

THE LEVESON INQUIRY

EXHIBIT GHC9 TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF
GILES HUMPHRY CROWN

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Mail Online News

Ski crash

British boy's heartbreaking last blog

- Minute silence observed across Belgium at 11am today in memory of 28, including 22 children, killed in bus crash
- Parents of Sebastian Bowles, 11, have rushed to Switzerland to await formal confirmation of their son's death
- The family, originally from Crouch End, London, moved to Belgium two years ago
- School pictures shows some of the children believed to have been killed in the accident

By [Peter Allen](#), [Ian Sparks](#) and [Alexandra Williams](#)

PUBLISHED: 02:14, 16 March 2012 | **UPDATED:** 12:43, 19 March 2012

A British boy killed in the Swiss coach disaster was known as 'the little cherub', his former headmistress revealed yesterday.

Sebastian Bowles, 12, had told his family that he was having a 'really great' holiday and could 'already ski quite well'.

Just two days later he was one of 22 children from a Belgian school killed when their coach crashed as they returned home. The two drivers and four teachers on board were also killed.

Swiss investigators yesterday said they believed the coach had clipped a kerb before veering into a lay-by which led to a solid brick wall.



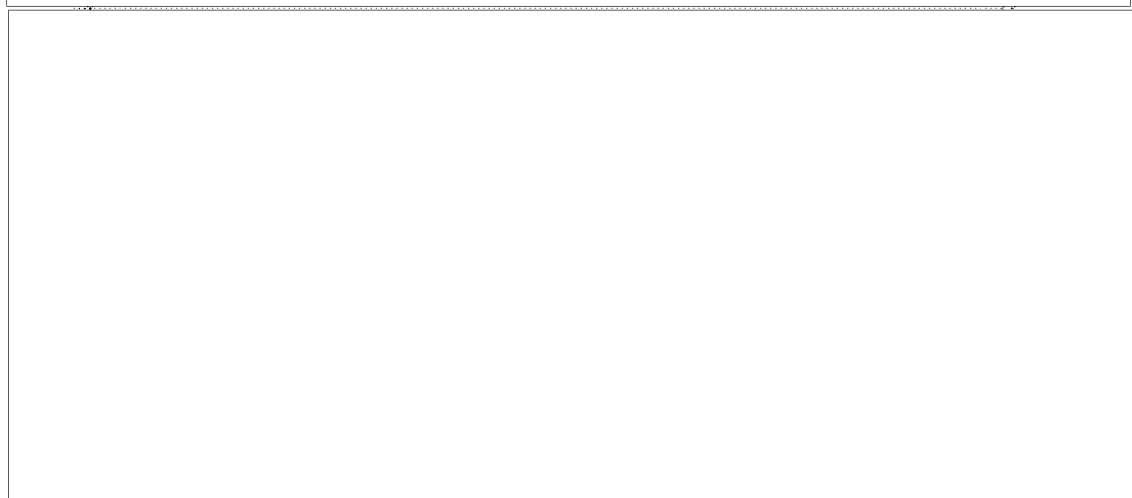
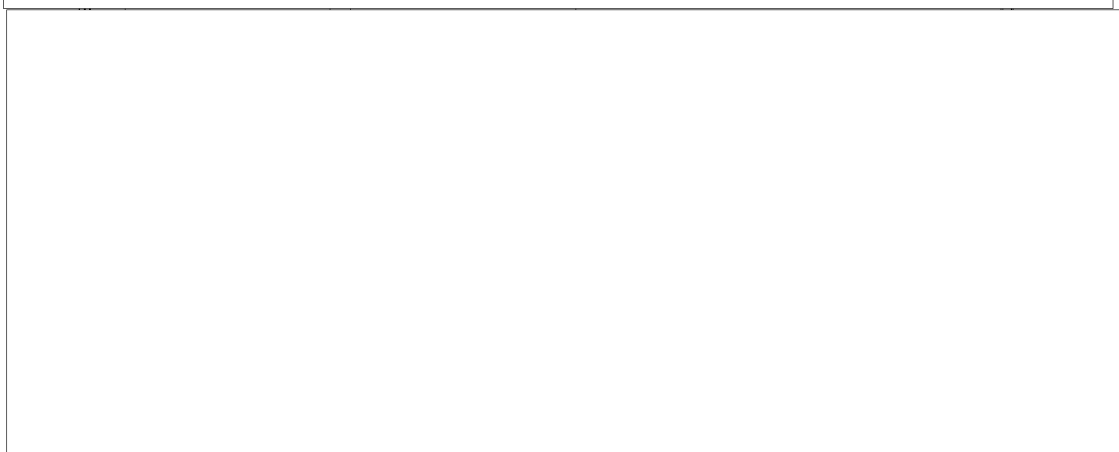
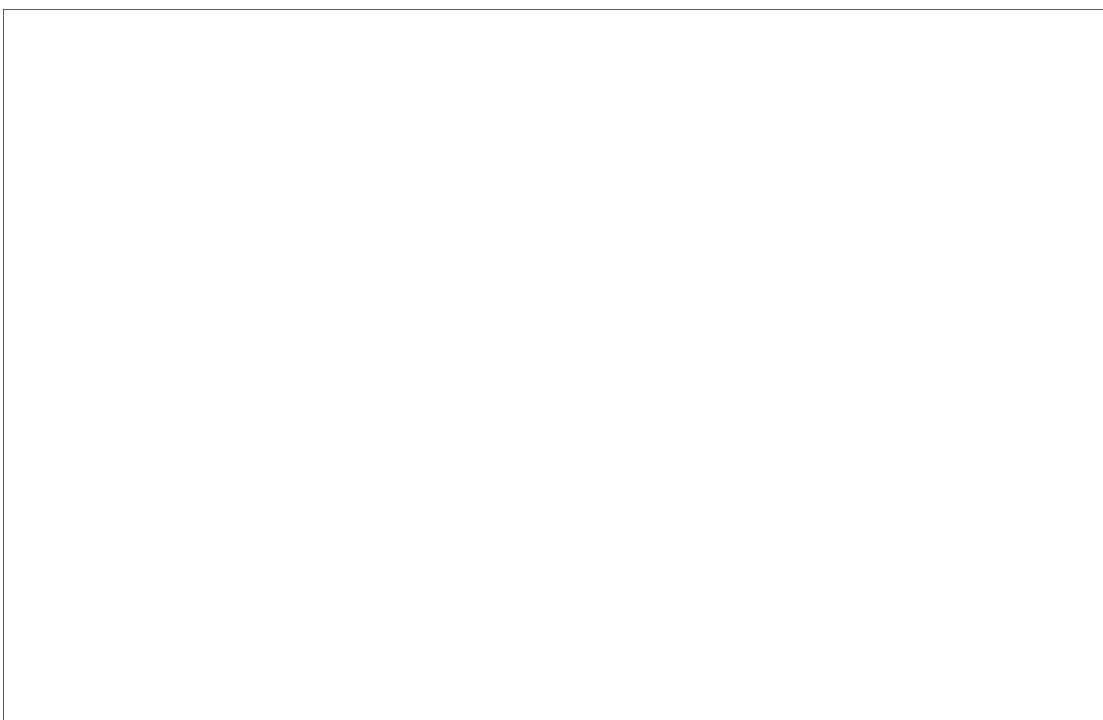
Flowers and the faint outline of a heart mark the site of the devastating accident that claimed 28 lives when a bus smashed into the wall of the tunnel

Swiss bus crash: Son of British banker Sebastian Bowles, 11, feared dead | Mail Online



Tragedy: Police officers carry the coffin of one of the 28 victims of the Swiss bus crash into a Belgian military cargo aircraft at Sion airport in Switzerland

Swiss bus crash: Son of British banker Sebastian Bowles, 11, feared dead | Mail Online



They added there was no evidence the driver was changing a DVD at the time, as had been feared, and there was no evidence either of the drivers were intoxicated or tired.

They are however examining whether the angle of the tunnel wall contributed to the severity of the crash on Wednesday.

