

4.0 Its job done! – but not quite on the ground ... yet!



1943, -, International Mutoscope Reel Co., used, Halftone.

This postcard shows a shot-down Soviet pilot from the Soviet-Finnish war in 1939. At least the parachute saved his life; however he failed to steer away from the telegraph cables!

Landing in a tree is very dangerous. Apart from the risk of breaking various bones, including your skull, there is a danger that you get stuck in the tree for hours.

These cards were sold from coin-operated vending machines in places such as amusement parks.



Circa 1939, Kuvahankinta Oy, Helsinki, -, used, Line Drawn Lithograph.



Circa 1940, -, Flieger-Fotos, used, Color Tinted Lithograph.

As far as landing on water goes, it does not get better than this! Not much fear of drowning.

Translated as 'it could have been worse'.

This parachutist has an excuse for being stuck up in a tree – he could not steer his parachute! Although the tree looks small enough he could cut himself free and fall the rest of the way without hurting himself. But the parachute looks a lost cause – now only good for making clothes!



Circa 1940/50s, Nino Italy, -, unused, Halftone.

4.0 Its job done! – Mail is always welcome, but if it comes by parachute perhaps it should be in a container.



1903, -, used, Halftone. Ex Keith Harrison collection.

Delivering mail by throwing the envelopes from a great height suggests that many of them would be lost!

The original balloon flight from Manchester was abandoned when the balloon flew into a tree; the cards were carried a week later (on Sept. 5th) on a successful flight from Alexandria Palace in North London to Orgar. 3,200 Postcards were dropped at 16 points en route and few have survived and very few in good condition. Considered by some to be the rarest postcard from the UK.



1930, Wally Fialkowska, -, used, Halftone.

Mail has been delivered by parachute for over 100 years. From the beginnings of powered flight aircraft have been used to drop mail (with a parachute) to remote locations. Perhaps the most famous mail drops came from airships such as the Hindenburg in the 1930s, but it is still a valid technique today – although a more secure container than that shown on this postcard would be better!



Circa 1920s, -, used, Color Rotogravure?

Dropping mail on a parachute at least ensures it gets to the ground in one piece! Although a bag of mail on a parachute might be better than just an envelope!

Personal delivery of mail via a parachute must be very expensive but at least it is less likely to get lost!



1942, Agnes Richardson, Photochrom Co London, used, Photochrome.



4.0 Its job done! – Now the fighting starts.



Circa 1940s, -, W.R. Thompson USA, unused, Photogravure.

Getting on to the ground in one piece, with all your equipment accounted for, is no mean achievement!



Circa 1940s, -, unused, Half-tone.

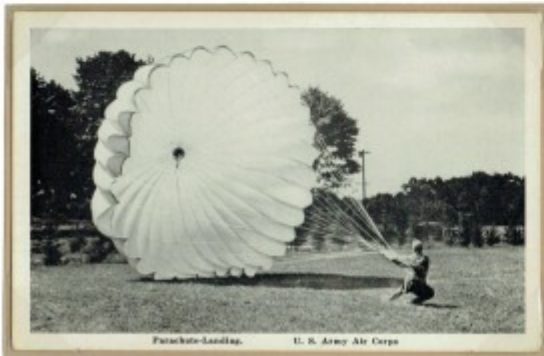
Japanese paratroop forces were only formed in September 1941. The lightly armed parachute units were intended to assault coastal areas, supporting amphibious landings or destroying enemy airfields.

Landing can be the most difficult and dangerous time for a paratrooper! Trying to deflate a parachute by just pulling will not work!



Circa 1940s, ACME photography, -, unused, Linen.

You can land too close to the action!



Circa 1940s, Army Photograph, Graycraft Card Co. USA, unused, Half-tone.

Major Walter Koch was in command of the highly successful airborne attack on the Belgium fort at Eben-Emael on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1940.

He is wearing the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross around his neck.

He died in 1943 from injuries received when he was hit by a car, shortly after criticising Hitler's order to kill British Commandos on sight.



1940-1943, W. Wilrich, -, unused, Half-tone.

4.0 Its job done – Parachutists at war.



1904, -, unused, Real Photo (RPPC), Undivided back.

This is the view from the Belgium fort at Eben-Emael that overlooks three crossing points of the Albert Canal. It was built in 1935 and was considered to be the strongest fort in Western Europe. The fort was successfully attacked by glider-borne German paratroopers on 10 May 1940 and opened the way for German troops to invade Belgium and Holland.



Circa 1940s, W. Wilrich, -, unused, Half-tone.

Lt Delica was the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command at Eben Emael. He and his 77 colleagues captured the fort within 30 minutes of landing!



1940s, -, unused, Gravure

The German invasion of Crete on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1941. Note the lack of heavy weapons which is one reason why they suffered heavy casualties.

Note the perforations on the top edge of the postcard. This suggests this came from a book of postcards. Due to paper shortages this postcard is printed on very thin paper, just 0.2mm thick (vice the normal 0.3mm thick postcards).



Circa 1942, -, unused, Half-tone.

