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# 危险的职业

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In the Line of Duty

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[美]Henry Billings [美]Melissa Billings 主编

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# 前言

## PREFACE

英语思想家培根说过：阅读使人深刻。阅读的真正目的是获取信息，开拓视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习的角度来说，学习语言若没有大量阅读就如隔靴搔痒，因为阅读中的语言是最丰富、最灵活、最具表现力、最符合生活情景的，同时读物中的情节、故事引人入胜，进而能充分调动读者的阅读兴趣，培养读者的文学修养，至此，语言的学习水到渠成。

“麦格希中英双语阅读文库”在世界范围内选材，涉及科普、社会文化、文学名著、传奇故事、成长励志等多个系列，充分满足英语学习者课外阅读之所需，在阅读中学习英语、提高能力。

### ◎难度适中

本套图书充分照顾读者的英语学习阶段和水平，从读者的阅读兴趣出发，以难易适中的英语语言为立足点，选材精心、编排合理。

### ◎精品荟萃

本套图书注重经典阅读与实用阅读并举。既包含国内外脍炙人口、耳熟能详的美文，又包含科普、人文、故事、励志类等多学科的精彩文章。

### ◎功能实用

本套图书充分体现了双语阅读的功能和优势，充分考虑到读者课外阅读的方便，超出核心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中，并标注释义。

鉴于编者水平有限，凡不周之处，谬误之处，皆欢迎批评教正。

我们真心地希望本套图书承载的文化知识和英语阅读的策略对提高读者的英语著作欣赏水平和英语运用能力有所裨益。

**丛书编委会**

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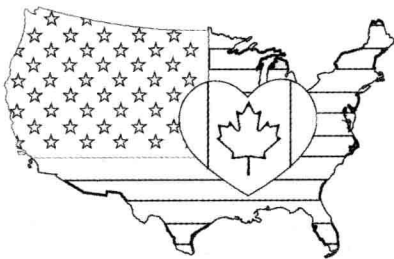
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## 1

# Fire in Midair

On March 31, 1998, England's Leeds United soccer team lost a match by a score of 3-0. So the players weren't very happy as they rode in the bus to the airport. But soon they weren't thinking about the **defeat** at all. They were thinking about how **grateful** they were to be alive.



*The fire-damaged engine can be seen on the plane that was carrying England's Leeds United soccer team when the plane had to make an emergency landing.*

## 空中惊魂

从飞机上就可以看到被大火烧毁的引擎。当飞机不得不紧急降落的时候，机上正携带着英格兰利兹联足球俱乐部的队员。

1998年3月31日，那一天，英格兰的利兹联队在一场足球比赛中以0:3输掉了比赛，在开往机场的大巴上，球员们一个个都十分沮丧。但是很快，失利的阴影就被抛到九霄云外，因为他们所想的的就是感谢上帝，让他们从一次空难中幸免于难。

defeat *n.* 失败

grateful *adj.* 感谢的

The team was 50 minutes late getting to the airport. It was after midnight before everyone was settled into his or her seat. Captain John Hackett and the rest of the flight crew were busy preparing the plane for flight. During this time, one of the passengers thought he smelled airplane fuel. He mentioned it to the person sitting in the seat beside him. No one else seemed to notice anything, however. Finally, at 12:20 A.M., Captain Hackett steered the plane down the runway. In a moment, the 67-foot *turboprop* plane, with 44 people on board, was *airborne*.

The plane climbed quickly. In just a few seconds it was 150 feet off the ground. Its speed was up to 140 miles per hour. Then, without any warning, the right engine caught fire. Before long, it was completely *engulfed* in *flames*.