Sebastian had moved with his family to Belgium two years ago so they could be closer to the relatives of his mother Ann.

Swiss bus crash: Son of British banker Sebastian Bowles, 11, feared dead | Mail Online

He had been a popular pupil at Our Lady of Muswell Catholic Primary in London and was remembered there with a minute's silence yesterday.

Headmistress Teresa McBride said: 'He was a wonderfully vibrant boy who is so fondly remembered by pupils, staff and parents at Our Lady of Muswell.

'He was known by staff as "the little cherub".

'He will be greatly missed.'

Sebastian's mother had been a governor at the school two miles from their former home in Crouch End, North London.

Speaking outside the school Miss McBride added: 'Sebastian was a smiling, bubbling boy who looked like an angel and he was an angel.

'We are all struggling to deal with this.'

Sebastian had posted an online message to his parents reassuring them he was having a great time at the Alpine resort of Val d'Anniviers just 48 hours before his death.

With the joy of a child enjoying his first taste of freedom, Sebastian tells his parents and his sister Helena about his adventures ski-ing and eating a barbecue on the slopes.

He had written: 'Dearest Mama, Papa, Helena and Flopsy. I can already ski quite well. It's really great here.'

The schoolboy adds: 'After breakfast we had a lovely walk and the teacher told us a story about the area.

'Then we went ski-ing and ate a barbecue on the slopes.

'That was great.

'We could eat as much soup and hotdogs as we wanted ... mmmmmmmm jummmmie.'

Sebastian's father Edward, who is regional head of public affairs for the Standard Chartered Bank, and his Belgian mother Ann had travelled to Switzerland to identify their son's body.

They had returned to Belgium yesterday but the shutters were down at their detached house on the outskirts of Leuven, near Brussels.

A neighbour said: 'He was such a fantastic, polite boy.

'He always said hello. It's such a shocking thing.'

Both Sebastian and his sister attended St Lambertus School in Heverlee, two miles from their home, where Belgian flags were draped from windows in the neighbourhood as a mark of respect.

One of the three children fighting for their lives after the accident came out of a coma yesterday.

Medics said the girl, who had suffered a spinal cord injury, was fully conscious and able to interact with her parents at her bedside.

The other two girls remain in induced comas.

Belgium came to a standstill yesterday as the remains of the 22 children – aged 11 to 13 – and six adults killed in the crash were flown home.

The bodies, with the children in white coffins, were returned to Melsbroek military airport near Brussels in two army planes where 28 hearses were waiting for them.

Before the 11am silence Elio Di Rupo, the Belgian Prime Minister said: 'The whole country weeps for its children.'

