

MORE ASIANS COMING TO GREENHAM

NUMBERS at the Greenham refugee resettlement camp are likely to be boosted during the next few weeks by an influx from other camps which are being run down.

A party of 95 refugees will arrive tomorrow from a camp near Tavistock in Devon. And chief administrator, Brig. Bill Beyts, says he expects to take more Asians as other camps close.

"As smaller camps become uneconomical through falling numbers large camps like our own will probably receive our quota of the Asians who have not been resettled," he said.

There were 1,053 refugees at Greenham yesterday and the

camp is second only to Stradishall in terms of population.

Since it opened early in October 3,097 refugees have arrived at the camp and 2,044 have moved on to new homes and jobs elsewhere. Their resettlement record is one of which Brig. Beyts is proud.

"We have a very efficient resettlement staff here and I am also pleased by the spirit of Asians who have gone out and found jobs and homes on their own."

He feels that after January 1 most of the Asians left in the camp will be problem cases whom it will be difficult to resettle and he envisages the camp moving into a "new phase" of work.

Recently a team consisting of one resettlement officer, one

Department of Employment official and one International Voluntary Service member has been formed to visit every block in the camp checking individuals' progress in finding new homes and jobs.

The camp's population was increased on Tuesday when 33 stateless Asians arrived from Kensington. There are now 39 families at Greenham without British or Ugandan passports who are waiting for a decision on their future from the Home Secretary.

Brig. Beyts is currently forming a song, dance and drama group for youngsters at the camp and he is hoping that local organisations will invite them to give performances.

Most of these youngsters are aged around 20 but some are as young as 10.

7-12-72

Jailed Asians now at Greenham

ILLEGAL immigrants from Uganda who have been held in London prisons for the last few weeks have been transferred to the resettlement camp at Greenham Common.

More than 50 Asians who hold Ugandan passports are now living at the camp while a decision is reached on their future. They are "on their honour" not to leave without permission.

The camp was already providing accommodation for families of stateless Asians who do not hold British or Ugandan passports.

The Ugandan passport holders mostly came into Britain to join wives and families who do hold British passports.

They include 44-year-old Girdhar Masarani who was a millionaire in the soft furnishings business in Uganda. He is still worth tens of thousands of pounds over here and has been negotiating to buy a house for his family.

Before he came to Greenham he was held in a cell at Pentonville Prison.

Camp administrator Brig. Bill

Beyts was unable to comment but the Home Office say the illegal immigrants have been moved for humanitarian reasons. But the original refusal of entry still stands.

The Uganda Resettlement Board say they have allocated the Asians to Greenham because "it is sensible to keep people with similar problems together and the camp is a convenient centre."

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GIVE CHRISTMAS TREATS TO ASIANS

PEOPLE throughout the Newbury area are being asked to invite Ugandan refugees into their homes for tea on Boxing Day.

Newbury Council of Churches hope to empty the Greenham re-settlement camp of all but a few of its 1,000 refugees on the afternoon of December 26.

Those remaining will be stateless Asians who are confined to the camp, and the few families who prefer not to go out.

The council of churches have circulated forms giving details of Boxing Day plans through ministers in 20 local churches. People who would like to entertain Asians are asked to fill them in and return them by Monday.

One of the organisers, Newbury Methodist minister, the Rev. David Ratcliffe, said forms were circulated among local congregations on Sunday and it was too soon to know what the response was likely to be.

But he emphasised that there was no intention of confining the host families to church-goers and he would be pleased to hear from anyone who wanted to help. His telephone number is Newbury 14.

He was confident that there would be a sufficient response from local people to meet the demand from Asians eager to sample a typical English Christmas.

"Right from the beginning there has been quite a good attitude from local people as far as helping out is concerned and I think enough people will come forward now," he said.

At Greenham Major Albert Stevens who is in charge of entertainments said over 80 per cent of the Asians were interested in the scheme.

Of those who said no several did so because they think they may have left the camp by Christmas.

To overcome the problem of food the form suggests meals "to avoid embarrassment to anyone." People are advised that Hindus are vegetarians and Moslems will not eat pork or alcohol.

"It would be wise for the hostess to provide a buffet meal, thus leaving the choice of dish to the individual. The buffet is more likely to be successful if salad, fruit and sweet dishes could be provided," says the form.

