

Bermuda

简易英汉对照读物

Florida

THE MYSTERY OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

AND OTHER STORIES

Puerto Rico

百慕大三角带之谜 及其它故事

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何政安译注

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内 容 简 介

本书共收入八个短篇故事，除《百慕大三角带之谜》外，还有《密涅瓦礁历险记》、《伦敦塔的鬼影》、《横跨大西洋的海底电缆》、《半空中的奇迹》、《极地探险家罗阿尔·阿蒙森》、《远方的来信》、《摧不垮的市镇》等，全部选自美国读者文摘社(Reader's Digest)一九七七年出版的《英语阅读技巧训练》(Reading Skill Builder)一书。这些故事内容生动，语言简练，可供具有一定基础知识的英语学习者阅读。

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The Mystery of the Bermuda
Triangle and Other Stories

百慕大三角带之谜
及其他故事

1. The Mystery of the Bermuda Triangle¹

by James Stewart-Gordon

At 2:10 p.m.² on December 5, 1945, five U. S. Navy training planes took off in clear weather from Fort Lauderdale,³ Florida.⁴ The planes flew east over the coast — and disappeared. The group was Flight 19, on a run between Florida and the Bahamas.⁵ Lieutenant C. C. Taylor⁶ was the group leader.

At about 3:40, Taylor reported that his compasses were not reading properly. The other pilots followed their leader aimlessly, first east, then west, then northeast over the ocean, as Taylor tried to get his bearing by radio. Then, suddenly, Taylor was heard to give orders to ditch.

Quickly, two giant Martin seaplanes were sent up to search for Flight 19. Several hours later, the wind became strong and visibility dropped. A return to base was ordered. Only one of the Martin seaplanes landed. For days after, the Navy and Coast Guard combed a 100,000 square-mile area with more than 100 planes and ships. No trace was ever found of the missing planes.⁷

Today, more than 30 years later, Flight 19 is at the center of a mystery that has given chills to people the world over. Magazines, books, newspapers, radio talk shows and TV specials have noted the disappearance of many ships and planes in the southwestern part of the North Atlantic. People have begun calling this area the Bermuda Triangle.

The points of the Triangle are Bermuda, Puerto Rico⁸ and a spot in the Gulf of Mexico⁹ west of Florida. It is a two-faced water world of tiny islands, bright beaches and beautiful waters. Yet thick hazes, powerful currents and sudden storms lurk behind this smiling surface. And one can never know, it seems, when the smile may turn into a snarl.

一、百慕大三角带之谜

詹姆斯·斯图尔特—戈登

一九四五年十二月五日下午两点十分，天气晴朗，五架美国海军教练机从佛罗里达的劳德代尔堡起飞。飞机在海岸上空向东飞去，随后就消失了。这个机群是第十九航空队，在佛罗里达和巴哈马群岛之间的航线上飞行，队长是泰勒上尉。

三点四十分左右，泰勒报告他飞机上的指南针失灵。当他试图利用无线电确定方向时，其他飞机上的驾驶员盲目地跟着队长，在大洋上空起初向东，接着向西，然后又向东北飞行。这时，突然听到泰勒下令在水面迫降。

很快，两架燕式巨型水上飞机被派去搜寻第十九航空队。几小时以后，风越来越大，能见度很低，遂下令返回基地，但只有一架燕式水上飞机着陆，在以后几天里，海军和海岸警卫队出动一百多架飞机和舰只，仔细搜索了十万英里的地区，没有发现任何失踪飞机的痕迹。

在三十多年后的今天，第十九航空队仍然是使全世界的人感到战栗的神秘事件的中心。杂志、书籍、报纸、无线电广播和电视专题节目已经注意到，许多船只和飞机在北大西洋西南部失踪。人们开始把这个地区叫做百慕大三角带。

三角带的三个顶点是百慕大、波多黎各和佛罗里达西面墨西哥湾中的一点。这是一片由许多细小的岛屿、明亮的海滩和美丽的海水组成的诡秘难测的水域。然而在这种平静的表面背后，却潜藏着浓密的阴霾、湍急的水流和突起的风暴。看来谁也不知道什么时候这种平静就会变成一场咆哮。

Of the 40 ships and 20 planes said to have been lost here during the last 100 years, 21 have met misfortune in December and January. That is when the Christmas Winds blow across the Triangle.

On December 5, 1946—exactly one year after Flight 19 disappeared—a pleasure ship, the *City Belle*,¹ was found south of the Bahamas, deserted by its crew.

It was in January of 1958 that the Triangle is said to have swallowed up the yacht *Revonoc*¹⁰ with its owner and crew. They were going from Key West¹¹ to Miami.¹² The only traces of the *Revonoc* were pieces of a lifeboat and a toilet seat.

Another puzzling case happened on December 22, 1967. The owner of the 23-foot *Witchcraft* set out from Miami to view the city's Christmas lights. A few hours later, the owner radioed the Miami Coast Guard for assistance. His boat had a damaged propeller and was drifting near the harbor channel entrance. He reported that he could see Miami from the boat. Within ten minutes, the Coast Guard was on the spot. No sign of the boat was found then or since.

