

小书虫 点滴英语 简易英汉对照读物

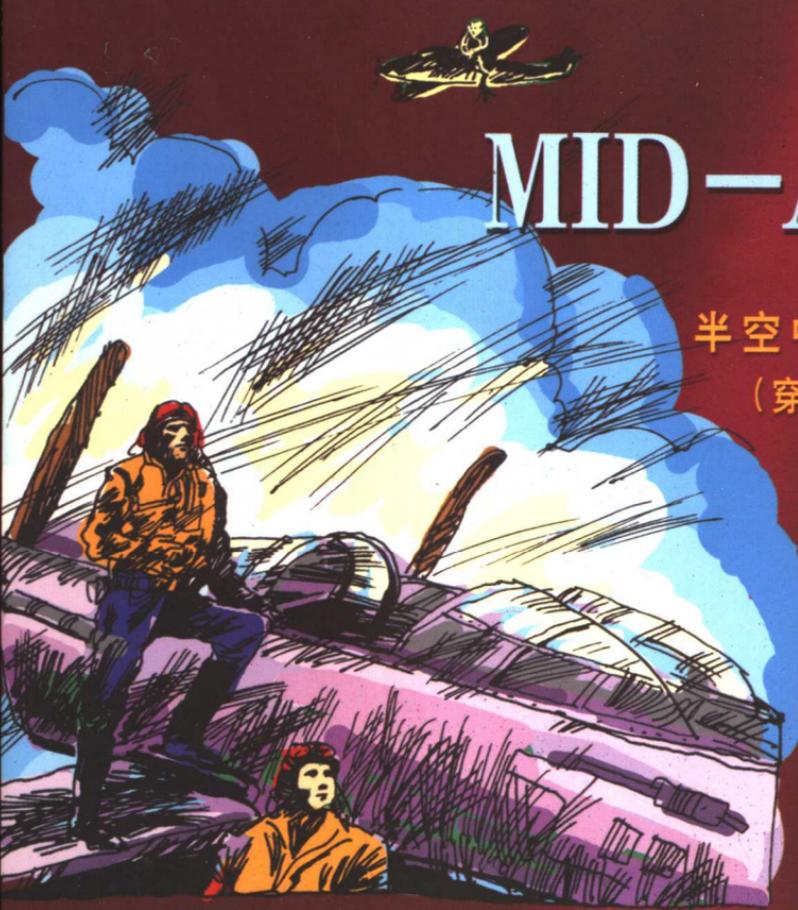
触摸英语 感觉原著

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MIRACLE IN MID-AIR

半空中的奇迹
(穿越生死线)

司树森 / 主编
熊德锐 / 审定



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内容提要

《半空中的奇迹》为我们讲述了一个惊险的空中拯救故事。当少尉奥西波夫在例行监督伞兵跳伞训练时，突然张开的降落伞使他倒悬在正在飞行的飞机下，时刻有生命危险。海军试飞员比尔·劳里和航空机械军士长约翰·麦坎茨，做了一件可列入历史上最惊险的空中拯救行动，精彩、惊险、扣人心弦。作者不动声色的叙述，其精彩一点也不逊于这次拯救行动。

《远方的来信》之所以优秀，不仅是它叙述的故事——故事本身平淡无奇——更是他它欲言又止、前呼后应的写作技巧，能够将如此平淡的故事叙述得如此精彩，的确值得反复的仔细的阅读。也只有这样，你才能明白，讨论组长为什么“三缄其口”，那些“心烦意乱”、“恢郁”的情绪究竟是因为什么。

突如其来的，仅仅两分半钟的龙卷风摧毁了整个乔尼亚市，但是齐尼亚是摧不垮的。龙卷风带来朱光是灾难，它还带来了一些弥足珍贵的东西，比如意志、无私、自信等。或许应该感谢灾难。

这本小书所选的三个小故事，都以细致的描写见长，无论是生动的故事叙述、细腻的心理刻画，还是精确的环境描写，都会使你有身临其境的感觉，精彩地道的英语，中等难度的词汇，重点学词的注音释义、恰切的中文翻译，使你在欣赏英语的同时，品味文学的魅力。

