the collapse (in the aftermath of a property boom) of a prominent local institution, the Overseas Trust Bank, with five other smaller banks in deep trouble. All six were successfully rescued, and under Nendick's chairmanship OTB returned to substantial profitability.

In 1991, he dealt more controversially with the collapse of the Hong Kong branch of the fraud-ridden Bank of Credit and Commercial International — alleged to have taken huge deposits from mainland Chinese officials in exchange for bribes.

The Hong Kong government's refusal to bail out BCCI depositors led to a run on several other banks in the territory — in turn provoking the accusation from Nendick that disgruntled BCCI customers were spreading "malicious lies" to undermine the banking system.

But perhaps the most difficult episode of Nendick's tenure was the wrangling which followed "Black Monday", the worldwide share price collapse in October 1987. Trading was suspended for a week on the Hong Kong Exchange — the only major stock market to close during the crisis.

Nendick held that closure might at least ensure "that sanity is restored to the system". Subsequent investigations led to the forced resignation, at Nendick's insistence, of seven of the Stock Exchange's 21 committee members.

Nendick took steps to restore confidence by instituting a series of reforms in both the Stock Exchange and the volatile financial futures exchange.

Throughout this period,

Nendick: calm in crisis

Nendick was called upon to justify the retention of the "peg" — the fixed parity of the Hong Kong currency against the US dollar, introduced as an emergency measure in 1983. As confidence in Hong Kong fluctuated, the "peg" came under repeated speculative pressure and journalistic questioning, but Nendick was unflappably reasonable in his defence of the *status quo* — and the "peg" remained a key element in Hong Kong's financial stability.

David Alan Challoner Nendick, the son of a bookbinder, was born in Hertfordshire on July 31 1932 and educated at Haileybury. After a national service commission in the Royal Artillery, he entered the Bank of England in 1953.

Nendick gained a thorough grounding in commercial finance, as well as in central banking. The early years were spent in the Chief Cashier's Office, and the Discount Office, the Bank's primary point of contact with the London money markets. He also spent time in the Economic Intelligence Department, and in 1965 became secretary to the Deputy Governor, Leslie O'Brien.

From 1970 to 1972 Nendick was seconded via the IMF to the Bank of Mauritius, as adviser to its governor. He returned to London to become Assistant Chief Cashier, responsible for public sector borrowing, and served also as an alternate director of the European Development Bank.

Nendick was a Hong Kong *magistrate*. He was appointed CBE in 1990.

As a young man, David Nendick sprinted for the Bank of England athletics team. In later life he enjoyed collecting shells and reading crime fiction.

He married, in 1964, Miriam Gibbons, a clergyman's daughter; they had a son and two daughters.

Muhammad Fadil al-Jamali

American-educated Iraqi Prime Minister who was sentenced to death after a coup

MUHAMMAD FADIL AL-JAMALI, who has died aged 94, was twice Prime Minister of Iraq; he was also the last surviving original signatory of the Charter of the United Nations.

An outward-looking and humane Arab nationalist, he was active in the post-war period of European withdrawal from the Near East. He pushed hard for the union of his country with Syria, and opposed both the "atheist religion" of communism and Western colonialism.

His political career ended with the military coup in Iraq in 1958, during which he was sentenced to death. He spent three years in prison, most of it a single cell with other members of the deposed cabinet. His sentence was commuted after appeals from world leaders, including the UN secretary general Dag Hammarskjold and Pope John XXIII.

The coup leader and dictator Abd al-Karim al-Qassem told al-Jamali on his release that he had considered him too valuable to execute, and had imprisoned him to ensure his safety.

By then al-Jamali was a respected figure in international forums. He was a forceful advocate of non-alignment and idealist Islamic values. He had also fought hard for a fair resolution of the Palestine question.

Muhammad Fadil al-Jamali was born near Baghdad on April 20 1903, in Kadhimain, a Shi'ite theological centre on the Tigris. His father, Sheikh Abbas ibn Hajji Muhammad al-Jamali, was a leading Shi'ite cleric and scholar, and the young al-Jamali underwent a strict religious education.

It came as a shock to his father when, in 1919, al-Jamali was awarded a government scholarship to the American University of Beirut (AUB), a college established by Protestant missionaries. Sheikh Abbas's reluctance to allow his son to be exposed to Christian ways was overcome by a religious ruling, or fatwa, by a senior divine, which stated there was no danger in al-Jamali's attending a Christian institution with the aim of serving Islam in the future. Al-Jamali left for Beirut in 1921, among the group of the first Iraqis to attend AUB.

