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World Parachute Championship 31st August 1956

Moscow: The qualities of high courage and daring formed a common bond between parachutists of ten Nations (including the Soviet Union and the United States) competing in the World Championships, at Tushino Airport. Flying over the target area, each competitor has to fight a lone battle in trying to land on THE tiny cross, eighteen hundred feet below - relying solely on his nerve and split-second timing.

But this special kind of courage is not only a man's preserve - eight women's teams were also competing.

Here's a happy landing, right on the target.

The contest consisted of three types of jumps, and here's the American team going aboard for the highly-dangerous delayed drop.

Jumping at six-thousand feet, the parachutist must fall for half-a-minute before pulling the cord. Thirty seconds of suspense and drama. SOUND. ...AND the blossoming parachute ends a thirty-second gamble with death.

The individual winner was Gustav Koubek, one of Czechoslovakia's team of champions.

Still behind the Iron Curtain, we go to East Germany, where Western journalists were invited to watch the departure of Soviet Air Force Units.

This follows the recent High Command announcement that Russia's 300,000 troops in East Germany were to be reduced. One unit to leave was the 221st Jet Bomber Wing.

Across the border, another spectacular display, this time featuring the West Berlin Police, at the Olympic Stadium.

This annual event shows that they know how to keep the traffic moving - and also, how to stop it!

And they prove that, in riding motor-cycles, - they really are a law unto themselves.

Practising Yoga? (2) OR JUST looking for a puncture?