前 言

学习英语,尤其是学好英语不存在速成的捷径,只有勤奋刻苦,循序渐进,日积月累,博览精思,大胆实践,打下坚实的语言、知识基础才可能达到英语学习的理想境界。正所谓“锲而不舍,金石可镂;驽马十驾,功在不舍。”

众多成功者的实践和经验证明:初、中级的广大英语学习者,尤其是中、小学生甚或大学生在打基础的阶段,应该听、说、读、写齐头并进,小学生可侧重听、说,扎扎实实打好基础。读书,读书,最重要的还是读书。学习英语,使用英语的整个过程就是一个不断接触、认真模仿和反复练习的过程,业精于勤,功成于练,而首先是阅读实践(应包括朗读、默读、精读和泛读)。无论古今中外,阅读都是培养语感,养成用英语思维,用英语流畅表达思想的最有效的途径之一。阅读的过程就是记忆单词、扩大词汇量和学习词汇用法的过程。大量阅读也是有效促进和提高其他各项听、说、写、译技能的好方法,而简易读物尤其是英汉对照简易读物对提高阅读理解能力、打好语言基础、全面提高综合运用能力极为有效。为此我们推出了《小书虫简易英汉对照读物》系列丛书。本丛书是为中学生、大学生和广大初、中级英语爱好者、自学者精心策划的一套英文原版课外读物。

本丛书编排形式活泼新颖,文章短小精悍,图文并茂,英汉对照,既方便阅读又宜于携带。

本丛书选材广泛,纵横古今中外,品类齐全,丰富多彩,包罗世界文学名著、优美动人的童话、广为流传的名人轶事和人们所喜闻乐见的影视文(章)网(络)的精彩片段。坚持阅读既可开阔视野、陶冶心灵又可激励人生、奋勇向前。

本丛书的实用性极强,通过阅读增加词汇量,提高阅读理解能力,最重要的是可以受到纯正地道英语情境的熏陶,从而增强语感。

最后,在本丛书的成书过程中,许多中、外朋友都付出了大量的时间和辛勤的劳动。我们在此向他们表示由衷的感谢。

本丛书由司树森教授担任主编,熊德锐教授审订。

尽管我们在尽最大努力做好每一件事,但是不妥之处或错误仍在所难免。敬请广大读者不吝指教,以便修正。

司树森

2006年5月

目 录

CONTENTS

半空中的奇迹

Miracle in Mid-air (1)

远方的来信

Message from Beyond (15)

摧不垮的市镇

The Town That Wouldn't Die (29)

英文金曲

English Song (38)

Learn English By Reading Original Works

触摸英语·感觉原著

Miracle in Mid-air

半空中的奇迹

(穿越生死线)

主 编 司树森

副主编 刘靖新

审 订 熊德轶



Miracle in Mid-air

by Virginia Kelly

It began like any other May morning in California. The sky was blue, the sun hot. A slight breeze riffled the glistening^① waters of San Diego Bay. At the Naval airbase on North Islands all was calm.

At 9:45 a.m., Walter Osipoff, a sandy-haired, 23-year-old Marine second lieutenant, boarded a DC-2 transport for a routine parachute^② jump. Lt. Bill Lowrey, a Navy^③ test pilot, was already putting his observation plane through its paces. And John McCants, an aviation chief machinist's mate, was checking out the aircraft that he was scheduled to fly later. Before the sun was high in the noonday sky, these three men would be linked forever in one of history's most spectacular^④ mid-air^⑤ rescues.

Osipoff was a skilled parachutist, a former collegiate wrestling and gymnastics star. He had joined the National Guard and then the Marines in 1938. He had already made more than 20 jumps by May 15, 1941.

That morning his DC-2 took off and headed for Kearney Mesa. He was to supervise practice jumps by 12 of his men. Three separate canvas^⑥ cylinders, each filled with ammunition^⑦ and guns, were also to be parachuted overboard as part of the drill.



