



Heather Saunders and her daughters Catherine, left, and Nicola arriving at Gatwick yesterday. Earlier a 50-man Greek military honour guard saluted her husband's body at Athens airport before they boarded the British Airways flight

THE body of Brigadier Stephen Saunders, the British military attaché murdered in Athens last week, was flown back to England yesterday accompanied by his widow and two teenage daughters (Tim Reid, and John Carr in Athens write).

As the Greek Government announced that it had doubled the reward for information leading to the arrest of his killers to £2 million, Brigadier

## Wife brings body of murdered diplomat home

Saunders' coffin, draped in a Union Jack, was met at Gatwick by a Guard of Honour from his regiment, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire

Fighting back tears shortly afterwards, Heather Saunders, the Brigadier's widow,

told a press conference: "Stephen was very much a peacekeeping soldier, a man who had a very deep belief in all things good in life.

"He was a true family man who has been ripped from the very heart of this family by evil, wicked and cowardly

men who have achieved nothing for themselves but world-wide condemnation.

"I want that condemnation to continue. I want these men caught and prosecuted. They must never destroy another family in this way."

Brigadier Saunders, 52, was

ambushed by two gunmen of the 17 November terrorist group last Thursday, as he was driving to work at the British Embassy in Athens. Greek police yesterday said that they had found the motorbike that may have carried the killers.

The British Airways Boeing

737 carrying the Brigadier's body, his wife, Nicola, 15 and Catherine, 13, and his mother, May Saunders, had touched down at 5.20pm under heavy skies after the four-hour flight from Athens.

The family was met by General Sir Michael Walker, Ma-

ajor General Robin Grist, Brigadier Saunders's regimental colonel, and Baroness Symons, the Defence Minister. Brigadier Saunders's sister, Jennifer Wessendorff, and his brother, Tim Saunders, also made the journey.

A 50-man Greek military

honour guard had turned out at Athens airport to salute the body on its way. On the 15-mile ride to the airport from the Saunders' villa in the northern suburbs of Athens, Mrs Saunders stopped briefly on the road where four terrorist bullets killed her husband, and placed a wreath of red poppies at the spot. The funeral, with full military honours, will be held in Salisbury Cathedral next Tuesday.