Al-Jamali later received a fellowship to Teachers College, part of Columbia University in New York. He received a doctorate in education in 1932, and was appointed to Iraq's ministry of education. He soon became its director-general, a post he held for 10 years.

During his American sojourn he met the woman he married, Sarah Hayden Powell, the daughter of the head of the Minnesota branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. They were married in 1933 in Baghdad. In 1935 they had their first child, a son, who four years later was struck with serious brain damage after an infection. This experience gave both parents an enduring concern for the care of the mentally retarded.

In 1943 the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nuri al-Said, ordered al-Jamali's transfer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The reasons for this were obscurely political. Although nominally independent, Iraq was still under the influence of Britain, then at the height of war with Germany.

Al-Jamali had been confused in British intelligence reports with a near namesake who had enthusiastically gone to meet Hitler (on the Arab principle that the enemy of my enemy is my friend). Even after this misunderstanding was resolved, al-Jamali was considered too prominent an Arab nationalist for British comfort, and he was moved sideways.

Two years later he was a member of the Iraqi delegation to the UN organisational conference in San Francisco. Here al-Jamali argued strongly against the veto power of the five permanent members of the security council. His efforts earned him a rebuke from British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden: "Jamali, stop fighting the veto or there will be no United Nations."

Although a junior member of the Iraqi delegation, he signed the UN Charter on Iraq's behalf because the delegation's senior members, including Nuri al-Said, had left in protest against American policy on Palestine.

He became Foreign Minister in 1945, and in 1949 Iraq's Permanent Representative to the UN. He served as Prime Minister in 1953 and 1954, under the newly enthroned, 18-year-old King Faisal II. When Nuri al-Said returned to power in 1954 he appointed al-Jamali foreign minister.

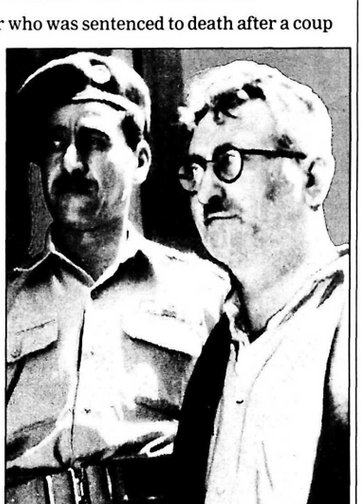
In 1955 al-Jamali negotiated Iraq's entry into the Baghdad Pact, a Western-oriented, anti-Soviet defence agreement, and later that year faced the wrath of Left-ward-leaning Arab states, led by Nasser's Egypt, at the founding conference of the non-aligned movement at Bandung, Indonesia.

In the revolt against the monarchy on July 14 1958, al-Jamali was arrested, after false reports had been broadcast that he had been executed and dragged through the streets of Baghdad by demonstrators. Tu stify his arrest a crime was defined, applicable retrospectively, of giving a speech at an international organisation against any Arab head of state.

Al-Jamali's trials were televised, and he was sentenced to death, 55 years in prison, and fined 100,000 dinars. During the three years he spent in jail before being pardoned, he wrote a book of religious instruction for his son Abbas.

After his release in 1961 he was offered a haven in Tunisia by President Habib Bourguiba, an old friend, and lived there for the rest of his life, teaching philosophy of education at Tunis University and writing.

He and his wife Sarah had three sons.



Al-Jamali under arrest after the coup of 1958

Senator John Macdonald, In Ottawa, aged 91. Last serving member of Canadian Senate appointed for life before introduction of retirement at 75. School principal 1928-30; called to Nova Scotia Bar 1934; served with Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in England and North West Europe, Second World War. Sat as Conservative member, Nova Scotia Legislature 1956-60. Summoned to Senate 1960; Conservative whip 1962-1984.

Ayissi Mvodo. In Paris, aged 64. Former interior minister of Cameroon. Outspoken critic of President Paul Biya. Resigned from the ruling Cameroonian People's Democratic Movement last year in order to launch his candidacy for this year's presidential elections in October. Considered to be the strongest of three presidential candidates.

Acharya Tulsi. At Bikanir, India, aged 83. Chief of the Terapanthi Jain Shwetambar Sangham, a sect of Jainism. Preached non-violence to millions in India. Followers of Jainism, an offshoot of Hinduism, believe it wrong to injure any living organism; monks wear face masks to avoid inhaling insects by mistake.

