

**FOUR-PAGE
NEWS EXTRA**

**Scenes that
shocked
the nation**



● Hooligans (left) swarm on to the pitch in one of the scenes filmed by the BBC. The ugly faces of violence (right) captured in close-up as the mob pelt the police with seats.

FANS' DREAM IS TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE...

THE message "Welcome to the wonderful world of football" flashes up on the electronic scoreboard at Kenilworth Road before every match.

There was nothing wonderful about Luton Town's ground on Wednesday, March 13, as hundreds of Millwall followers ran amok, creating fear and disgust in equal measures for Luton supporters.

It should have been a night of rejoicing for the town as Luton reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup for the first time in 26 years.

Instead, the champagne tasted like cider vinegar.

Luton was given early warning of the trouble to come as Millwall's army descended on the town.

By 5 pm, windows in the Castle Street area of the town—including the Phoenix and Castle Street Newsagents—had been broken and police were in pursuit of a gang in Park Street.

At the ground, the Kenilworth Road terrace, reserved for visiting fans, was

packed by 7 pm — 45 minutes before kick-off — and supporters were already sitting on the scoreboard supports and the passageway cages that divide the terrace into three sections after turnstiles had been broken down.

For one fan, the crush didn't matter at all. He was practically comatose with drink and had to be helped away by a St John Ambulance man.

At 7.10 pm, police and stewards alike were swept aside as hundreds of visiting supporters scaled the fences behind the goal and raced down the pitch to the Oak Road end.

There was no question that they were going simply to taunt the Luton fans on the Oak Road. A hail of bottles, cans, nails, 50p and £1 coins sent the home supporters back up the terraces but they could hardly move because of their num-

ber and the newcomers coming on to the Oak Road from the turnstiles.

Luton footballers, who came out to warm up in the Oak Road end goalmouth, rapidly disappeared — they would have been better warming up at one of the bonfires started on the Kenilworth Road terrace in any event.

The police were powerless to stop the missile throwing and when one officer tried to intervene, he was set upon.

For many of the home supporters, enough was enough. The appeals over the loudspeakers for the troublemakers to return to the Kenilworth End were interspersed with messages from Luton fans — fathers separated from sons, friends from friends, mothers and daughters from husbands and fathers — all with one aim in mind: to get out and get home while they still

By **DENIS O'DONOGHUE**

could.

The rabble took over the Bobbers' Stand, ignoring scoreboard messages that the game wouldn't start until they moved. They even disregarded a loudspeaker appeal from Millwall manager George Graham and it wasn't until Mr Graham made a touchline appearance that they vacated their hijacked seats.

Even then, many infiltrated the Main Stand where isolated fights broke out and some seats were ripped out.

The arrival of police dogs did much to move the fans although, ironically, Millwall defender Lindsay Smith came closest to feeling the sharp teeth of the law.

While warming up, he

offered his hand to a police dog and hastily snatched it back as a set of canine canines snapped shut!

Despite the interruptions, the game started practically on time with many watching it from on top of the Bobbers Stand after climbing up the floodlight pylons.

But the match was only 14 minutes old when the rowdies came over the fences again, forcing referee David Hutchinson—a police inspector—to take the teams off for 25 minutes, during which time he tried a loudspeaker appeal.

When the game did restart—and once Brian Stein had scored—the big fear was that another pitch invasion would be made in order to have the game abandoned if Millwall were still losing.

A couple of attempts were launched but extra police, forming a cordon along the triangle end of the Main Stand kept control, although some seats were ripped out, causing a head injury to a steward.

Luton goalkeeper Les Sealey, who had the ordeal of standing at the "Millwall end" during the second half, was hit on the head by an object and in addition a knife was also found in his goalmouth. Sealey, in fact, received early warning from referee Richardson that the final whistle was about to blow and was practically already in the dressing room when it did.

One "fan" made a grab for Luton coach Trevor Hartley who raced out of the dugout but fortunately failed to get a secure grip. Within seconds, the

hooligans were back on the pitch and in the Bobbers' Stand tearing out seats and ripping down fences. These were the scenes which shocked and disgusted the nation when they were televised and one can only applaud the BBC decision to make the film available to the police.

Even at this point there was a moment of humour. The hero of the night for many was the police dog who got a good grip on the seat of one fleeing rowdy's trousers and left him with his backside hanging out.

Another lad, one pace ahead of a pursuing policeman, jumped over the fence into the Main Stand, fell and opened up a cut over his eye as he collided with the edge of a seat.

He burst into tears, but in truth, there weren't many who felt too much sympathy for him.

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