Planes have vanished in the air above the Triangle. In the summer of 1947, a U.S. Air Force Superfortress disappeared 100 miles from the Bermuda coast. On January 30, 1948, a British plane with 31 passengers aboard vanished after radioing Bermuda that all was well. In December 1948, the pilot of a DC-3 bound from San Juan¹³ to Miami reported the lights of Miami in sight. The passengers were singing Christmas carols. All was calm, all was bright—but the plane was never heard from again.

What happened to these ships and planes? Some people say that spaceships swooped down and gobbled up the ships and planes. Some believe the Triangle surrounds a giant tunnel leading to the center of the earth.

Others believe the mysteries can be explained by natural causes. For example, there is a logical explanation for the vanishing crew of

在过去一百年里，据说有四十艘舰船和二十架飞机在这里失事，其中二十一次是在十二月和一月遇难。这正是圣诞风刮过三角带的时候。

一九四六年十二月五日，正好是第十九航空队失踪一年以后，在巴哈马群岛南方，发现“美女城号”游艇被船员弃置不顾。

就在一九五八年一月，据说三角带吞没了“雷沃纳克号”游艇，船主和船员全部遇难。他们正从基韦斯特开往迈阿密。“雷沃纳克号”的遗迹只有救生船的一些碎片和一个马桶座圈。

另一个令人困惑的事例发生在一九六七年十二月二十二日。二十三英尺的“魔术号”的船主从迈阿密出发去观赏圣诞节的市区灯火。几小时以后，船主通过无线电向迈阿密海岸警卫队呼救。他船上的推进器损坏，正在该港航道入口附近漂流。他报告说，从船上能够看到迈阿密。不到十分钟，海岸警卫队到达出事地点。当时与以后都没有发现这条船的踪迹。

一些飞机在三角带的上空失踪。一九四七年夏，一架美国空军超级飞行堡垒在离百慕大海岸一百英里处消失。一九四八年一月三十日，一架载有三十一名乘客的英国飞机，在用无线电向百慕大报告一切正常之后失踪。一九四八年十二月，一架预定从圣胡安飞往迈阿密的 DC-3 式飞机的驾驶员报告已经看到迈阿密的灯光，乘客们唱起圣诞颂歌。一切都很平静，人人都很欢悦——但从此再也没有听到过这架飞机的消息。

这些船只和飞机出了什么事呢？有些人说是宇宙飞船袭击并吞没了这些船只和飞机。有些人认为三角带中间有一条通往地心的大隧道。

另外有些人却认为，这些神秘事件可以用自然原因来解释。例如，对于“美女城号”船员的失踪，就有一种合乎逻辑的解

the *City Belle*. Battered by a sudden storm, the ship radioed for help. The message was picked up by an American base, and the ship's crew was rescued.

The Straits of Florida are among the busiest waterways in the world. In the haze often found here, large ships sometimes run down smaller ones with no more than a light, unnoticed bump. From the bits found from the *Revonoc*, the Coast Guard thinks that is what could have happened to the unlucky boat.

The loss of the *Witchcraft* is another case that can be explained by natural causes. The night was windy. A damaged propeller slowed down the boat. The strong currents, the wind in the saillike canvas top, and the slower speed probably carried the boat north toward Ft. Lauderdale. From the sea, Ft. Lauderdale looks like Miami. When *Witchcraft* radioed that it was off Miami, it was in fact off Ft. Lauderdale. The Coast Guard was looking in the wrong place. Eventually *Witchcraft* must have been carried out¹⁴ to sea.

Even long-time pilots can run into trouble in such an unpredictable area. The Superfortress that vanished in 1947 must have run into a storm and been destroyed.

Explaining the lost DC-3 and its Christmas singers, a Coast Guard captain says: "Before takeoff the pilot reported that his radio batteries were weak. Then the wind shifted strongly. Instead of being over south Florida, he was probably over the Gulf of Mexico and mistaking the lights of Key West for Miami. Finally he ran out of gas and crashed."

Filght 19 was lost not because of supernatural forces but because Taylor lost his bearings. Had he switched to his clear emergency radio channel, shore stations could have helped him find his position.¹⁵ Finally, panic seems to have taken over the pilots.

As for the lost Martin seaplane, a freighter reported a great, fiery bang at 7:50 p.m. in the area where the plane was flying. These seaplanes

释。这艘船突然遭到风暴的袭击，船员用无线电呼救。无线电信号被美军基地收悉，因而船员得救。

佛罗里达海峡是世界上最拥挤的水道之一。这里常有阴霾，有时大船稍一疏忽，轻轻一碰，就会把小船撞沉。据已找到的“雷沃纳克号”的碎片来看，海岸警卫队认为，这艘不幸的小船就可能因此遇难。

“魔术号”的失事是可以自然原因来解释的另一个事例。当夜有风，推进器损坏使船速减慢。强劲的水流，吹在帆篷上的风，加上船速减慢，很可能把这艘船往北带往劳德代尔堡。从海上看去，劳德代尔堡好象是迈阿密。当“魔术号”用无线电报告它在离开迈阿密时，实际上它是在离开劳德代尔堡。海岸警卫队找错了地方。最后“魔术号”一定是被冲到海外去了。

