

A SHORT HISTORY OF PARACHUTING

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Introduction. Although parachuting has been around since the 17th century it was not until the late 19th century that it found itself as a form of entertainment. This exhibit shows some of the major points in its history, from 17th century experimentation to 20th century disaster relief and world competitions.



1617 – Vrancic, in Croatia, jumps from the Campanile in Venice.



1783 – Lenormand jumped from a tower in Montpelier, France using the first practical parachute.



1811 – In Hungary Menner drops a cat from a balloon. In the next 100 years others drop cats, dogs, and monkeys from balloons.



1913 – Pegoud, a French aviation entertainer, was the first man to parachute from an aircraft.



1941 – Germany introduces the world to the use of parachute troops when they attack Crete. [Image ½ size.]



1929 – Graf Zeppelin dropped 3 bags of mail on to its colony at Jaffa, Palestine. [Image 1/4 size]



1914 – First use of parachutes to save lives when WW1 observers jumped when their balloon was attacked.



1942 – Britain tries out parachute forces for the first time and it was a success.



1944 – 23,000 men parachute into Arnhem in an effort to shorten the war.



Post 1945 - Delivering aid during famine, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



1967 – Petrel base in the Antarctic regularly supplied by parachute drops.



1951 – The 1st World Parachute competitions.