

THE BLUE VIKINGS

FREEFALL PARACHUTE DISPLAY TEAM

Formed 1985, reformed 1986, 1988, 1993, 1994, 1996 and 2001. London HQ: Flat 68
Windermere Point, Southwark, LONDON.

Mr James D Bryant
Trinity College
Cambridge
PE20 9UA

14 July 2001

Dear Mr Bryant,

For your birthday an admirer has paid for you to have a parachute jump. Sky diving isn't everyone's cup of tea but we welcome you aboard. The jump is arranged for 22 July 2001, the day of your birthday. We'll be at your home by 7.30 a.m. to enable us to get to Peterborough airfield in time for take off.

During the trip to the airstrip we'll have a good few bevvies in the Blue Vikings tour bus and don't panic because on our arrival there'll be 15 minutes of intensive training before we take off.

All first timers (or "virgins" as we call them in the team) are naturally nervy. To put your mind at rest here are answers to the six most commonly asked questions about high altitude jumps.

Q: AM I LIKELY TO FALL TO MY DEATH?

A: No, it's quite unlikely. In about 96% of all jumps the parachute opens perfectly and doesn't snag, tangle, fold, rip, crease, split, invert or catch a cross-draught.

Q: AM I LIKELY TO WET MYSELF ON THE WAY DOWN?

A: If you do it's nothing to be ashamed of. Even old hands can get a bit "widdly" during the first 10,000 feet. Just bring a change of underwear.

Q: IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF BEING SUCKED INTO THE JET ENGINES?

A: No, because our plane has propellers. Seriously though, following the 4 para inquest in 1992 it became illegal to jump from doorways within six feet of an engine (or is it nine)?

continued on reverse/...

Team Members: ~~'Skipper Lawrence'~~ (Team Leader), Rossiter 'Lucky' Collins,
Fred 'Forgetful' Fawcett, Tim 'Terminator' Harris and ~~Bob 'Bomber' Brown~~

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHICKEN OUT UP THERE?

A: Surprisingly when you're as tanked up as we are fear doesn't come into it. However, it has been known for first-timers to freeze when faced with the headlong plunge into almost certain oblivion 48,000 terror-filled feet below them. Blue Viking jumpers don't have this problem though. Our transport plane is a converted World War Two B-52 bomber and one minute we're waiting in the bomb bay and the nextwhoosh! So there's no chance to bottle out.

Q: AM I COMPREHENSIVELY INSURED FOR THE JUMP?

A: Unfortunately, since our last insurance company withdrew its cover we have been unable to find an alternative insurer. We usually tell people that if you do have an accident (and it's very unlikely), just tell your current insurance company that you tripped over - or something like that.

Q: WHAT SPEED WILL I HIT THE GROUND?

A: If the chute fails then it will be the terminal velocity of free fall and that's about 250 m.p.h. assuming you go head first. Seriously though, it's no different than (say) jumping off the lavatory basin and landing on your own two feet, Try it out, but don't forget to finish your business first and put the seat down.

I hope that this answers all your questions, if not then we'll have plenty of time to talk on the way down. We all hope you enjoy your experience and that it will be one of many jumps that you have shortly in your life!

Yours sincerely
For The Blue Vikings

I. Swift-Fall VC
Acting Team Leader