

Epilogue

"High Flight"

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air....*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace.
Where never lark, or even eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
- Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

John Gillespie Magee, Jr. (1922-1941).

On the whole, I am content with the way my life has gone so far. I realise of course that I could have done far better, and hopefully still can. But life is not only about achievement. Happiness is key, work/life balance counts for more in later years than in one's youth –but cannot be left until later years for action.

The acid test would be to ask oneself the question “If I were to die tomorrow, would I be satisfied with the man I have been and what I have done?”

To paraphrase one of my old Dronfield Grammar School reports, my reply would be:

Not bad, but could do better.