

1969 China Shield HMS Terror

When 42Cdo RM, the holders, faced 40Cdo RM in the 1969 final of the China Shield between Ships & Units in the Far East it was the first time since the shield was won by HMS Glory in 1901 that two Royal Marine Units had opposed each other in the final.

The turf in Terror's Stadium glittered under the daylight brightness of the floodlights. From the lofty heights of the stands, supporters from both Commandos and uncommitted watchers too looked down onto the silent pitch. As the crowd grew larger the Pipe Band of 42 Commando was led onto the pitch by Sgt G. D. Wood. Their display ended with the 'Black Bear', and to this the referee, flanked by the linesman, led the teams onto the pitch and began the normal preliminaries before the game.

At the whistle 42 Commando broke from the 4-3-3 formation which both they and their opponents had adopted and went into the attack with Mne Murray making a 30-yard dash. In the 6th minute Mne Hardy worked the ball from the halfway line, sped goalward and when some 25 yards out unleashed an unstoppable shot that flew into the roof of the net to put 42 Commando 1 goal ahead.

But the encouragement given to 40 Commando by their Captain Mne Ray Johnstone was justly rewarded when Mne Terry Glover, collecting a pass from LMA Doc Barr, moved down the right wing, 42 Commando goal keeper Mne Thomas managed to get to this shot but he was only able to parry it and Mne Les Danter scored from the rebound.

42 Commando's attacks were then repeatably repelled by a strong 40 Commando defence where Mne Geoff Barker and Mne Geoff Brotherton dominated the midfield and enabled their team to gain the lead when after a save by 42s goal keeper the ball was pounced on by Mne Geoff Barker from a pass to Mne John Thacker whose shot, half stopped by Mne Thomas the 42 Commando goal keeper, was hustled into the net once again by Mne Les Danter.

The second half was played at the same pace and with equal determination on both sides. After twenty minutes relentless pressure by 42 Commando an infringement in the penalty area gave Mne Hardy a chance to level the score to 2-2. The surprising pace at which the whole game was played was a tribute to the fitness of both these fine teams who had each scored two goals right up to within seven minutes of the final whistle. It was then that one of 40 Commando's throw ins was quickly taken by Mne Geoff Brotherton to Cpl Edward who slipped it accurately to Mne Ray Johnstone who from the bye-line cut across a centre which Mne John Thacker met with his head and gave Mne Thomas no chance to stop 40 Commando's winning goal.

40Cdo RM Squad, Sticks Norton (Manager), Les Danter, Doc Barr, Geoff Brotherton, Nutty Edward's, John West, Jonny Chapman, Brian Alexander, Geoff Barker, Terry Glover, Ray Johnston, Jonny Thacker, Curly Hilson.

Vice Admiral W. D. O'Brien, CB, DSC, presented the shield to the winning 40 Commando team after one of the most entertaining and hard-fought games of soccer seen by Terror Stadium for a long time.