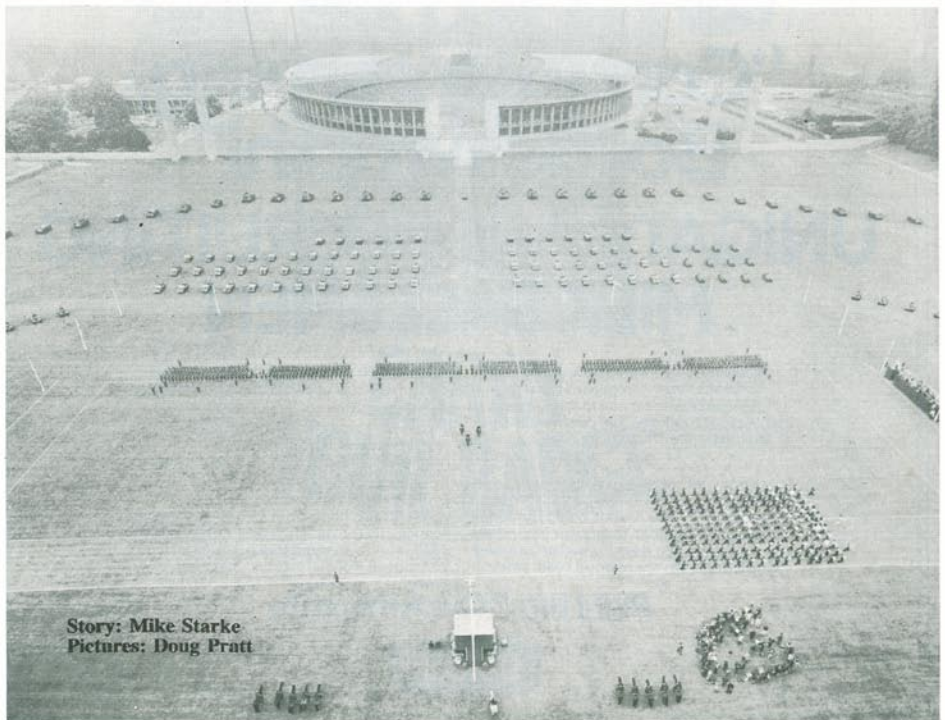


BERLIN

Trooping the Colour makes history



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Pictures: Doug Pratt



A PAGE of modern military history was made at Berlin's spectacular Maifeld Stadium when — for the first time in her reign — the Trooping the Colour ceremony was performed in front of the Queen outside Britain.

The trooping ceremony, undertaken on the Queen's orders, took place at the annual parade in Berlin celebrating Her Majesty's official birthday. Normally a glittering display of military pageantry, this year's parade was especially so as it was staged in front of the monarch herself accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Some 30,000 people gathered in the Maifeld's spacious stands to watch the event and the less familiar uniforms of French and American allies mingled with those of the British as a reminder of the unique status of Berlin as a divided city. Berliners too were there in force to greet the British monarch they had affectionately dubbed 'Die Queen.'

The rigid formality of the military preparations for the parade in the still, humid air in the stadium contrasted with the effervescent enthusiasm of the crowd who whiled away their waiting with impromptu chants of 'We want the Queen' and singing of 'Jerusalem.'

The arrival of the horse-drawn state landau carrying the royal party was the signal for a co-ordinated roar of greeting to fill the massive stadium. The red, white and blue stripes of thousands of hand-held union

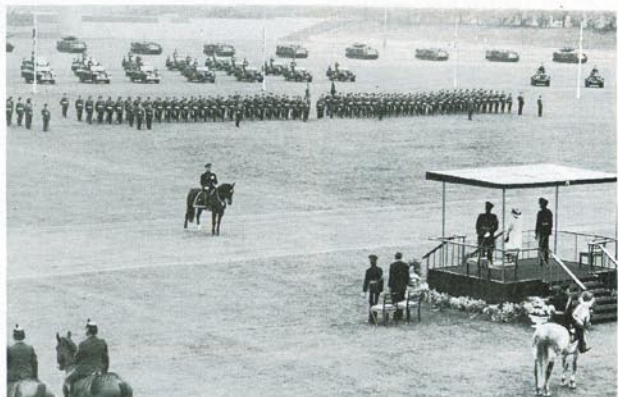
Top left: Gazelles trail red, white and blue.

Left: A panorama of the military pageantry.

Top: Her Majesty chats with some soldiers.

Centre: The parade lines up for the Queen.

Right: All the excited children show the flag.



flags blurred into a rippling sea of colour as they were waved in the air.

The three battalions currently stationed in Berlin — plus their Colours to be trooped — were on parade. They were 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, and 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. All the supporting arms and services of the Berlin Field Force — plus the RAF — were on parade too.

Making up the total number of 1100 troops on parade were massed bands (led by 2nd Parachute Battalion's tiny pony mascot 'Lance-Corporal' Pegasus) and the tanks of B Squadron, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, which fired a 21-gun royal salute.

The Army Air Corps was not left out and the Gazelle helicopters of 7 Flight burst over the stadium trailing red, white and blue smoke. The infantry's contribution to the noisome greetings was a feu de joie fired from their rifles, the cracking ripple of sound spreading precisely along the ranks.

The parade advanced in review order and the Queen took the Royal Salute before she left with the traditional three cheers from the troops on parade mingling with tumultuous applause from the stands as she rode off to fulfil other engagements in Berlin during her second visit in 13 years.

Right: Perfect symmetry as the Colours pass by.

Below: One gentleman rises to the occasion.

Bottom: Firing the twenty-one gun salute.