Captain Hackett did not know about the fire right away. His

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当天晚上，球员们到达机场的时候就已经比原定时间晚了50分钟，等到他们各就各位，已经过了午夜。机长约翰·哈克特和其他的机组人员正忙着为起飞作准备。此时，一名乘客闻到了一股飞机燃料的气味，并且告诉了他旁边的另一名乘客，可是其他人并没有感觉到这股味道。终于，在0点20分，哈克特机长在跑道上发动了飞机。片刻之间，这架67英尺高、载着44名乘客的涡轮螺旋桨飞机开始了它的航程。

飞机爬升得很快，只用了几秒钟就升到了150英尺的高空，并且速度达到了每小时140英里。突然，在没有任何征兆和预警的情况下，飞机的右侧引擎着火了。很快，整个引擎就湮没在烟火之中。

一开始，哈克特并不知道飞机出了问题，因为仪器上显示一切正常，当一

---

*turboprop* *n.* 涡轮螺旋桨发动机  
*engulf* *v.* 吞没

*airborne* *adj.* 空运的；机载的  
*flame* *n.* 火焰；火舌

instruments did not show any trouble. He found out only when a crew member entered the cabin and told him. Meanwhile, the flight attendants rushed to calm the passengers. They also told them to prepare for a crash landing.

When the passengers saw the flames, they *screamed* in terror.

“Fire!” yelled some. “There’s a fire!”

Others hollered, “Stop! Stop!”

But this was a plane, not a car. Captain Hackett couldn’t just put on the brakes. Still, Hackett had to find a way to land the plane in a hurry. The flaming right engine could *explode* at any moment.

Hackett knew what he was supposed to do. Safety rules stated clearly what should be done in such an *emergency*. He was supposed to *circle* the runway. Only then could he land. But Hackett didn’t think he had enough time to do that. So he tried something

名机组人员来到驾驶舱告知的时候，机长才知道飞机出了故障。与此同时，机上乘务人员冲到乘客舱里安抚乘客，并且通知他们作好飞机迫降的准备。

当乘客们看到火焰的时候，他们开始发出恐怖的尖叫声。

“火！”“着火了”，有的乘客大叫道。

其他人有的也狂喊着：“停下，快停下！”

可是这是飞机，不是一辆汽车。对于哈克特机长来说，解决的办法也不是仅仅踩刹车那么简单，他必须想办法让飞机紧急着陆，因为冒火的右引擎随时可能爆炸。

机长哈克特很清楚他此时应该做些什么，按照紧急情况下的安全规则要求，他应该架机围绕跑道盘旋数圈，然后再着陆。可是此时的哈克特清楚他没有足够的时间去那样做了。所以，他决定冒一次险。

scream *v.* 尖叫；发出刺耳的声音

emergency *n.* 紧急情况

explode *v.* 爆炸；爆发

circle *v.* 盘旋；旋转

*bolder.*

The runway at the airport was long. Looking down, Hackett saw that the plane was flying over the last part of it. He had to make a split-second decision. Hackett turned the nose of the plane toward the ground. He knew the only chance of anyone surviving this crash was if he could land the plane on whatever bit of runway was left.

Hackett brought the plane down fast. When it landed, it *bounced* hard several times. Then it rolled off the end of the runway, its nose *plowing* into the grass. The plane *skidded* for 100 yards and stopped just before hitting a fence. The plane's nose was buried in the ground and its tail hung in the air.

The passengers were desperate to get off the plane. They knew it might still explode at any time. David O'Leary, the soccer team's assistant manager, was sitting near an exit door. He tried to open it,

机长从飞机上看到了下面长长的跑道，而此时的飞机已经快飞到跑道的尽头了，他必须要作出一个瞬间的决定了。哈克特机长把机头转向了地面方向，此时他很清楚，是否能把机上人员从机毁人亡中拯救出来，就看他能不能让飞机落在尽头处哪怕一点点剩下的跑道上。

哈克特机长驾驶飞机迅速下落，就在着陆的时候，飞机重重地弹了几下然后就滑出了跑道。减速的时候它冲出去了100码，就在要撞上跑道围栏的瞬间停了下来，此时的飞机，头扎在草地里，机尾翘在了半空中。

乘客们不顾一切地往外跑，因为他们知道飞机随时有可能爆炸。坐在紧急出口旁边的是利兹联队的助理经理奥莱利，他用尽全身的力气也没有打开身旁的门，门已经粘住了。最后奥莱利费了九牛二虎之力终于用肩膀

**bolder** *adj.* 需冒险的

**plow** *v.* 破浪前进；开路

**bounce** *v.* 弹跳

**skid** *v.* 打滑；侧滑

but it was stuck. O'Leary *rammed* the door with his shoulder. It flew open. Quickly, he helped people off the plane. Meanwhile the crew opened the two other exits. Because of the plane's *awkward* position, some people had to jump a long way to the ground. Some sprang from the wing, others from the tail.