"If you wish to offer meat please note that pork should not be offered and some Asians even prefer that dishes containing meat be placed aside from other foods."

Language is unlikely to be a problem because there are very few families who do not have English-speaking members.

On the form would-be hosts are asked to give details of the size of family they would like to entertain and details of their car to make collecting Asians easier.

On Monday a small team of helpers will begin sifting through the returned forms and allocate Asians to local families who have shown interest.

The Greenham refugees' first Christmas in England is one they are unlikely to forget.

A full programme of parties and entertainments has been arranged. The Oxfam organisations and the *Oxford Mail* have together organised a visit to a pantomime. The Variety Club of Great Britain are giving each child a parcel which will be placed on his or her bed on Christmas Eve.

On Saturday a group of the older refugees have been invited to attend an old people's club meeting at Kintbury. This week workmen have been erecting a tree in the centre of the camp which has been given by Lord Porchester. The USAF have provided lights for the tree.



ASIANS CAMP STAFF PRAISED

GREENHAM re-settlement centre is continuing to absorb Ugandan refugees from smaller camps which are closing down.

There were 1,064 refugees at Greenham yesterday and that figure is remaining fairly stable with a few more arriving and an average of nine leaving each day for new homes and jobs.

Chief administrator, Brig. Bill Beyts, says he has no information on how long the local camp will continue to operate.

In the camp's Christmas newsletter he says that all members of staff have gone far beyond their normal course of duty in working with patience and devotion.

"We can look back on our three month span of life with pride that well over 3,000 refugees have found shelter and peace in our community after their ordeals," he says. "And 2,000 have already succeeded in finding homes and work."

Mr. Victor Roussel, headmaster of the camp school during its first term, also praises the teaching staff and the "friendly responsive Asian children."

Camp officials have received many Christmas cards from grateful refugees who have passed through the camp since it opened on October 2.

Young Asians form concert party



A GROUP of Asian youngsters at Greenham re-settlement camp will be hard at work in the new year collecting for English charities. They have formed themselves into a variety company and plan to put on a series of concerts in aid of needy causes.

There are about 50 young people in "The Newcomers," as the company calls itself. Their ages range from seven upwards.

On Sunday evening they invited local people to the camp for their premier performance. They put on a colourful show of music and dancing with an east Asian flavour.

There are ten acts in all, five of them Hindu and Moslem, the girls dressed in their beautiful saris.

"The young people were very conscious of things being done for them, and never having a chance to do anything in return," explained the wife of the camp administrator Mrs. Ruby Beyts. "So they came up with the idea of putting on shows in aid of English charities."

The Newcomers have been rehearsing for several weeks. "We are delighted how well they perform," said Mrs. Beyts. "They have such wonderful natural grace, and are full of self-

Just two days before Sunda performance the announcer A Kotecha left Greenham to join his family in Warrington, Lancashire.

"We have to be pretty adaptable and not let things like that discourage us," added Mrs. Beyts.

Gave 13 refugees Christmas treat

CHUPATTIS, rice and lentils joined the traditional turkey, mince pies and pudding on Mrs. Wendy Lea's table this Christmas.

Mrs. Lea, of Chapel House, Chaddleworth, was one of just over 60 people who responded to the appeal to entertain an Asian family on Boxing Day.

In fact she liked the idea so much that she also invited another party of refugees from Greenham to join her and her son on Christmas Day.

"There would only have been my son and myself on Christmas Day and we thought it would be nice to have some people in who would not normally enjoy a traditional Christmas," said Mrs. Lea.

On Christmas Day her son, Keith, picked up a family of eight who joined them for lunch. Mrs. Lea prepared a number of small dishes for the Asians to choose from and she included a few novelties like gingerbread men.

During the afternoon they played bagatelle, bingo and cards and the youngsters were especially fascinated by Mrs. Lea's colour television set.

A family of five Greenham refugees joined Mrs. Lea on Boxing Day when she had also invited a group of relatives and friends for a really big party.

"I think they thoroughly enjoyed it and we certainly did," said Mrs. Lea afterwards.

Organiser, the Rev. David Ratcliffe, was very pleased with the response from local people and he says there were only a few Asians who were interested in the scheme who could not go out.