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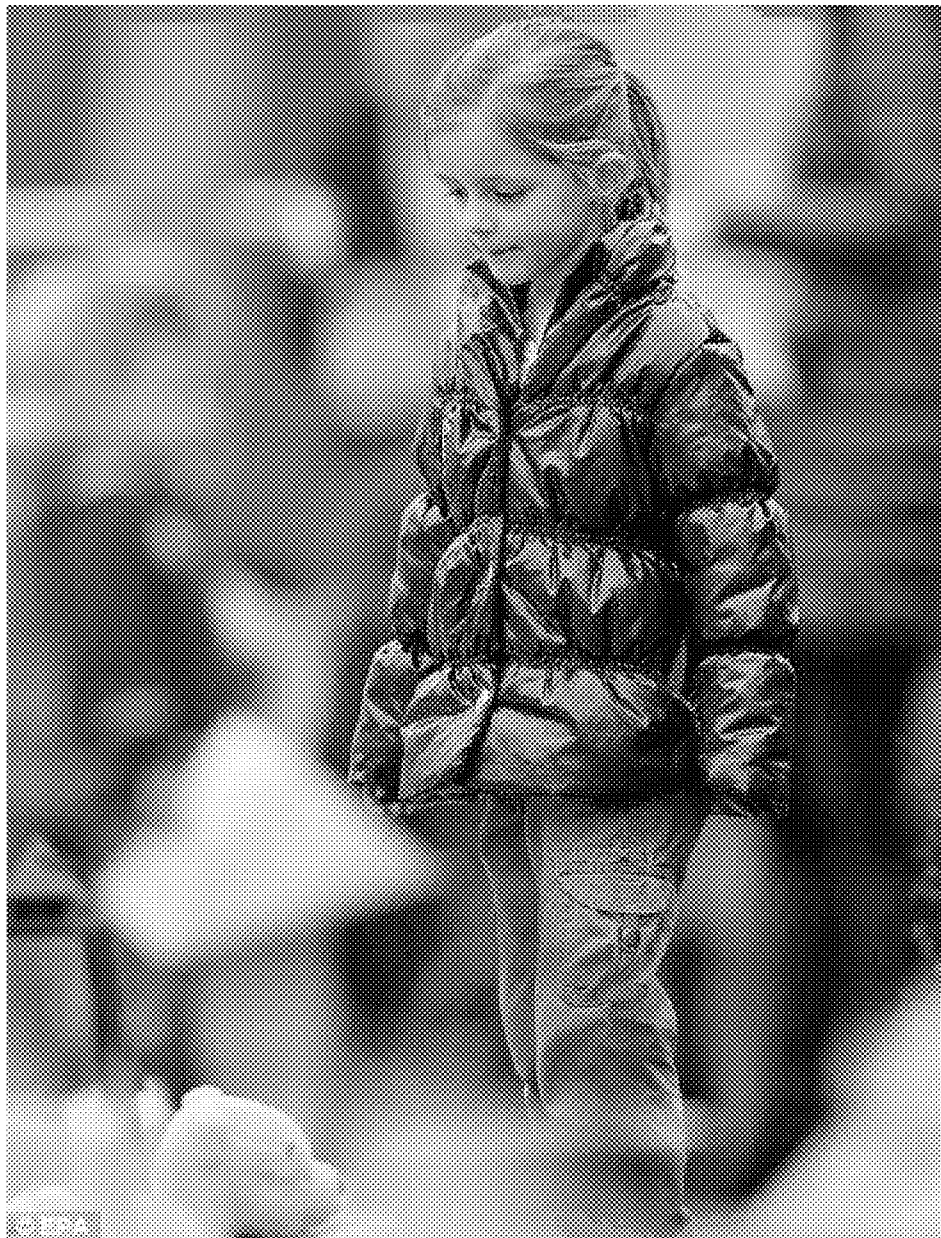


Sadness: Police officers with the coffin of one of the 28 victims of the bus crash. They were then flown back to Belgium



Greeted: Hearses arrived at the Melsbroek military airport, near Brussels in Belgium, to pick up the coffins of the 28 killed in the crash

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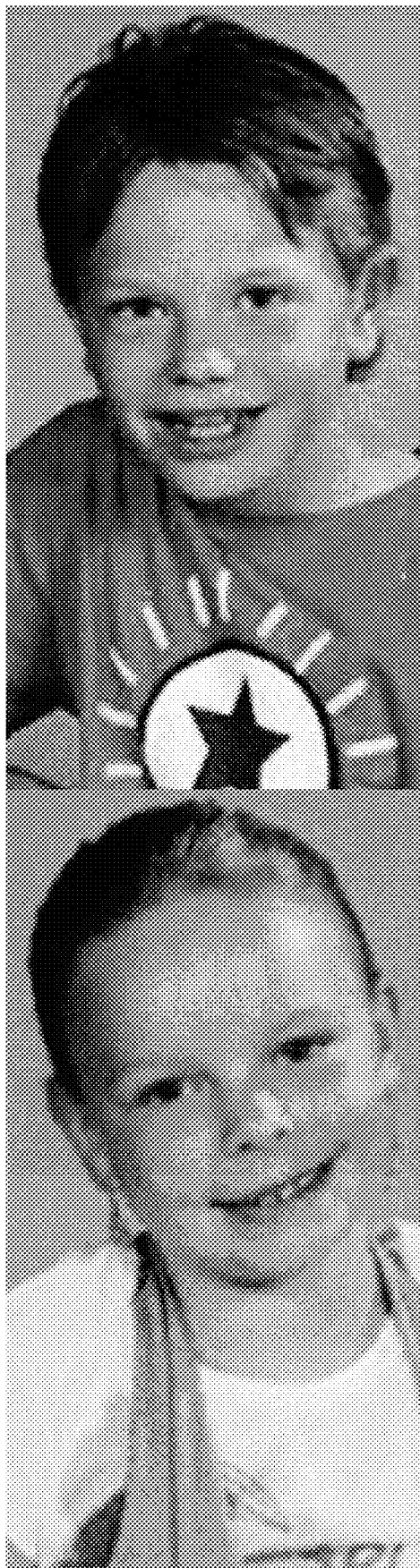


