

# Today

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

## 50% on InterCity commuter fares

COMMUTERS who quit London for cheaper homes will have to pay up to an extra £2,000 to travel into work.

British Rail warned yesterday of fare rises this autumn on its overcrowded InterCity services which

by TOM CONDON

are expected to be as high as 50 per cent.

The shock increase is the first of a series of rises

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1988 ★ DAILY SALE 562,800 (Week ending August 6) 20p (Republic of Ireland 30p)



SPARKLING: Mum-to-be Lulu

## TV scene that made me want a baby at 40 by Lulu

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STARRING: Lulu with the TV baby that made her feel so broody again

## Shamed banker Clowes is given £1,000 a week

by CATHY GUNN City Editor

DISGRACED tycoon Peter Clowes is being paid £1,000 a week expenses by officials sorting out his failed empire.

The move has infuriated thousands of investors in his companies, who face losing their life savings.

Clowes refused to help track down £138 million of missing funds until liquidators agreed the

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**HOUSEIE**  
£35,000  
play today  
SEE PAGE 12

# CREDIT CARD EVIL BY LAWSON



## DAREDEVIL BLACK BARON PILOT UNMASKED: Page 3

GREEDY credit card firms were condemned by Chancellor Nigel Lawson yesterday.

Only days after TODAY highlighted their enormous interest rates, the Chancellor declared: "It is a very, very expensive method of borrowing."

Mr Lawson, annual salary £51,068, admitted he often turns to his "flexible friends."

He said he clears his credit card bills in full every month, to avoid having to pay interest.

"That's the sensible thing to do" he said. "If you do allow yourself to go into the period when interest starts clocking up, it's a very, very expensive way of borrowing indeed and not to be recommended."



by WINSTON GRANT-EVANS

The Chancellor hit out after last week's interest rate rises by Barclaycard, Lloyds Access and TSB.

Interviewed on BBC radio he agreed that the companies raised interest rates "damn quick" and were slow to bring

## We said it first, now Chancellor says it too

them down again. Firms were free to charge "whatever rate of interest they see fit," the Chancellor said, "but there is particular concern about credit card companies, and that is why we have referred them to the Monopolies Commission. We shall have to see what the Commission says."

Cardholders, who borrowed  
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**TODAY UNMASKS MYSTERY PILOT BUZZING PARIS**

# Now daredevil Black Baron has London in his sights



**NEW HORIZONS:** The Black Baron with his fighter plane

Pictures: PETER NICHOLLS

## Ghost from the war haunts RAF base

THE ghost of an airman is haunting an RAF base.

Sightings began more than a year ago when a plaque to the memory of Warrant Officer Walter Hodgson, whose ashes were scattered on the runway in 1959, was moved.

His ghostly figure, dressed in flying kit, has twice been seen at RAF Linton-on-Ouse, a training base in North Yorkshire, by assistant air traffic controller Brenda Jackson.

She said yesterday: "I was in the switchboard room at night when the figure glided past the

door. No one else was about so I screamed because I knew I had seen a ghost. Two weeks later it appeared again, this time in the tea room."

At a press conference Squadron Leader Mike Brooks said: "Perhaps moving the the plaque upset his spirit."

Warrant Officer Hodgson, who flew from Linton during the last war, died from illness at the age of 38 and a plaque was installed on the outside wall of the control tower. Last year this was placed inside the building."

A PHANTOM flyer called the Black Baron, who has been tormenting Paris with daredevil swoops over the city, is plotting a raid on London.

For weeks the Baron has been buzzing famous Paris landmarks and fashionable areas in the capital, evading attempts by police helicopters and even air force jets to catch him.

But TODAY has tracked him down. We caught up with him as he prepared to take off from a tiny airfield on another low-level sortie. This time he has a new target: London.

Le Baron Noir, as the French have dubbed him because he always flies on his raids at night, is le Comte de Guillaume, a bachelor and the last surviving member of an ancient aristocratic family.

He said: "I have given up trying to fool the French. They are simply no match for me. Maybe London's policemen will make a better job of trying to catch me."

At first his illegal flights over Paris were treated as a summer prank. One aircraft controller said it was merely yuppies trying to outdo their London counterparts who planned to race cars round the M25.

### Scrambled

But the flights have become so frequent that the Minister of the Interior, Pierre Joxe, has scrambled all the forces he can muster to try to catch the raider.

Last weekend French air force Mirage F-1's joined a swarm of police helicopters in the hunt, but each time they thought they might have got him, he slipped away into the night.

The Baron, 35, smiled yesterday when he recalled how the helicopters gave chase.

"They must have really thought they had me on Sunday," he said. "I could hear the clatter from the rotor blades. But all I had



**SWOOP:** A Triomphe for the Baron

by **BILL MOULAND**

to do was dip low into the commercial air lanes" around Orly and they did not dare follow.

"It was all perfectly safe, despite what the Interior Minister is saying. I had my wits about me and no other aircraft ever came near."

The Baron, who lives in a remote chateau 50 miles south of Paris, is even more amused by the Government plans to search all the tiny private airfields dotted around the capital until they come up with the guilty aircraft.

"I fly from my own land, which is quite hilly and well wooded," he said. "It would be hard to find even if a helicopter sat on my tail all the way."

"But the French police are more stupid than 100 Inspector Clouseaus. They would have trouble finding grapes in a vineyard."

### Lookouts

"Do you know they have even started putting lookouts on the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe to try to spot me. Nothing like it has been seen since the 1914-18 war. And they are having no more luck now than they did then."

The Baron says one of the reasons that he has evaded capture for so long is that he does not always use the same aircraft.

"They think I am using a Cessna," he said. "Well, I am, sometimes. But I also have a Piper Commanche and an old First World War Fokker. I keep them in a hangar hidden in the trees at the chateau. An old family retainer helps me maintain them. I know he would never give my secret away."

"He probably doesn't even know the Baron is

me because I am often away at air shows or on business, and fly in late at the weekend."

The Baron, who was part-educated at Oxford and makes his money from huge family vineyards and estates, says he will have no problems slipping over the Channel to plague London.

Sipping a glass of Chablis, a bottle of which he always keeps in the cockpit, he said "I am often over in England on business and use a variety of airfields. Sometimes I even land in farming friends' meadows."

"I do not think it will be difficult to fly over London one night. I have already taken a good look at Tower Bridge, which should be easy, and the Houses of Parliament."

### Garlic

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said last night that if the Baron tried to buzz London it would be an infringement of air space and he would be prosecuted under the Air Navigation Order.

"Of course we have no facilities to send up fighter planes to find him, but we would track the aircraft on radar and trace it to its landing point."

An RAF spokesman said: "Since he is a civilian we don't have any police power. Of course we would help track him on radar, and if requested send aircraft to find him."

They will have to be on full alert to sniff him out. The baron's flight plans are specific. He said: "I am also hoping to buzz over Mayfair and Joan Collins' home in Bayswater. Apparently you can smell the garlic cooking in the apartments nearby. That will make me really feel at home."



**TARGET:** The Baron's time has come for Big Ben

## 'Clouseau police are so stupid'