During WW2 the Japanese military had two parachute forces; the Navy had the "Rikusentai" that parachuted and fought in Timor and Menado and the Army had the "Teishin" that did the same at Palembang. Unlike the Allies they fought in small numbers, a few hundred not a few thousand, but just like the Allies they took a lot of casualties being lightly armed.

The first use of the Rikusentai was on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1942 at Menado in the Dutch East Indies. About 500 parachutists were used to attack the nearby airfield.



Circa 1942, -, unused, Half-tone.



4.0 Its job done – Safely on the ground.



Circa 1940s, -, unused, Halftone.

Although the parachute is safely on the ground I am not convinced the parachutist is safe! This postcard shows the Japanese army invading an Allied held area in WW2; most likely to be Palembang. Although the Japanese did use parachute forces in WW2 they used hundreds not thousands at a time.

Parachutes during WW2 were largely made from silk. Many a lady got married in a wedding dress made from parachute silk. Offcuts from parachute manufacture were often used to make underwear as well.



Circa 1950s, Jacques Paizant, Fox Paris, unused, Linen.



Circa 1940s, Mabel Rodd, Phlmar London, used, Halftone.

I'M SMASHING! HOW ARE YOU?



Circa 1940s, -, Midwest Map Co, Aurora, unused, Linen.

IT WAS SOFT-LANDING HERE

Parachutists have landed on greenhouses, goal mouths, toilets, stationery vehicles and hedges.

This parachutist seems to have forgotten his landing drill when he saw the beautiful woman!



Circa 1940s, Burditt, -, unused, Halftone.

4.0 Its job done! – Sometimes the parachute delivers, and sometimes it does not!



Circa 1930s, -, -, Circa 1930s, unused, Halftone.

Walking away from an aircraft with your parachute intact is a goal for most pilots! A tiny gold Caterpillar Pin is given to anybody who saved his or her life by parachuting from a disabled or flaming aircraft. By late 1945 there were 34,000 members of the Caterpillar Club.



Circa 1930s, -, Tuck's, unused, Real Photo (RPPC).

On 5 January 1941, while flying for the ATA from Prestwick to RAF Kidlington, Johnson went off course in bad weather conditions. Out of fuel, she bailed out and her aircraft crashed into the Thames Estuary. She was never found.



This parachutist is having real trouble in trying to deflate his parachute! In strong winds it can be difficult to deflate 600 square feet of silk!

Circa 1940, -, -, unused, Real Photo (RPPC).



The parachutist with the red smoke is not going to get to the centre of the cross. I'm sure he will be disappointed!

Circa 1970s, -, -, unused, Lusterchrome.



4.0 Its job done! – Move quickly from the drop zone – if you can!



H. E. Parachute bag open

Circa 1916, -, -, unused, Real Photo (RPPC).

The Royal Engineers fighting with a parachute! Note the wicker basket in the cart. Is this some training to do with escaping from an observation balloon?



1960, -, -, used, Real Photo (RPPC).

As soon as you are on the ground you must deflate the parachute otherwise it will drag you across the ground. Under training or during exercises you will need to quickly pick up the parachute and carry it away.



1957, -, Phila Postcard, used, Halftone.



Circa 1960s, P. Dujardin, Pierron, used, Photochrome.

The most dangerous place to land is in water as the weight of the equipment can drag you down. Also, if the canopy drops on top of you then it is very difficult to get out from underneath.

When in combat as soon as you get onto the ground you get rid of the parachute. Usually by quickly folding it up and wedge it in the ground or under a bush. You do this so it does not blow away and get in the way of other parachutists.

During WW2 many countries had a fear of enemy paratroops. Workers in the countryside were particularly on alert for suspicious people and many Allied airmen were 'arrested' by farmers by mistake.



Circa 1940s, Laurie Taylor, Raphael Tuck, unused, Halftone.

"COR! PARATROOPS!!!"

4.0 Its job done! – The drop zone can get very busy



Circa 1920s, -, K. Damsina Soest, used, Line drawn Lithograph.

Landing in the middle of a picnic is a particular skill! I am not sure who would be most surprised, the parachutist or the three ladies. Notice that his harness only covers his chest and has no leg straps. This means he is likely to be pulled out of his harness when the parachute opens!

Using this type of parachute with slots in the sides allows it to be steered and in skilled hands can get close to a target (see the white target cross on the ground). But it can get very busy close to the target, even in competitions – although nobody is shooting at you!



Circa 1960s, Charles Bonnay, Crown Color Views, unused, Halftone.



1943, Vittorio Piani, V.E. Boeri Rome, used, Halftone.

I can hear the instructor shouting at this parachutist 'get it deflated NOW' and 'NEVER put your gun down'. The drop zone can get busy and dangerous very quickly.

The parachute's job is done, it has been deflated and folded and now awaits being folded back into its backpack ready to start again.

Parachuting is a safe sport. The injury rate is 0.3 injuries per 1000 jumps and a fatality rate of 1 per 100,000, the latter figure being about the same risk as running a marathon.



1967, -, -, unused, Gravure.