

always get that terrible sinking feeling when it approaches their turn to "Go". But we all agree that the thrill is worth the effort you put into it. There is nothing on earth like it.

I expect we shall be away from here by about Thursday & it looks as though I might make my last jump on my birthday. I can't say where I shall go next week because anyway I don't know but I ought to be home pretty soon on 14 days leave. The nervous strain is tremendous and you usually get leave soon after you get the wings.

I think I will go to Manchester this evening to the pictures but I must get to bed fairly early as we are jumping again early in the morning. I was late on parade this morning & got an hours' junkies so I must be on time tomorrow.
Well that's all at the moment, I will telephone when I get my wings. Love to all
R. (M)

the others dropping but as soon as you get into the balloon basket you begin to feel a bit weak. Then the winch stops and you put your feet in the hole ready to push off. It's very high up & you realise you've got to step into space but when you get the word "Go" well — you seem to go without knowing it. You drop nearly 200 feet at almost 60 miles an hour before the chute opens and it feels pretty grim but then suddenly you stop and are sitting up in the sky. That is a most wonderful feeling and more than rewards the fear you get when you push off. We landed pretty heavily but without any bad accidents. As soon as the first drop was over we went up for another. Although you know you are going to enjoy it when the chute is open