半空中的奇迹

弗吉尼亚·凯利

这天早晨和加利福尼亚州任何一个5月的早晨一样。天空蔚蓝,阳光温暖,圣迭戈湾在微风吹拂下波光粼粼。北岛美国海军航空队基地一片平静。

9时45分,23岁红头发的海军陆战队少尉沃尔特·奥西波夫登上一架DC-2型运输机,准备作例行的跳伞训练。海军试飞员比尔·劳里上尉正在检验他的侦察机。航空机械军士长约翰·麦坎茨也正在检查他预定要驾驶的飞机。在太阳升上正午的天空之前,这3个人做了一件可列入历史上最惊险的空中拯救行动之列的工作,使他们的姓名永远连在一起。

奥西波夫是老练的跳伞员,在大学时是摔跤能手和体操健将,曾进国民警卫队,1938年加入海军。至1941年5月15日,他已跳伞20多次。

那天早上,他那架DC-2机起飞,前往卡尼梅萨,去监督他的12名士兵作跳伞训练。训练工作包括用降落伞空投三个装着弹药和枪支的帆布圆筒。



New Words

- ① glisten ['glɪsən] v. 闪烁
- ② parachute ['pærəʃaʊt] n. 降落伞
- ③ navy ['neɪvi] n. 海军
- ④ spectacular [spek'tækjʊlə] adj. 宏伟的
- ⑤ mid-air [mɪd'eə] n. 半空
- ⑥ canvas ['kænvəs] n. 帆布
- ⑦ ammunition [æmju'nɪʃən] n. 弹药



Nine of the men had already jumped. Osipoff, standing a few inches from the plane's door, started to toss^① out the last cargo container. Somehow the automatic-release cord of his backpack parachute became looped^② over the cylinder^③. His chute^④ was suddenly ripped open. He tried to get hold of the quickly opening silk, but the next thing he knew, he had been thrown from the plane—sucked^⑤ out with such force that the impact of his body ripped^⑥ a gash in the DC-2's aluminum^⑦ fuselage^⑧.

Instead of flowing free, Osipoff's open parachute now wrapped itself around the plane's tail wheel. The chute's chest-strap and one leg-strap had broken. Only the second leg-strap was still holding—and it had slipped down to Osipoff's ankle. One by one, 24 of the 28 lines between his precariously attached harness and the parachute snapped. He was hanging now some 12 feet below, and 15 feet behind, the tail^⑨ of the plane. Four parachute lines twisted around his left leg were all that kept him from being thrown to earth.

Hanging there upside down, Osipoff had enough sense not to try to release his emergency parachute. With the plane pulling him one way, and the emergency chute pulling him another, he knew that he would be torn in half. Conscious all the while, he knew that he was hanging by one leg, spinning^⑩ and bouncing^⑪. He knew that his ribs^⑫ hurt. He did not know then that two ribs



9个人都已经跳下去了,奥西波夫站在距舱门几英寸的地方,他正准备投出最后一个帆布圆筒。不知什么原因,他背上降落伞的自动开伞索却缠住了圆筒,降落伞突然张开。他拼命想抓在那迅速张开的丝伞,但是他马上意识到,他已被拽到了飞机的外面。去势极猛,他的身体把DC-2机的铝质机身划出了一道深痕。

这时,奥西波夫那具张开了的降落伞没有在空中飘荡,却缠住机尾的着陆轮。降落伞的胸带和一条腿带断了。只有另一条腿带仍然完好,但也滑到了他的踝部。连结不稳固的背带和降落伞的28根绳索中,有24根相继折断。当时他吊在机下12英尺、机后15英尺左右的空中。全靠4根降落伞绳索缠住他的左腿,才不致摔下去。

奥西波夫身子虽然倒悬空中,但还能够意识到自己不能打开紧急降落伞。他知道如果让飞机和紧急降落伞对扯,自己就可能被拉成两截。他始终神志清醒,晓得自己只有一条腿吊着,身体不断旋转翻滚。他感到肋骨很疼,还不知道有两根肋骨和另外3块骨头已经断了。

New Words

- ①toss [tɒs] v. 投
- ②loop [lu:p] v. 缠
- ③cylinder ['sɪlɪndə] n. 圆筒
- ④chute [ʃu:t] n. 降落伞
- ⑤suck [sʌk] v. 卷入, 吞没
- ⑥rip [rɪp] v. 撕开, 割开
- ⑦aluminum [ə'ljʊ:mɪnəm] n. 铝
- ⑧fuselage [fju:zɪlə:ʒ] n. 飞机机身
- ⑨tail [teɪl] n. 尾部
- ⑩spin [spɪn] v. 旋转
- ⑪bounce [baʊns] v. 翻滚
- ⑫rib [rɪb] n. 肋骨





and three bones had been broken.

