

towards the large crowd of excited spectators, Mike's parachute looked like it hadn't opened properly. Moments later he collided with his fellow corporal, Wayne Shorthouse, the Red Devils' display coordinator. Luckily neither of them was injured as they made contact, but there was a very real chance now that one or both of them could plummet hundreds of metres towards the ground.

Falling a lot faster than expected, Mike looked up and could see that part of his parachute had become wrapped around Wayne's legs. It was possible he didn't have enough height left to free himself from the parachute and open the reserve before he hit

the ground. Wayne also realised immediately what had happened, and quickly took action. Coming in even closer to his stricken teammate, he struggled to hook one leg and then another around the lines of Mike's collapsing parachute.

This was an extremely difficult manoeuvre to pull off, and it was vital he got it right. If he didn't there would be a horrible accident. Both men knew that this close to the ground Mike had no other options – and that time was running out fast.

Thankfully Wayne managed to get both of his legs into Mike's lines pretty quickly, and he now held on as tightly as he could. With only one working parachute between them the combined weight of the two men meant they were still coming down a lot faster than in a conventional jump. Even so, it was possible for them to land safely, and Wayne was confident that, as long as he could maintain his grip on Mike's lines with

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