Although it took about 30 seconds to get everyone off the plane safely, it probably seemed like hours. People were *clamoring* to get out, but those near the exits knew they should wait. They wanted to make sure they weren't going to leap into the flames.

After one player watched his teammates jump from the plane, it was his turn. "I thought for a moment I couldn't do it," he said. When he jumped and rolled over, everyone shouted to him to get away from the plane. No one knew whether or not the *aircraft* was going to blow up. "I'm lucky to be alive," he said.

---

把门撞飞了，然后他帮助乘客迅速撤离，同时，乘务人员也打开了另外两个紧急出口。然而飞机着陆的地点实在太别扭了，逃出来的人只好从高高的机身上跳到地面，有的从机翼上跳，有的则从尾部往下跳。

尽管整个撤离过程只用了三十几秒，逃亡的人却感觉像过了几个小时那么漫长。他们大呼小叫地往外跑。而离门比较近的乘客并不着急往外跑，因为他们害怕会跳到火海里面去。

一名球员眼看着自己的队友们逃离了飞机，轮到他往下跳了。“我犹豫了片刻，我真的有些迈不动步了。”他事后描述道。当他跳下来并且滚到一旁的时候，所有的人都向着他大声叫嚷，让他赶快离飞机远点，因为谁也不知道飞机会不会随时爆炸。他补充说：“我真的很幸运，我还活着。”

---

ram *v.* 撞击

clamor *v.* 喧嚷

awkward *adj.* 不合适的；笨拙的

aircraft *n.* 飞机

With the plane's right engine still burning, the passengers *scurried* to the airport building. A fire crew, wearing special suits, worked quickly to put out the fire.

Both passengers and crew agreed that Captain Hackett was a hero. He had done the right thing in landing immediately. To circle the airport for a proper landing would have taken 8 or 10 minutes. There was a strong *possibility* that a wing would have caught fire. Or fuel leaking from the engine could have caused another *explosion*. That would have meant certain death for every person on board.

Thanks to the quick thinking of Captain Hackett, everything turned out all right. To Hackett himself, however, it was all in the line of duty. He didn't see himself as a hero. "I think any other pilot would have *reacted* the same way," he said.

---

当乘客跑向机场大楼的时候，飞机右边的引擎依然在燃烧。这时一队穿着特殊服装的消防员迅速赶来，很快地把火扑灭了。

事后，无论是乘客还是机组人员都承认哈克特机长在最关键的时候作出了最正确的决定，第一时间让飞机着陆。如果真的按照飞机紧急情况安全要求先在机场上空盘旋数圈，然后再找一个合适的着陆地点的话，这个过程需要八到十分钟，而这段时间里，飞机的机翼极有可能着火，或者由于引擎漏油而产生大爆炸，那就意味着没有人能幸免了。

事实证明，哈克特机长的正确决定挽救了全体乘客和机组人员。而对于机长本人而言，他所做的就是履行自己的职责。他可没有把自己当做英雄，就像他说的：“我想换了任何一个其他的飞行员，在那种情况下都会作出同样的反应。”

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scurry *v.* 急跑

explosion *n.* 爆炸

possibility *n.* 可能发生的事物

react *v.* 使起反应

## 2

# Into the Flames

You don't have to be *crazy*, but it helps. This old joke is often used to *describe* people who do dangerous work. A test pilot would be one example. So, too, would a race car driver. But it is hard to think of a more *hazardous* job than smoke jumping.

