

THE BALLOONS GO UP

The Balloon goes up in Paris as 100,000 Parisians pack the Place de la Concorde to see their first balloon race since 1938. Up went the gas bags and down came a first-class mystery. Literally disappearing into the blue, nobody knew where the dickens they got to. Five days after the start of the race 6 of the 8 were unaccounted for. The Balloon men can't wait to get up - and it's sandbags from heaven for unwary spectators.

First up was 79 years old veteran Jean Belliss - this time he didn't get far - the trees in the Tuileries Gardens got a half-snooze on his balloon. Another bad starter was the smallest balloon in the race - a lamp post ripped a hole in its side and Paris got a bag-full of free gas. Frenchmen have always loved the race - now they get a new thrill watching for the ones that went up and haven't yet come down.