"We are enormously grateful for all the help given by people in the Newbury area," he said. "They have been wonderful."

On Christmas Eve Salvation Army officers Major Albert Stevens and Sgt. Major Ron Whiting spent three hours touring the Asian blocks at Greenham hanging up Christmas stockings for each of the refugee children.

Many of the youngsters were at an entertainment evening at

the time and when they returned and found the presents some preferred not to go to bed at all.

The presents were given by the Variety Club of Great Britain and the Brierley-Jones Catering Company at the camp.

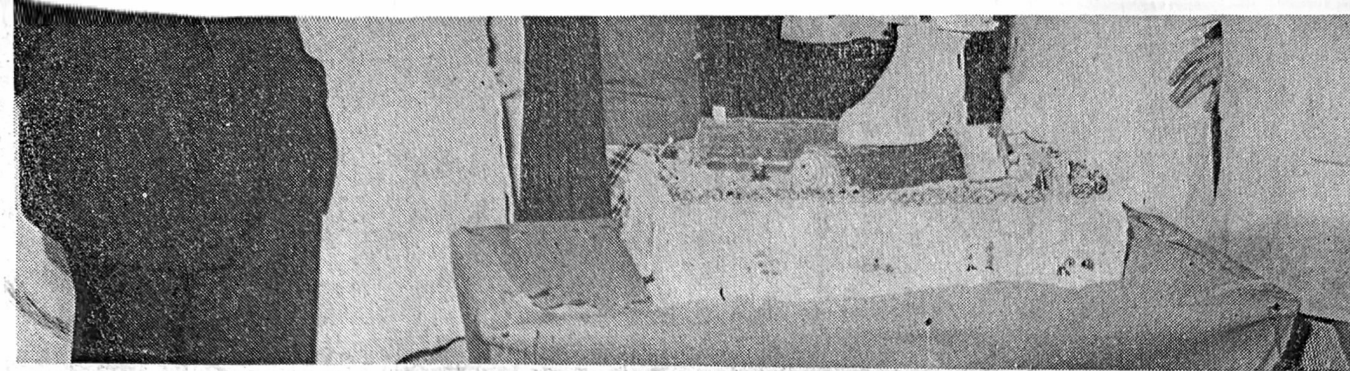
On Christmas Day a special united service was held at the American base chapel conducted by the chaplain, Major David Roop, Mr. Ratcliffe and the Bishop of Reading.

At a children's Christmas party in the canteen, Col. George Wheeler filled the role of Father Christmas.



Mrs. Wendy Lea and her son Keith pictured with the Asian refugee family who spent Christmas Day with them.

Dec. 29th 1972



Admiring the 100 lb. Christmas cake made for refugee children at Greenham are Mr. T. S. Thomas, deputy administrator of the camp; Mr. Paul George, a baker; Mr. and Mrs. Hargreaves; Peter McGevor, a cook; and Mr. John Snook, kitchen manager.

Huge cake treat for refugee children

REFUGEE children from Uganda won't forget their first Christmas in Britain if the canteen staff at the Greenham resettlement camp have anything to do with it.

The Brierley-Jones Catering Company are organising a special Christmas party for the youngsters tomorrow and the highlight will be the cutting of a massive cake.

Kitchen manager Mr. John Snook has been responsible for making the cake which he thinks weighs about 100 lbs.

He and other catering staff spent about three weeks baking, icing and decorating the cake which is based around the "Old Woman Who Lived In A Shoe" nursery rhyme.

The shoe stands on a yule log and inside it the canteen staff have wired up a small bulb which gives a glowing effect through the windows. The side of the cake has been decorated with figures from children's television programmes.

Mr. Snook is an old hand at making Christmas cakes. He is a former warrant officer in the Army Catering corps who has served all over the world. And in that time he has made many large Christmas cakes.

21/12/72

Asians offer to stage charity shows ✓

A variety group made up of Asian youngsters from the re-settlement camp at Greenham will give their first performance at the base cinema on Sunday.

In the coming weeks the group hope to be invited to tour local halls, raising money for English charities.

The group has been organised by camp administrator Brig. Bill Beyts, who has spent a lot of time rehearsing with them.

He says they are keen to raise money for local charities and any organisation interested in staging a performance should contact him at Northbrook 6161.

21/12/72