Tribute: Children pictured laying flowers and toys at an impromptu memorial outside the City Hall in Lommel, Belgium, today

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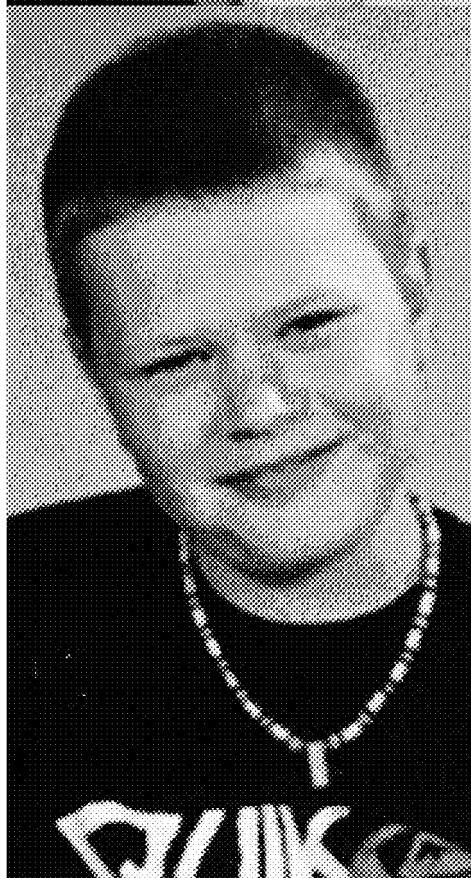


Victims: These children, from the Stekske school in Belgium, were all killed in the Swiss bus crash that claimed the lives of 22 children and six adults

Swiss bus crash: Son of British banker Sebastian Bowles, 11, feared dead | Mail Online



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Tragic: The Stekske pupils were returning from a skiing holiday when the bus they were travelling on careered into the wall of a tunnel

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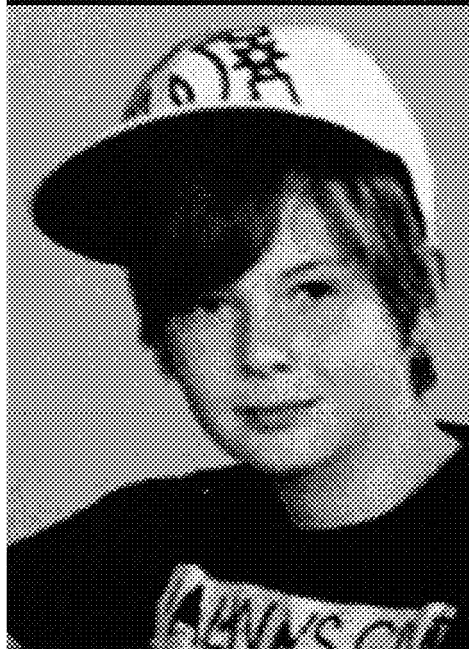
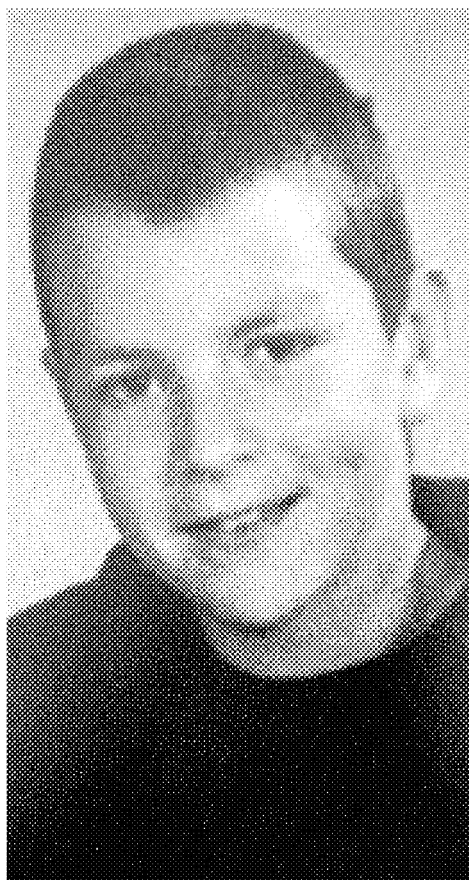