Inside the plane, the DC-2 crew tried to pull Osipoff to safety, but they could not reach him. The DC-2 was starting to run low on fuel, but an emergency landing with Osipoff dragging behind would certainly have smashed him to death. And pilot Harold Johnson had no radio contact with the ground.

Meanwhile Bill Lowrey had landed his plane and was walking toward his office when he glanced upward. He and John McCants, who was working nearby, saw at the same time the figure dangling from the plane. As the DC-2 circled once again, Lowrey yelled to McCants, "There's a man hanging on that line. Do you suppose we can get him?" McCants answered grimly, "We can try."

Lowrey shouted to his mechanics^① to get his plane ready for takeoff^②. It was an SOC-1, a two-seat, open-cockpit observation plane, less than 27 feet long. Turning to McCants, Lowrey said, "Let's go! "

Lowrey and McCants had never flown together before, but the two men seemed to take it for granted that they were going for the impossible. Lowrey said later, "There was only one choice to be made, and that was to go get him. How, we didn't know. We had no time to plan."

Nor was there time to get through to their officer and ask permission^③ for the flight. Lowrey simply told the



在飞机上,DC-2 机组人员极力想把奥西波夫拉回机舱,但却够不到他那里。DC-2 机的燃料越来越少,如果紧急降落,一定会把拖在机后的奥西波夫摔死。当时这架飞机的驾驶员哈罗德·约翰逊跟地面又没有无线电联络。

那时比尔·劳里已驾机着陆。他走向办公室时,抬头一看,和正在附近工作的约翰·麦坎茨同时看见飞机后面吊着一个人形。当 DC-2 机再兜回来时,劳里便向麦坎茨喊道:“绳子吊的是个人。你看我们能把他救下来吗?”麦坎茨严肃地回答:“试试吧。”

劳里大声嘱咐机械师替他准备飞机起飞。那是一架双座、开舱式的 SOC-1 型侦察机,长不到 27 英尺。劳里扭头对麦坎茨说:“走吧!”

劳里和麦坎茨以前从未一起飞行过,但是两人似乎都认为他们当然应该去做这件难办的事。劳里后来说:“只有一条路可走,就是去救他。怎样救,我们可不知道。我们还来不及想办法。”

他们也来不及请求指挥官批准飞行。劳里只对控制塔说:“请给我开绿灯,我要起飞。”最后一刹那,一位海军

New Words

- ①mechanic [mi'kænik] n. 机械工
- ②take off ['teɪkɒf] n. 起飞
- ③permission [pə'mɪʃən] n. 批准



tower: "Give me a green light, I'm taking off." At the last moment, a Marine ran out to the plane with a hunting knife—for cutting Osipoff loose—and dumped ^① it in McCant's lap^②.

As the SOC-1 rose up, all activity around San Diego seemed to stop. Civilians crowded rooftops, children stopped playing. The people of North Island fixed their eyes upward. With beating hearts, the watchers were worried about every move in the impossible mission.

Within minutes, Lowrey and McCants were under the transport, flying at 300 feet. They made five approaches, but the air proved too bumpy^③ to try for a rescue. Since radio communication between the two planes became impossible, Lowrey hand-signaled Johnson to head out over the Pacific, where the air would be smoother, and they climbed to 3,000 feet. Johnson held his plane on a straight course and reduced the speed to that of the smaller plane—100 miles an hour.

Lowrey flew back and away from Osipoff, but on a level with him. McCants, who was in the open seat in back of Lowrey, saw that Osipoff was hanging by one foot and that blood was dripping from his helmet^④. Lowrey edged the plane closer with such precision that his maneuvers jibbed^⑤ with the swings of Osipoff's inert^⑥ body. His timing had to be exact so that Osipoff would not be smashed into the SOC-1's propeller.



