



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!

It was almost over for David that night in Rotterdam...

Do you know that David could have died in Europe?

I'll give you a moment just to take that in . . . to realize within your own heart exactly what that would have meant to you.

It was, in fact, the most sensational non-event of David's European tour (and I'm including his failure to arrive, as originally expected, at Manchester airport).

A lot of you will have seen David's breath-stopping stage act by the time you're reading this. If you haven't been lucky enough to be there yourself, you'll have drained every significant detail from any of your friends who were among the thronging, blissfully happy crowds at Wembley or at Manchester's Belle Vue.

LEAP FORWARD

So you'll know all about the way David starts his act off — rushing onto the stage and grabbing the hand mike to go straight into an up tempo number.

Of course, every mike and the rest of the electronic equipment is checked beforehand to prevent accidents. But even so, occasionally something goes wrong and the event hits the headlines in the worst possible way . . . After all, it's not very pleasant to hear of anyone being electrocuted on stage . . . But when it happens to be the very favourite superstar who is the centre of your life — well, then, the agony of hearing the news would be unbearable.

On that Sunday in the Doelen-hall in Rotterdam, everything was set up, ready for the big moment when those thousands of fans

would finally set eyes on the guy they had all been waiting for and longing to see.

Then something made one of the musicians in David's band go over to the mike to make doubly sure.

That action saved David's life. The mike had a voltage high enough to kill instantly. And that was the mike which — only moments later — David would have grasped to leap into his opening song.

David, of course, knew nothing about all this till after the show. And, even then, he passed it off lightly. But, for every single one of David's fans, that was a moment to be grateful for . . . the moment which let David live!

Europe was certainly full of excitement of many different kinds and David loved it all (or almost all!). He doesn't need to miss death by a hair's breadth to get his kicks out of life!

For instance, there was a wonderful day of relaxation in Spain when David went up into the mountains to go ski-ing. Give him the excuse or opportunity to get his feet on a pair of ski's and those ski's onto a snow slope, and you're sure to hit it off with David! This session on the slopes was especially well-timed as it gave him an opportunity to wind down after a hectic day in the Madrid TV studios the day before.

And, of course, leading up to that, he'd had a pretty frantic schedule with his opening concerts of the tour.

His first live performance in Europe was not, strictly speaking, his scene at all:

"Well, they were all the older generation really," David com-

mented . . . "Very few young folk there at all, and I had my doubts about my music going down with them. I'd felt that it wasn't quite their style right from the start. So I was rather pleased with the response actually . . . I'm pretty certain that half of them didn't have a clue who I was. And a lot of the other half probably thought I was some other guy!"

I guess that must be one of David's jokes. Because even if the people at the Radio Luxembourg Golden Lion Awards didn't know who David was at that point, they certainly weren't left in doubt about it for long!

The response he got from fans in Hamburg was on a scale virtually unknown in Germany before!

German fans are usually so orderly, so disciplined . . . They go to their seats and sit through the act.

Usually . . . But David's act was too much for anyone to sit through in a quiet, orderly fashion. And, for once, those German kids really went wild — and surprised David no end!

"After everyone telling me not to expect screaming or freaking out, I was all set for a real quiet gig. Then it just all started to happen. It was really something to feel these kids letting go!"

FLOWER POWER

David was also very moved by a delightful gesture from his fans at the start of his act. Kim and Dave had done their set in the first half, followed by a rather restless twenty minute interval. Of course, the crowd was restless