甚至老练的驾驶员，在这样一个无法预测的地区也会遇到麻烦。一九四七年失踪的超级空中堡垒一定是遇到风暴而机毁人亡了。

在解释 DC—3 型客机和唱圣诞颂歌的乘客失事时，一名海岸警卫队上尉说：“在起飞前，驾驶员报告说无线电的电池电力微弱。那时风很大。他不在南佛罗里达上空，很可能在墨西哥湾上空，把基韦斯特的灯光误认为迈阿密的灯光。最后汽油耗尽而坠毁。”

第十九航空队并非由于超自然的力量，而是由于泰勒迷失方向而失事。如果他打开清晰的应急无线电波道，海岸航空站就可以帮助他确定他的方位。最后，看来这些驾驶员都惊慌失措了。

至于那架失踪的燕式水上飞机，据一架运输机报告说，当晚七点五十分，在那架飞机飞行的地区，曾听到一声轰然巨响。大家知道，这种飞机在颠簸的气流中容易发生燃料管道松动的

were known to develop loose fuel lines in rough air and then blow up. This seems to be the answer to this plane's mystery.

Captain Lonsdale¹⁶ of the Coast Guard sums up: "An average of 352 major ships a year are lost throughout the world. Four or five of these are hit so suddenly that they have no time to send out an S.O.S.¹⁷ If a ship is lost in what is known as the Bermuda Triangle, the Coast Guard considers it a disaster. To someone who doesn't know the facts, it seems unbelievable. I guess anything you can't understand yourself is bound to be supernatural."

情况，然后爆炸。对这架飞机失踪的神秘事件，似乎可以用这种看法来解释。

海岸警卫队的朗斯代尔上尉总结说：“全世界一年平均有三百五十二艘大船失事，其中有四、五艘所遭到打击很突然，来不及发出呼救信号。如果一艘船在世界闻名的百慕大三角带发生事故，海岸警卫队认为这肯定是一场天灾。对不明白事实的人来说，似乎是不可置信的。我想，一个人一定会把自己无法理解的现象看作是超自然的。”

2. Ordeal on Minerva Reef¹

by John Forbis

On the evening of July 7, 1962, the cutter Tuaikaepau² was inching its way toward Auckland,³ New Zealand. The sea was rising, and in the western sky hung a brilliant waning moon,⁴ its white light sparkling on the dark Pacific. For the 17 men on board, however, that night turned suddenly to horror. Without warning, the Tuaikaepau struck a reef and began to break apart. Within hours, it was no more.

At first there was chaos. Passengers and crew plunged wildly through the waves, snatching at anything afloat. Then, above the sound of wind and waves, the voice of the ship's captain, David Fifita,⁵ was heard. "Get to the mast!" he ordered. The 38-foot mast of the ship had broken free. The 17 survivors clung to it as Fifita counted heads minutes later. It was after moonset now, and they struggled in total darkness to remain alive.

At last dawn, faint and silvery, brought the men a surprise. It revealed small islands of coral rising here and there above the water. There was, after all, something to cling to. But beyond, in all directions, stretched the empty Pacific.

Captain Fifita alone realized where they were—the Minerva Reef, two desolate islands 200 miles from the nearest land. Now he thought about his terrifying responsibility. The captain had to keep 17 men alive without food, fresh water, shelter, and soon, he feared, without hope.

The captain turned the men's attention to the practical work of survival. They searched the pools and rocks for articles that had not been washed away—clothing, bits of food, a small oil drum,

二、密涅瓦礁历险记

约翰·福比斯

一九六二年七月七日傍晚，“图爱凯鲍号”汽艇在开赴新西兰的奥克兰途中徐徐前进。大海在涨潮；西边的天空挂着明亮的下弦月，它那银白色的光辉在黝黑的太平洋上空照耀着。那天船上有十七个人，却突然经历了恐怖的一夜。事先没有任何前兆，“图爱凯鲍号”触礁并开始碎裂，于几小时内沉没。

起初，乘客和船员一片混乱，惊恐地冲进海浪，想抓着任何漂浮着的东西。后来，在风涛声中听到船长戴维·菲菲特的声音。他命令道：“抓着桅杆！”三十八英尺高的船桅已经断了。逃生者都紧紧抓住桅杆。几分钟以后，菲菲特数了数，一共十七个人。这时月亮已经落下，他们在一片漆黑中挣扎求生。

天终于破晓，在淡淡的、银白色的曙光中，使这些人感到意外的是，他们发现有一些小珊瑚岛。终究有个可以落脚的地方了。但朝远处望去，四面都是空旷的太平洋。

只有船长菲菲特知道他们在什么地方——密涅瓦礁，离最近陆地二百英里的两个孤岛。这时，他想到他肩负的重大责任。船长必须在没有食物、淡水和住所的情况下让十七个人活下来；他立刻感到恐惧和绝望。

船长把大家的注意力吸引到争取生存的实际工作上来。他们去水坑和礁石旁搜寻那些没有被冲走的物品——衣服、剩下的一点食物、一只小油桶。