陆战队员送来一柄猎刀，是准备用来割断缠住奥西波夫的绳索的，他奔到机旁，把猎刀扔到麦坎茨膝上。

SOC—1 机轰鸣升空时，圣迭戈城一带所有活动似乎都停了。市民聚集在屋顶上，孩子们扔下游戏。北岛基地的居民都尽力仰望。观者心怦怦跳着，为此艰巨任务的每一步担心。

在几分钟内，劳里和麦坎茨已飞到离地面 300 英尺的运输机下面。他们飞近 5 次，但都因气流不稳定而无法进行救助工作。因为这两架飞机无法用无线电联络，劳里只好打手势，要约翰逊飞往气流较为平稳的太平洋上空，同时上升到 3000 英尺。约翰逊驾机直线飞行，将速度减到和那驾小型飞机一样，时速 100 英里。

劳里飞到奥西波夫后面，离开一段距离，但飞行高度保持一样。麦坎茨坐在劳里背后的无盖座位上，看见奥西波夫靠一只脚倒悬着，血从头盔滴下。劳里将飞机飞近，飞得很准确，随着奥西波夫失去活动能力的身体摆动而摇晃。时间必须掌握得极准，否则奥西波夫便会撞到 SOC—1 机的螺旋桨上。

New Words

- ①dump [dʌmp] v. 丢弃，卸下
- ②lap [læp] n. 膝部
- ③bumpy ['bʌmpi] adj. 气流不稳的，颠簸不平的
- ④helmet ['helmit] n. 头盔
- ⑤jib [dʒɪb] v. 移转
- ⑥inert [i'nɜ:t] adj. 无生命的，不活泼的



Finally Lowrey slipped his upper left wing under Osipoff's shroud lines. McCants, standing upright in the rear cockpit^①—with the plane still going 100 miles an hour at 3,000 feet above the sea—lunged^② for Osipoff. He grabbed him at the waist, and Osipoff flung his arms around McCants' shoulders in a tight^③ grip.

McCants pulled Osipoff into the plane. Since it was only a two-seater, the next problem was where to put him. As Lowrey eased the SOC-1 forward to get some slack in the chute lines, McCants was able to stretch Osipoff's body across the top of the fuselage, with Osipoff's head in his lap.

Since McCants was using both hands to hold Osipoff, there was no way for him to cut the cords that still attached Osipoff to the DC-2. Lowrey then nosed his plane inch by inch closer to the other plane. With incredible precision, Lowrey used his propeller^④ to cut the shroud lines. After hanging for 33 minutes between life and death, Osipoff was finally free.

Lowrey had flown so close to the transport that he'd nicked^⑤ a gash in its tail. But now the parachute, abruptly detached^⑥ along with the shroud lines, drifted downward and wrapped itself around Lowrey's rudder^⑦. That meant that Lowrey had to fly the SOC-1 without being able to control it properly and with most of Osipoff's body still





劳里终于将飞机的左上翼伸到奥西波夫的吊伞索下面。麦坎茨从后座舱挺身站起来，向奥西波夫探出身去——这时飞机仍以 100 英里的时速和 3000 英尺的高度在海洋上空飞行。他一把搂住奥西波夫的腰，而奥西波夫则用双臂紧紧抱住麦坎茨的肩膀。

麦坎茨把奥西波夫拖进飞机。由于那只是架双座机，把他放在哪里又成了问题。劳里小心翼翼地驾驶着 SOC-1 机向前飞去，让降落伞松弛些，麦坎茨这才得以把奥西波夫的身体平放在机身上，头则搁在他的大腿上。

因为麦坎茨双手紧抱奥西波夫，无法把奥西波夫身上那些把他缠在 DC-2 机上的降落伞索割断。后来，劳里一点一点地把飞机驶近运输机，以令人难以置信的准确，用飞机的螺旋桨切断吊伞索。奥西波夫在生死未卜地倒悬 33 分钟之后，终于脱险。

劳里飞行时贴近运输机，把运输机尾撞出一道裂缝。但这时降落伞突然带着吊伞索一同脱落，飘下来缠住劳里所驾飞机的方向舵。于是劳里只得在无法进行适当控制的情况下驾机飞行，而奥西波夫的大半个身躯还躺

New Words

- ① cockpit ['kɒkpit] n. 飞机驾驶舱
- ② lunge [lʌndʒ] v. 突进
- ③ tight [taɪt] adj. 紧的
- ④ propeller [prə'pela] n. 螺旋桨
- ⑤ nick [nik] v. 使有伤痕
- ⑥ detach [di'tætʃ] v. 分离, 脱落
- ⑦ rudder ['rʌdə] n. 方向舵