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Lost lives: The majority of the children were aged just 12 years old. Scores of tributes have been left outside the Stekske school

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Sadness: Families of the victims, including teacher Mr Raymond (far right), were taken to leave tributes at the crash site today

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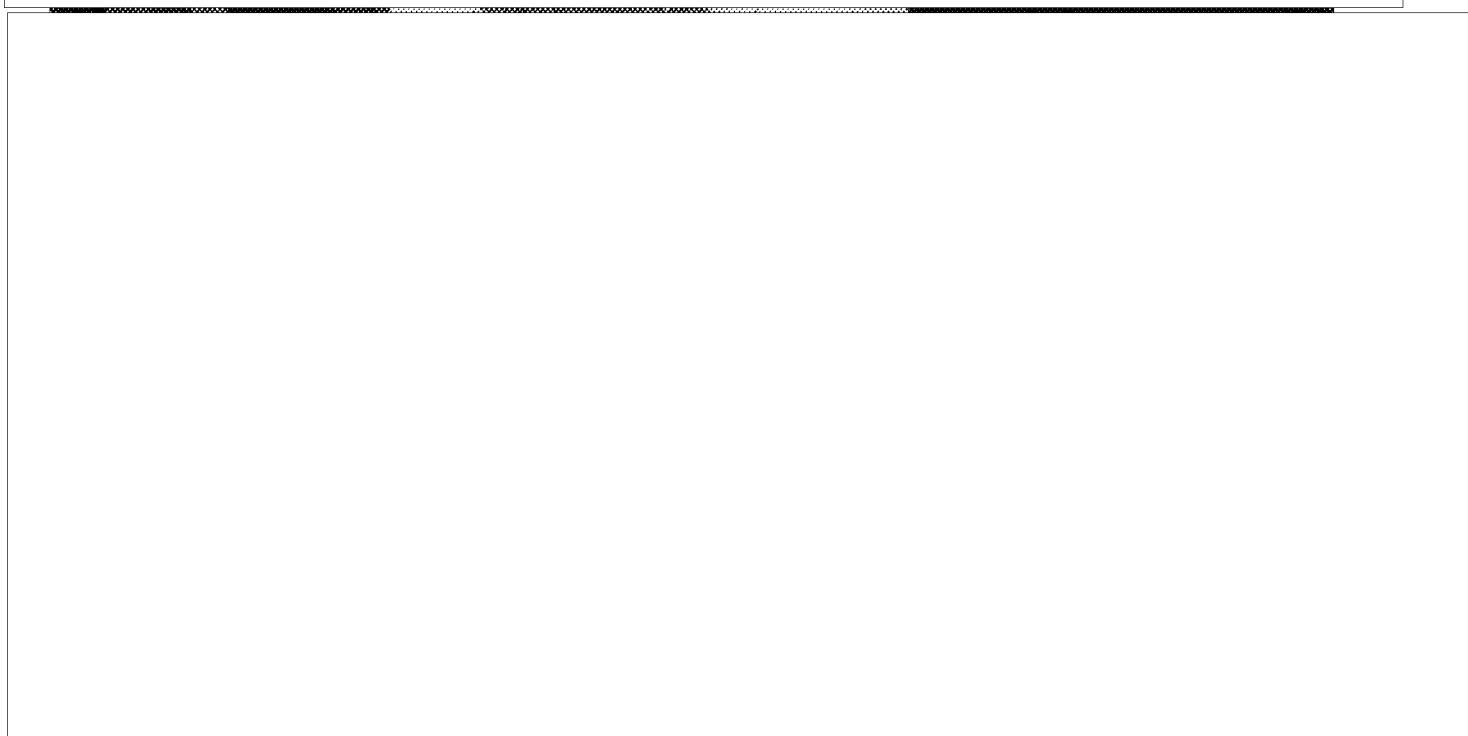
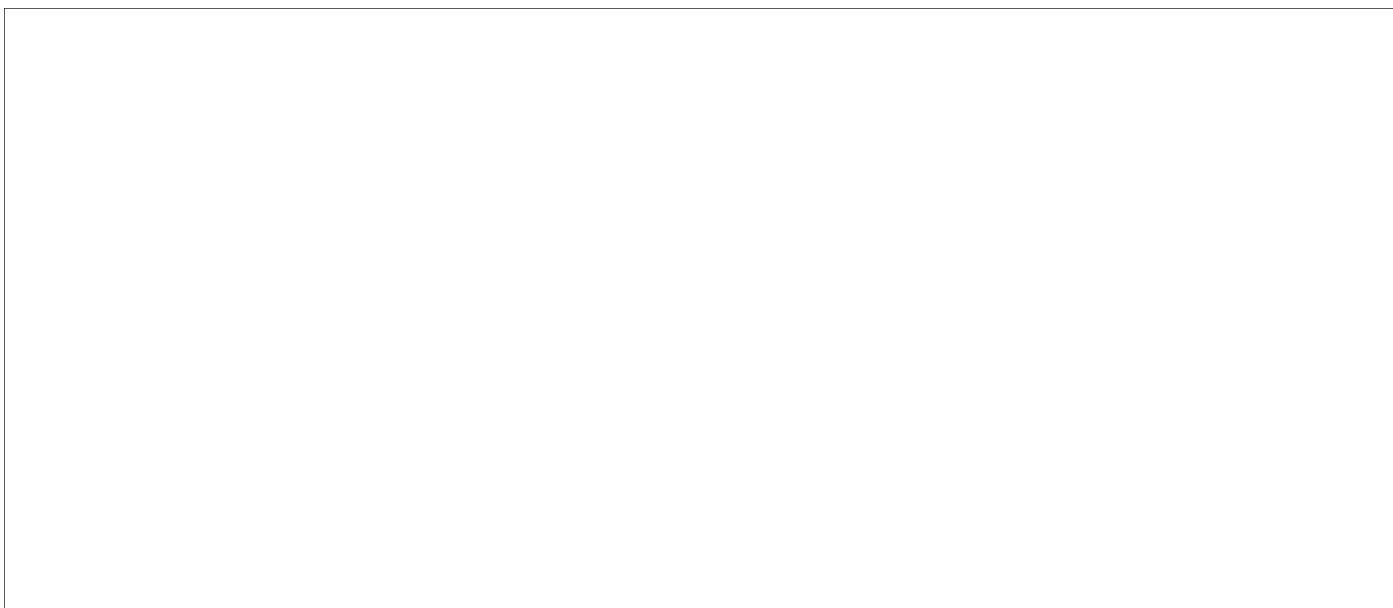
Tributes: A woman pictured at Lommel City Hall where a condolences register has been set up, and (right) teacher Mrs Vanheulekom

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Signing: Citizens sign the condolences book at Lommel Town Hall in front of photographs of children who died in the Swiss bus crash

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Tribute: Tearful relatives of the victims of the Swiss bus crash left flowers at the site of the accident today

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Tragic: Relatives of the Swiss bus crash victims pictured at the morgue in Sion where their bodies have been taken