Gonzalo Fonseca. At Seravezza, Tuscany, aged 74. Uraguayan-born artist who sculpted strange miniature buildings influenced by archaeological sites he had visited in Latin America, Europe and the Middle East. Created a 40 ft tower for the Mexico Olympics in 1968.

Auberon Waugh

WAY OF THE WORLD

Shandong candidate

PHOTOGRAPHS of young Britons floundering in mud at the Glastonbury Festival in Saturday's newspaper reminded me irresistibly of the Great War, about which I find myself brooding most of the time. Nowadays people seem most interested in the number of people executed for cowardice, many of them deranged by terror and exhaustion. I doubt whether there were many executions for cowardice at Glastonbury, although a number of the participants may have been mentally confused enough to qualify.

The main significance of the First European War was that it marked the end of European civilisation. Everything had been getting better until August 14, 1914. Then it all stopped... the saddest thing that ever happened.

Perhaps Michael Eavis, the amiable organiser, was making the same point when he invited Mark Fisher, New Labour's Old Etonian Minister for the "Arts", to wallow in the Somerset mud. Certainly most of Somerset will have felt affronted by the presence of a member of the Government which proposes to end hunting. I don't know. Fisher may be a source of general embarrassment, but he scarcely qualifies as a national disaster.

Even if this year's Glastonbury festival did not represent any major milestone in the decline of British culture since the First World War, the pictures certainly provided a suitable backdrop for today's handover of Hong Kong to China.

Many were puzzled when Margaret Thatcher decided to give Hong Kong Island and Kowloon as a sort of present to the Communists in 1984. The Chinese government has no claim whatever to legitimacy beyond force of arms, but it might have had some nebulous arguable claim to the New Territories on the expiry of an unenfranchised 99-year leasehold. At the time, I attributed her generosity to the fatal compulsion in so many politicians to leave something permanent behind.

Lady Thatcher will be remembered with gratitude for having defeated the unions, and possibly for having driven Argentina out of the Falklands, but of course the unions are coming back already, and it can only be a matter of time before some British statesman has the bright idea of winning a little local immortality by giving the Falklands to Argentina.

Lady Thatcher's gift of Hong Kong to China looks like being pretty permanent. Can that have been her motive? The Chinese in fact claim that she was born in China. If you visit Weihai on the Shandong peninsula, about 1,200 miles north of Hong Kong, 400 miles south-east of Beijing, they will show you the house where they say she was born, daughter of an English general. It is something of a shrine among the Chinese.

Her own office sticks to the story that she was born in Grantham, daughter of a Lincolnshire grocer. I don't know. The Weihai story is certainly more interesting.

Fast work

WHATEVER misgivings people may be beginning to feel about Tony Blair after his strange behaviour in Greenwich,, nobody can criticise him for being too proud to consider other people's suggestions.

On Monday I wrote that I would be really proud of him if he accepted the obvious lesson of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster and banned public attendance at football matches. This was after he had revived all the anguish of the 17 deaths at Dunblane in March 1996 to ban target practice with pistols, even when supervised, in clubs.

On Thursday Mr Straw, Tony's tough new Home Secretary, ordered a new inquiry into the deaths of the 96 football fans at Hillsborough. Members of the Hillsborough Family Support Group have welcomed this move. As relatives of the fans who crushed each other to death in their anxiety to see the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest some of them might have expected to be fobbed off with a further denunciation of the police role — even to be insulted by the offer of a little more money from police funds.

But they know Jack Straw is not like that. Whatever his other faults, he is no policebasher. How much more comforting it will be for the Hillsborough Family Support Group if he reacts with a firm ban on all public attendance at football matches, thereby ensuring that such a tragedy can never occur again.

Ignored

GREAT concern has been expressed in official quarters at the information that three out of four motorists regularly break the 30mph speed limit in built up areas, and most of them (57 per cent) also ignore the 70mph limit on motorways.

They may be concerned, these official quarters, but they can scarcely be surprised. Anybody who drives will be aware that the 30mph limit is widely disregarded. The reason for this is that it is much too slow. Slow drivers who obey this stupid law are the ones who cause the accidents, by encouraging ordinary drivers to pass them. This is almost always unwise in a built-up area, but would not happen nearly so often if the limit was 40mph. If the limit is reduced to 20mph, as mindless control-freaks in the Department of Transport urge, things will get much worse, with goody-goody drivers being rammed in the rear, as well as children being run over who have been correctly trained to look right then left then right again before crossing.

