



THE PEOPLE WATCHER'S GUIDE TO SUMMER FESTIVALS

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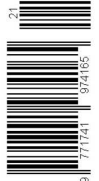
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Pakistani commandos carry an injured worshipper from one of two mosques stormed by gunmen in Lahore AFP/GETTY

Massacre of the heretics

Gunmen kill more than 70 in attacks on Lahore mosques

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The trouble with pollen

Close encounter with the advancing summer enemy
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Greece is the word

The year-round appeal of Samos
IN TRAVELLER



Murray powers ahead in Paris

British No 1 impresses in French Open
IN SPORT



UP, UP AND AWAY...

By Tom Peck

Just an exceptional, quiet, peaceful experience, was how Jonathan Trappe described his successful crossing of the English Channel yesterday, suspended by a cluster of helium-filled balloons.

The US adventurer passed over the white cliffs of Dover shortly after taking off from Ashford in Kent at 5am. He ascended to about 7,000ft by releasing water from a series of tanks in his modified paragliding gondola.

Mr Trappe, 36, of Raleigh, North Carolina, was loosely aiming for Dunkirk but the job of steering his contraption was left entirely to the elements. He landed about five hours later by cutting some of the balloons away and descending silently into a farmer's cabbage field at Les Moères, about 13 miles east of Dunkirk, where his serene journey was brought to an abrupt end by surprised French police. Eventually satisfied with his flight plan and other documents, the gendarmes sent him on his way.

Mr Trappe's crossing was much less eventful than the first balloon crossing of the Channel in 1785. Jean-Pierre Blanchard, a French balloonist, and John Jeffries, an American doctor who paid for the flight, set off in a hydrogen balloon which started leaking in flight.

The pair dumped all their ballast and most of their clothes into the water and just managed to stay airborne and land in Calais.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NICK OBANK/BARCROFT MEDIA