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Sad trip: A bus carrying the relatives of the bus crash victims is escorted by a police motorbike as it leaves the tunnel after the families paid tribute at the site

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Victims: A mourner outside St Lambertus school pictured holding up a photo of pupils that could have been on the trip

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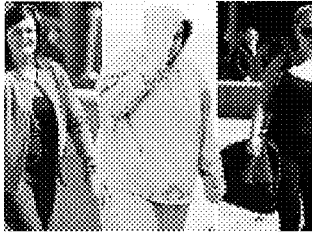
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Grieving: Visitors pictured in tears outside Stekske primary school in Lommel (left) as notes are left outside St Lambertus school (right)

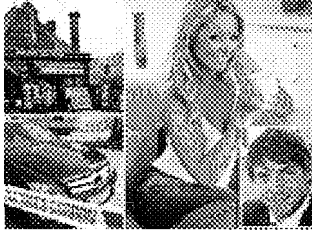
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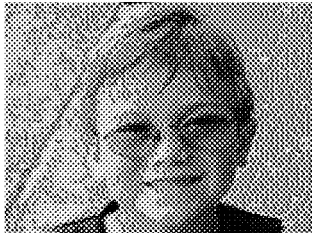
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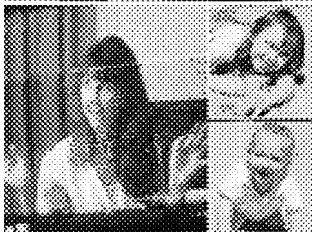
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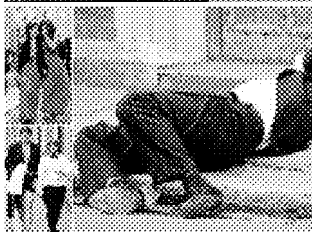
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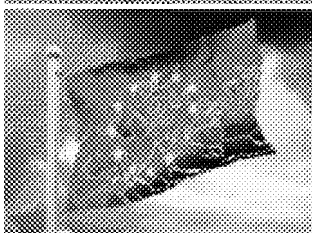
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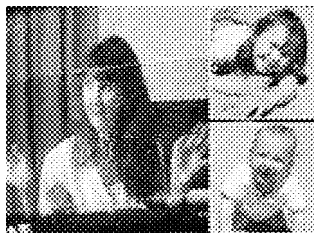


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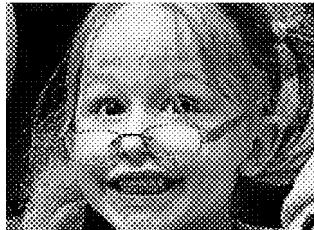
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So sad, rest in peace little ones and their carers.

- Me, Adelaide, 17/3/2012 10:14

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Just so so sad. Heartfelt condolences. Xx

- Anna, London, 17/3/2012 10:03

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The image of all those little white coffins will stay with me always.... deepest condolences.

- LennyBow, somewhere over the rainbow, 17/3/2012 09:25

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This is just so sad xxxx

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- angie n, Belfast, 17/3/2012 08:51

Click to rate __ Rating 35

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RIP

- LandonSW1, SW1, 17/3/2012 08:33

Click to rate __ Rating 30

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Such a lovely looking boy and he looked so happy. god bless the children and others that died in this horrible accident. Such a tragedy.

- julie, Essex, 16/3/2012 19:54

Click to rate __ Rating 41

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Just heartbreaking that's all I can say.

- julie, Essex, 16/3/2012 19:07

Click to rate __ Rating 34

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My heart goes out to all of the families. Such a tragic loss.

- Dave, Cornwall, 16/3/2012 16:47

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So sad, all those beautiful children with all their lives ahead of them, that little lad looks so happy, with his wee pink cheeks, looks just like my son. Tragic R.I.P.

- ALLYSON, Scotland, 16/3/2012 15:28

Click to rate __ Rating 38

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Heartbreaking. Such beautiful children, what beautiful angels they will become. RIP

- Dutch, UK, 16/3/2012 14:52

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