



**THE
GUINNESS
BOOK
OF
RECORDS
1988**



LONGEST DELAYED DROP

Joseph Kittinger, a Captain in the US Air Force, achieved the longest delayed drop on 16 Aug 1960. He jumped from a balloon 19.47 miles 31,33 km above the earth at Tularosa, New Mexico and fell for 4 min 36 sec (16.04 miles 25,81 km) before deploying his parachute. During the fall, he broke the sound barrier. To scale, he jumped almost from the top of another Guinness Book of Records placed above this one.

FIRST FROM TOWER ● Louis-Sébastien Lenormand (1757–1839). Quasi-parachute. Montpellier, France. 1783.

EARLIEST MID-AIR RESCUE ● Miss Dolly Shepherd brought down Miss Louie May on her single 'chute. From balloon at 11,000 ft 3350 m. Longton, Staffordshire. 9 June 1908.

FIRST FROM AIRCRAFT (MAN) ● 'Captain' Albert Berry. Aerial exhibitionist. St Louis, Missouri. 1 Mar 1912.

FIRST FROM AIRCRAFT (WOMAN) ● Mrs Georgina 'Tiny' Broadwick (b. 1893). Griffith Park, Los Angeles. 21 June 1913.

LOWEST ESCAPE ● S/Ldr Terence Spencer DFC, RAF. 30–40 ft 9–12 m. Wismar Bay, Baltic. 19 April 1945.

LONGEST DURATION FALL ● Lt Col Wm H. Rankin, USMC. 40 min due to thermals. North Carolina. 26 July 1956.

LONGEST DELAYED DROP (MAN) ● Capt Joseph W. Kittinger². 84,700 ft 16.04 miles 25 816 m from balloon at 102,800 ft 31 333 m. Tularosa, New Mexico. 16 Aug 1960.

LONGEST DELAYED DROP (WOMAN) ● O. Kommissarova (USSR). 14 100 m 46,250 ft. Over USSR. 21 Sept 1965.

LONGEST DELAYED DROP (CIVILIAN, OVER UK) (MAN) ● P. Halfacre, R. O'Brien, R. James. 27,300 ft 8321 m from 30,000 ft 9144 m. Sibson, Peterborough. 27 Aug 1983.

LONGEST DELAYED DROP (CIVILIAN, OVER UK) (WOMAN) ● Francesca Gannon and Valerie Slattery. 21,391 ft 6520 m from 24,934 ft 7600 m. Netheravon, Wiltshire. 11 Mar 1987.

LONGEST DELAYED DROP (GROUP, UK) ● S/Ldr J. Thirtle AFC; Fl Sgt A. K. Kidd AFM; Sgts L. Hicks (d. 1971), P. P. Keane AFM, BEM, K. J. Teesdale AFM. 39,183 ft 11 943 m from 41,383 ft 12 613 m. Boscombe Down, Wiltshire. 16 June 1967.

MOST SOUTHERLY ● T/Sgt Richard J. Patton (d. 1973). Operation Deep Freeze. South Pole. 25 Nov 1956.

MOST NORTHERLY ● Dr Jack Wheeler (US); pilot Capt Rocky Parsons. -25° F (-31,6° C). In Lat. 90° 00' N. 15 Apr 1981.

CROSS-CHANNEL (LATERAL FALL) ● Sgt Bob Walters with 3 soldiers and 2 Royal Marines. 22 miles 35,4 km from 25,000 ft 7600 m. Dover to Sangatte, France. 31 Aug 1980.

CAREER TOTAL (MAN) ● Yuriy Baranov and Anatoliy Osipov (USSR). 10,000. Over USSR. To Sept 1980.

CAREER TOTAL (WOMAN) ● Valentina Zakoretskaya (USSR). 8000. Over USSR. 1964–Sept 1980.

HIGHEST LANDING ● Ten USSR parachutists³. 23,405 ft 7133 m. Lenina Peak. May 1969.

HIGHEST TOWER JUMP ● Herbert Leo Schmidtz (US). KTUL-TV Mast 1984 ft 604 m. Tulsa, Oklahoma. 4 Oct 1970.

BIGGEST STAR ● 100-man team (75 men, 25 women). Formation held 76 sec from 6000 ft 1830 m. Davis Field, Muskogee, Oklahoma. 5 July 1986.

HIGHEST COLUMN (WORLD) ● 24-Royal Marine Team. Dunkeswell, Devon. 20 Aug 1986.

LOWEST INDOOR JUMP ● Andy Smith and Phil Smith. 192 ft 58,5 m. Houston Astrodome, Texas. 16–17 Jan 1982.

MOST TRAVELLED ● Kevin Seaman from a Cessna Skylane (pilot Charles E. Merritt). 12,186 miles 19 611 km. Jumps in all 50 US States. 26 July–15 Oct 1972.

OLDEST (MAN) ● Edwin C. Townsend. 89 years. Vermillion Bay, Louisiana, USA. 5 Feb 1986.

OLDEST (WOMAN) ● Mrs Sylvia Brett (GB). 80 years 166 days. Cranfield, Beds. 23 Aug 1986.

24-HOUR TOTAL ● David Huber (US). 250. Issaquah, Washington, USA. 3–4 July 1985.

LOWEST MID-AIR RESCUE ● Gregory Robertson saved Debbie Williams (unconscious). Collision at 9000 ft 2750 m, pulled her ripcord at 3500 ft 1065 m—10 sec from impact. Coolidge, Arizona. 18 Apr 1987.

