

19 September 2005

EXCLUSIVE: UP IN FLAMES

Tons of British aid donated to help Hurricane Katrina victims to be BURNED by Americans
From Ryan Parry, US Correspondent in New York
HUNDREDS of tons of British food aid shipped to America for starving Hurricane Katrina survivors is to be burned.

US red tape is stopping it from reaching hungry evacuees.

Instead tons of the badly needed Nato ration packs, the same as those eaten by British troops in Iraq, has been condemned as unfit for human consumption.



NEEDY: Evacuees from New Orleans

And unless the bureaucratic mess is cleared up soon it could be sent for incineration.

One British aid worker last night called the move "sickening senselessness" and said furious colleagues were "spitting blood".

The food, which cost British taxpayers millions, is sitting idle in a huge warehouse after the Food and Drug Agency recalled it when it had already left to be distributed.

Scores of lorries headed back to a warehouse in

24/7 NEWSWIRE

SUPPLIED BY **REUTERS**

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Tony Parsons
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Kevin Maguire

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Little Rock, Arkansas, to dump it at an FDA incineration plant.

The Ministry of Defence in London said last night that 400,000 operational ration packs had been shipped to the US.

But officials blamed the US Department of Agriculture, which impounded the shipment under regulations relating to the import and export of meat.

The aid worker, who would not be named, said: "This is the most appalling act of sickening senselessness while people starve.

"The FDA has recalled aid from Britain because it has been condemned as unfit for human consumption, despite the fact that these are Nato approved rations of exactly the same type fed to British soldiers in Iraq.

"Under Nato, American soldiers are also entitled to eat such rations, yet the starving of the American South will see them go up in smoke because of FDA red tape madness."



PAIN: Child survivor cries

The worker added: "There will be a cloud of smoke above Little Rock soon - of burned food, of anger and of shame that the world's richest nation couldn't organise a p**s up in a brewery and lets Americans starve while they arrogantly observe petty regulations.

"Everyone is revolted by the chaotic shambles the US is making of this crisis. Guys from Unicef are walking around spitting blood.

"This is utter madness. People have worked their

YORKIE-munching hooligans of the road are in for a nasty surprise if they try to unleash anarchy across Britain today.



Paul Routledge

IT was a disappointment. He could have had them eating out of his hand, but he sent them away empty-handed.



Bill Borrows

YOU have to say that it was a sensational performance from Andrew "Freddie" Flintoff.



Voice of the Mirror

STORIES about aid getting wasted by developing countries are common.



Sue Carroll

THIS Morning presenter Fern Britton says she hates diets, enjoys a good roast dinner and doesn't care that she's overweight.



Fiona

ADMITTEDLY I'm a republican but, as long as the Royal family are around, I couldn't think of anyone I'd rather see third in line to the throne than Prince Harry.



Mirror Investigates

THE leeches at Allied Collections were just milking money from people who work hard for a living.



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socks off to get food into the region.

"It is perfectly good Nato approved food of the type British servicemen have. Yet the FDA are saying that because there is a meat content and it has come from Britain it must be destroyed.

"If they are trying to argue there is a BSE reason then that is ludicrously out of date. There is more BSE in the States than there ever was in Britain and UK meat has been safe for years."

The Ministry of Defence said: "We understand there was a glitch and these packs have been impounded by the US Department of Agriculture under regulations relating to the import and export of meat.

"The situation is changing all the time and at our last meeting on Friday we were told progress was being made in relation to the release of these packs. The Americans certainly haven't indicated to us that there are any more problems and they haven't asked us to take them back."

Food from Spain and Italy is also being held because it fails to meet US standards and has been judged unfit for human consumption.

And Israeli relief agencies are furious that thousands of gallons of pear juice are to be destroyed because it has been judged unfit.

The FDA said: "We did inspect some MREs (meals ready to eat) on September 13. They are the only MREs we looked at. There were 70 huge pallets of vegetarian MREs.

"They were from a foreign nation. We inspected them and then released them for distribution."

Voice of the Mirror: Page 6

Britain drifting to ghettos: Page 24

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TOP STORIES

EXCLUSIVE: GRAN STARVES TO DEATH

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COLLINS

Inspirational former Iraq War commander, who gave a stirring eve-of-battle speech of his troops, argues that the time has come for the West to get out.

COCKLE PICKERS PERISHED 'DUE TO NEGLIGENCE'

TWENTY-ONE terrified Chinese cockle pickers drowned in Morecambe Bay because of the "gross negligence" of their gangmaster, a court was told today.

OAP AT 67

WORK and Pensions Secretary David Blunkett yesterday hinted he was considering raising the state retirement age to 67.

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Tons of British aid donated to help Hurricane Katrina victims to be BURNED by Americans.

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- CAMERAS NET £114M
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- PM UNDER FIRE FOR HIS BBC BLAST
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- MIRROR'S BOB DIES
- GERMAN VOTE IN 'STALEMATE'
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- BARRED LAD GAV
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- BRITAIN IS DRIFTING TOWARD GHETTOS
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- DECLINE OF THE DIRTY WEEKEND
- SALES UP AS HOUSE PRICES FALL
- NURSE IS STABBED AT WORK
- WEEKS OF SNOW, TRAVEL CHAOS AND POWER CUTS
- BRIDGE'S SUICIDE HOTLINES
- PLIGHT OF HOMELESS IN HOSTELS
- 'BLIGHT' OF HOMELESS IN HOSTELS
- TORY KEN: WE'LL END UP THIRD
- VERA: I'LL CORRIE ON WORKING
- WHO'S NEXT, HUGH?
- TERI'S A GODDESS
- EXCLUSIVE: JULIA TO MARRY
- RALLY ACE KILLED AS HIS CAR HITS A TREE
- CHEAPER ENERGY SITES HIT
- LET ME GO ..POPE'S LAST WORDS
- MEN AND WOMEN 'SO ALIKE'
- GOLDEN DELICIOUS
- MY PAIN AT SPLIT BY KATIE
- BABY JOY FOR RACE GIRL NELL
- FREDDIE'S TOT SCAN IS BIG HIT
- NEWSGIRL KIRSTY'S BABY JOY
- FALL HORROR AT AIRPORT
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- MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR MP COOK
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