The sad truth is that nothing will ever persuade our law makers and safety experts that they will achieve more influence and save more lives if they work with human nature rather than against it. Nobody looks so foolish as the power maniac forever passing laws to which nobody pays any attention. But perhaps it keeps them happy.

CHESS

Adams back in form

By Malcolm Pein

MICHAEL Adams has hit form at the chess festival in Aarhus, Denmark. The new England No 1 started badly with a loss to Alexander Khalifman but has since won three games to reach 5/8.

Adams is half a point behind Khalifman and plays one of the lower-rated players in the ten-man event, Lars Schandorff, in the last round. Khalifman plays Ferdinand Hellers, of Sweden.

Aarhus (scores with a round to play): Khalifman (Russia) 5.5/8; Adams (England), Rozentalis (Lithuania) 5; Hellers (Sweden) 4.5; Kengis (Latvia), C Hansen (Denmark) 4; P H Nielsen (Denmark), 3.5; Schandorff (Denmark), Stefansson (Iceland) 3; Larsen (Denmark) 2.5.

Defending champion Jan Timman and the Bosnian Praedrag Nikolic, who now lives in Leiden, are still neck and neck after seven rounds of the **Dutch Championships** at Rotterdam.

Timman had an easy win over Karel Van der Weide and even missed a forced mate in eight moves near the end.

Another Bosnian now resident in Holland, Ivan Sokolov, who lost a play-off to Timman for the title last year, is third, a point behind.

Scores: Timman, Nikolic 5.5/7; Sokolov 4.5; Sosonko, Van der Wiel 4.

Nigel Short's last round draw against the world champion, Garry Kasparov, at **Novgorod** was a greater achievement than it first appeared. Short was savaged by a dog when taking a walk the night before the game and spent most of the early hours in hospital.

In the final position Black must give up his bishop for the passed pawn and White's remaining pawn, although a rook's pawn, promotes on a black square. Since White has a black squared bishop, this is a known technical win.

M Adams — E Kengis
Aarhus (7)

1 e4	c5	2 Nf3	e6	
3 b3	d6	4 Bb5+	Bd7	
5 Bxd7+	Nxd7	6 0-0	Ngf6	
7 Qe2	Be7	8 Bb2	0-0	
9 c4	a6	10 d4	cxd4	
11 Nxd4	Rc8	12 Nc3	Qa5	
13 Rad1	Qh5	14 f3	Rfe8	
15 Kh1	Bf8	16 Qe1	Qa5	
17 f4	e5	18 fxe5	Qxe5	
19 Qf2	Qh5	20 Nf5	Nc5	
21 Qf3	Qxf3	22 gxf3	Re6	
23 Nd5	Nh5	24 Rg1	g6	
25 Rg5	h6	26 Rxh5	gxh5	
27 Nf6+	Rxf6	28 Bxf6	b5	
29 cxb5	axb5	30 Nxd6	Ra8	
31 b4	Ne6	32 Nxb5	Rxa2	
33 Nc3	Rf2	34 b5	Bc5	
35 Nd5	Rxf3	36 Rb1	Nf4	
37 Nxf4	Rxf4	38 Bd8	Rxe4	
39 b6	Rb4	40 Rxb4	Bxb4	
41 Bh4	1-0			

S.T. Dupont
PARIS

PRIZE WINNERS OF CROSSWORD No 22,216

Congratulations to the many thousands of solvers who realised that the first word in 5 down should have been 'Beast' and not 'Beat' (hence the solution 'Orib') and my sincere apologies to those solvers who did not. Crossword Ed.

The first three prize winners: Mr J A King, Little Rissington, Glos; Mr D K Roden, Knutsford, Cheshire; Mr H Lennard, North Finchley, London. Consolation winners are: Mr A Diab, New Barnet, Herts; Mrs B Southam, Westwood, Notts; Mr J A Kelly, Ryton, Tyne & Wear; Mr G D Morris, Cardiff; Mr L Webster, Southport, Lancs; Mrs C E Rice, Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffs; Mr D Blythin, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire; Mr E G Benn, Aldbourn, Suffolk; Mr S V Baughen, Bristol; Mr C Bolton, Knutsford, Cheshire; Mr J N Lewis, Holyhead, Anglesey; Mr E Precious, Huddersfield.

"Muhammad Fadil al-Jamali." Daily Telegraph, 30 June 1997, p. 21. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0701241309/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.