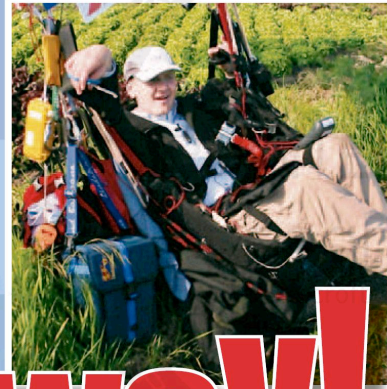


BALLOON BID OVER THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER



AIR WE GO: Jonathan takes off in Kent, floats over Dover cliffs, then lands in a French farmer's cabbage field



UP.. and away!

Daredevil copies movie to cross English Channel



UP FOR IT: Jonathan copied hit Disney film



MOST people hop on a ferry or the Eurostar to cross the Channel, but that was just too boring for Jonathan Trappe.

So he tied 55 helium balloons to an office chair, strapped himself in, and took off.

American Jonathan, 36, took four hours to float the 62 miles from Ashford, Kent, to France yesterday.

He had no way of steering and had to rely on the wind as he re-enacted Disney movie *Up*. And when he wanted to land, he just snipped off the balloons one at a time.

Jonathan narrowly missed a power line before coming to rest in a cabbage field near Dunkirk, but he described his trip as "an exceptional, peaceful experience."

Asked what possessed him to do it, he replied: "Didn't you have this dream - grabbing a bunch of toy balloons and floating off?"

Jonathan was quizzed at the landing site

By Euan Stretch

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by French cops - but only because the cabbage farmer complained that he had damaged his crop.

The trained pilot had permission from the authorities for his flight. And he said: "We work to methodically reduce the risk."

Jonathan's seat was packed with GPS and communication gear and he had a 12-strong support team. He also trained with trial flights in his homeland.

His journey had a happier ending than that of Brazilian priest Adelir Antonio de Carli, who flew off in a chair strapped to 1000 helium balloons in 2008 to raise money for a "spiritual rest stop" for lorry drivers.

Father de Carli flew into a storm and disappeared. The Brazilian navy found his body in the sea three months later.