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REVEALED: How Thomas Cook demanded – and won – £3.5 million payout after children’s Corfu villa gas deaths... to help protect its image

BLOOD MONEY

By **Nick Craven** and **Nigel Bunyan**

THOMAS COOK was given a £3.5million payout over the tragic deaths of two British children in a Greek hotel – ten times what each of their parents received in compensation.

The Mail on Sunday can reveal that the travel giant was quietly paid the cash after Bobby and Christi Shepherd died from carbon monoxide poisoning in a Corfu hotel in 2006.

By contrast, the children’s parents, Neil Shepherd and Sharon Wood, received about £350,000 each after a bitter seven-year legal battle in which the tour operator has steadfastly refused to say sorry.

The news comes as the parents both speak in full for the first time in today’s Mail on Sunday about the tragic events that will for ever haunt them.

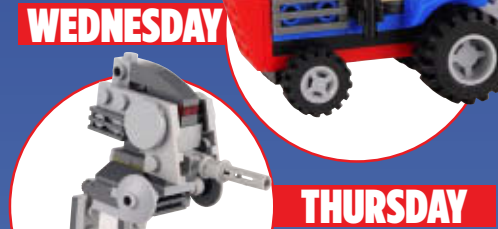
Both the parents and Thomas Cook, which last year achieved £8.6billion in sales, received the money from Louis Hotels – owner of the bungalow



TRAGIC VICTIMS: Christi and Bobby Shepherd

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