A want ad for smoke jumpers



*Smoke jumpers fight a fire deep in the forest.*

## 火海余生

空降灭火员正在密林深处和大火进行搏斗。

“你不必疯狂，但有时疯狂又是有用的”。这句旧时的笑谈经常用来描述从事危险工作的人，像飞机的试飞员，或者赛车的车手等。但是它们的危险系数和空降灭火的工作比起来，简直就是小巫见大巫。

一般的空降灭火员招聘广告会这样写道，“现招聘若干名能够从事空降

*crazy* *adj.* 疯狂的

*hazardous* *adj.* 有危险的

*describe* *v.* 描述；形容

might read like this. “Wanted: A few brave souls who enjoy jumping out of a plane to reach and put out forest fires. Must be willing to land on a *steep slope* or high up in a tree. *Applicants* must not be afraid of raging fire or *choking* smoke. Must be able to cut trees and dig trenches for hours on end. In fact, must be willing to work for days straight without rest. Must also be able to hike miles through the wilderness while carrying a 100-pound pack. And, oh yes, the pay is lousy.”

Jumping out of a plane into a fire has always been risky work. Smoke jumpers knew that. But on August 5, 1949, they learned just how deadly their job could be. At 12:25 that afternoon, a fire broke out about 20 miles north of Helena, Montana. It happened in a place called Mann Gulch. The day was hot, dry, and windy. That meant the

---

扑灭森林大火的消防员。应征者需具备如下条件：有勇敢的精神；能够在陡峭的山坡或者树梢降落；不惧怕猛烈的大火和令人窒息的浓烟；可以连续数小时砍伐树木，挖壕沟；事实上，还要具有数天连续不休息地工作和背负100磅重包裹在野外连续数英里跋涉的能力。当然了，报酬是相当诱人的。”

空降灭火员知道，从飞机上跳入火海永远是一项危险的任务。而在1949年8月5日那一天，他们亲身体会到了他们的工作距离死神是多么的近。当天下午12点25分，大火在蒙大拿州海伦娜市北部20英里处燃起，事发地点是在一个叫做曼恩峡谷的地方，当时天气干旱炎热，而且风力十足，火势很快就要蔓延开来。曼恩峡谷地处荒野深处，近处没有任何道路

---

*steep* adj. 陡峭的

*applicant* n. 申请人；申请者

*slope* n. 斜坡

*choke* v. 使窒息



fire would **spread** quickly. Mann Gulch was deep in the **wilderness**. It was far from any roads. So this was clearly a job for smoke jumpers.

Fifteen smoke jumpers answered the call. They climbed onto a plane and flew to the gulch. At 3:30 P.M., they **parachuted** into the woods. The jump didn't go well. High winds forced the men to jump higher than they had planned. As a result, they landed far apart. It took them more than an hour to find each other.

Still, that didn't seem like a big deal at the time. The fire looked routine. "I took a look at the fire and decided it wasn't bad. ... I thought it probably wouldn't **burn** much more that night," said one.

Because the fire didn't look bad, the group took their time getting organized. Their leader's name was R. Wagner "Wag" Dodge. As Dodge gathered the men together, he heard someone shouting near

可行，很明显，现在需要空降灭火员上阵了。

15名空降灭火员接受了此次出征的命令，他们登上飞机来到曼恩峡谷。下午3点30分的时候，他们空降到密林之中。但是降落并不十分理想，大风使得他们的着陆点比原来的目标高了一些，而且队员们降落得七零八落。一个小时后他们才得以重新聚拢到一起。

起初，问题看起来并不严重，火势也不猛烈。队员们聚拢以后，他们中的一个人说：“我看到大火了，问题不大，我想也许明天早晨之前火就会熄灭的。”

因为火势并不严重，灭火队在队长的领导下从容地进行着组织工作。队长的名字叫R. 瓦格纳·道奇，大家都叫他瓦格·道奇。就在道奇队长把队员聚拢到一起的时候，他听到有人在大火附近大声呼叫。呼叫的人是吉

**spread** *v.* 伸展；蔓延

**parachute** *v.* 跳伞

**wilderness** *n.* 荒地

**burn** *v.* 烧毁；燃烧