

# The Arrival B-day in Copenhagen

The fourth of June finally arrived. I had the day off work, and I left for Kastrup Airport, where parking was utterly impossible. Thousands of fans had turned up, and back then, airport security was something of a joke. The barricades had to be reinforced, and airport workers had to be called in to keep the throngs of fans away from the airplane terminal locations. It was from the observation platform where one could first see The Beatles arrive from London, in a BEA plane bearing an extra flag along with the letters 'TLES' added to the airline's logo. It was quite a remarkable sight when the quartet from Liverpool made their way down the plane's stairway: John, Paul and George, along with replacement drummer Jimmie Nicol. Dozens of journalists and photographers had secured airport passes, which allowed them to come all the way up to the plane. The group kindly allowed themselves to be photographed, and the jubilant, screaming fans could be heard throughout the entire airport. The Beatles were then driven to the SAS Royal Hotel, located near Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen's city centre, where Hammerichsgade's wide pavement was filled with more fans. Extra police officers were on hand, but they were not enough to hold back the crowd. A number of British soldiers happened to be visiting Copenhagen, and they volunteered to help keep the teenagers away from

the hotel's entrance and nearby carriageways. It was a chaotic scene, and when The Beatles appeared in the hotel's first-storey windows, the street below filled with screams and cheers. A scheduled visit with The Beatles and selected journalists at the British Embassy was cancelled. Instead, we were all invited to a chaotic press conference with the three original band members and a bewildered Jimmie Nicol, who was naturally excited about the evening's two concerts.