¹ The king of Ayutthaya, Siam in 1687 was reported to have been diverted by an ingenious athlete parachuting with two large umbrellas. Faustus Verancsis is reputed to have descended in Hungary with a framed canopy in 1617.

² Maximum speed in rarefied air was 625.2 mph 1006 km/h at 90,000 ft 27 430 m—marginally supersonic.

³ Four were killed.

50,000 ft

40,000 ft

30,000 ft

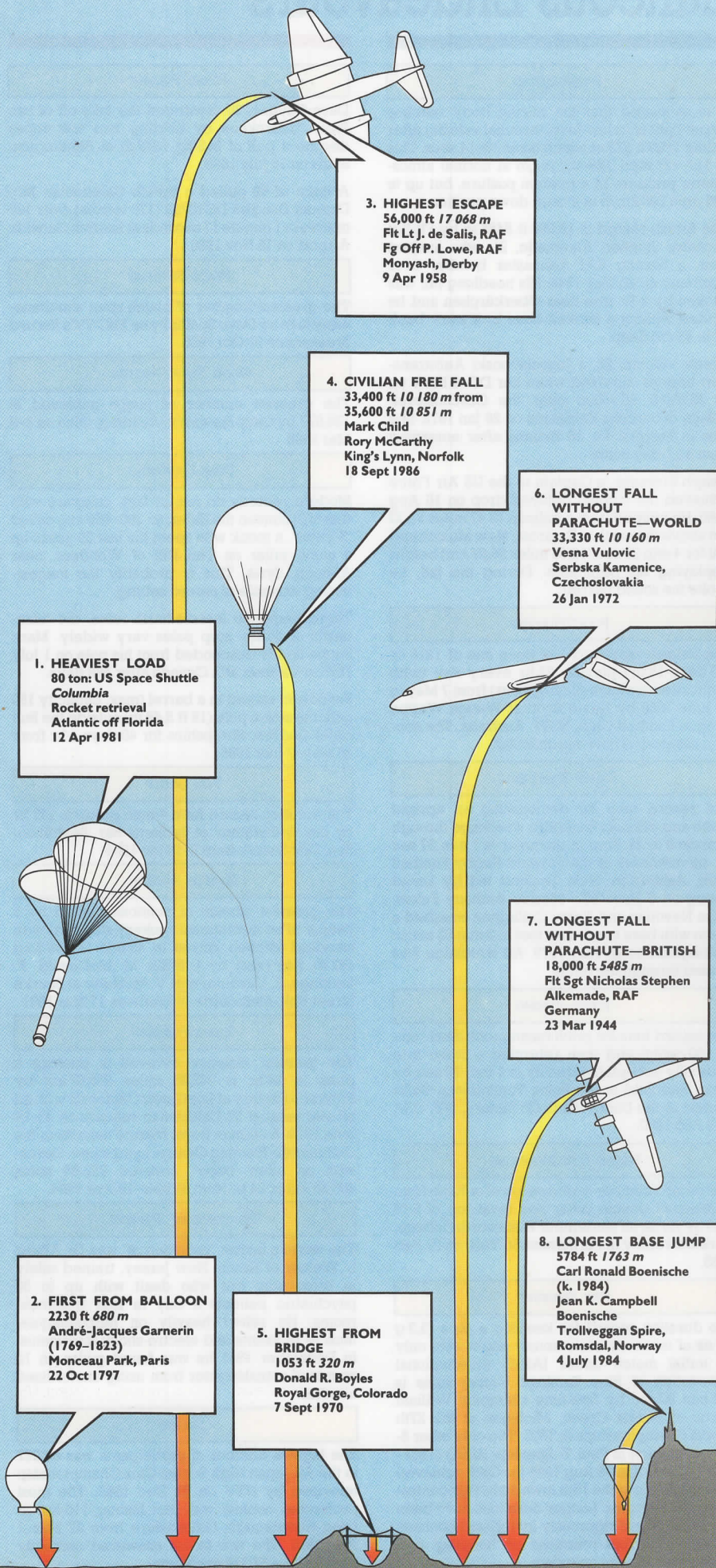
20,000 ft

10,000 ft

15 km

10 km

5 km



1. HEAVIEST LOAD
80 ton: US Space Shuttle
Columbia
Rocket retrieval
Atlantic off Florida
12 Apr 1981

3. HIGHEST ESCAPE
56,000 ft 17 068 m
Ft Lt J. de Salis, RAF
Fg Off P. Lowe, RAF
Monyash, Derby
9 Apr 1958

4. CIVILIAN FREE FALL
33,400 ft 10 180 m from
35,600 ft 10 851 m
Mark Child
Rory McCarthy
King's Lynn, Norfolk
18 Sept 1986

6. LONGEST FALL WITHOUT PARACHUTE—WORLD
33,330 ft 10 160 m
Vesna Vulovic
Serbska Kamenice,
Czechoslovakia
26 Jan 1972

7. LONGEST FALL WITHOUT PARACHUTE—BRITISH
18,000 ft 5485 m
Fit Sgt Nicholas Stephen
Alkemade, RAF
Germany
23 Mar 1944

8. LONGEST BASE JUMP
5784 ft 1763 m
Carl Ronald Boenische
(k. 1984)
Jean K. Campbell
Boenische
Trollveggen Spire,
Romsdal, Norway
4 July 1984

2. FIRST FROM BALLOON
2230 ft 680 m
André-Jacques Garnerin
(1769–1823)
Monceau Park, Paris
22 Oct 1797

5. HIGHEST FROM BRIDGE
1053 ft 320 m
Donald R. Boyles
Royal Gorge, Colorado
7 Sept 1970

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