



R.F. DOWNE

INTO

**THE FIGHT!**

PARACHUTE TROOPS · U.S. ARMY

# TROOPS

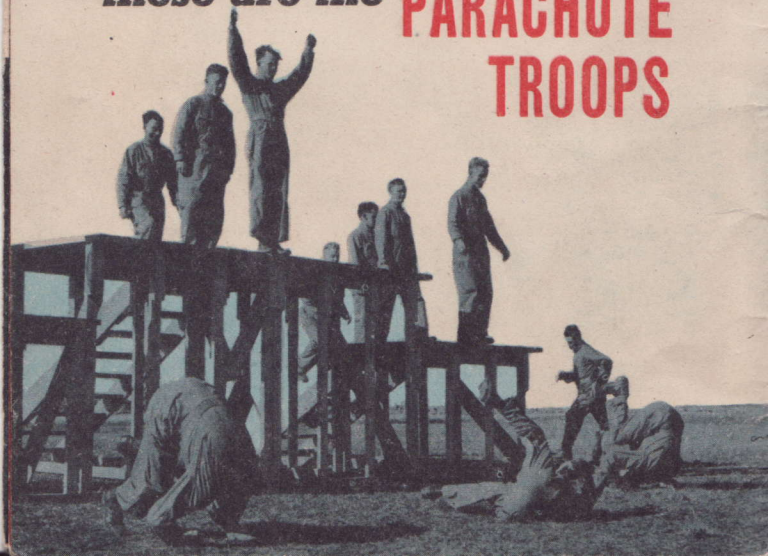
# Parachute

**Daring**

ADVENTURERS OF THE AIR

MODERN SOLDIERS OF THE SKY

*these are the* **PARACHUTE  
TROOPS**





## ***Parachute Troops Jump Into the Fight***

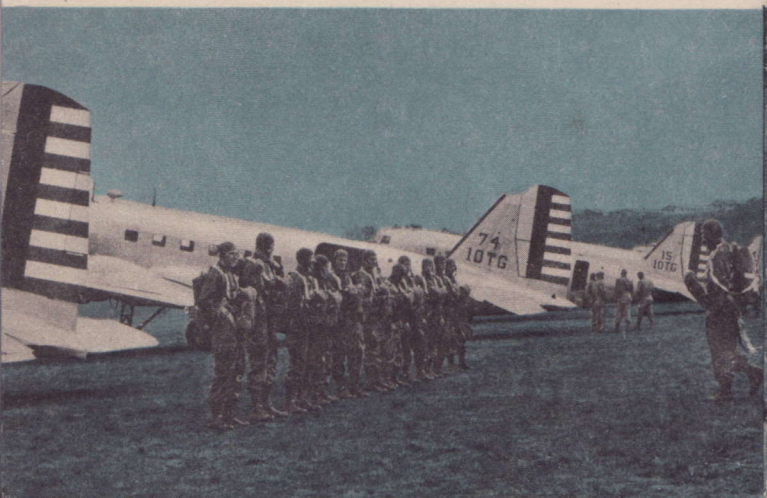
**Parachute troops!** The very name gives one a spine-tingling thrill!

**Parachute troops!** These are the soldiers who literally **jump into the fight** and strike the enemy like a bolt from the blue!

**Parachute troops!** The ultramodern fighting men of Uncle Sam's modern Army!

**Parachute troops** are highly trained soldiers who are specialists in the air and all-around fighting men on the ground. They are hand-picked — only the best men can serve with them.

The parachutist must have nerve — plenty of it. He must be alert and adventurous, yet cool in emergency. He must be agile, athletic, actively aggressive. He must have a good head — the ability to learn. He must be an outstanding type of soldier in order to become proficient in the many theoretical and practical military subjects that a parachutist is expected to know.



## ***U. S. Army Parachutes are the Best in the World***

The modern parachute, like the airplane, is another implement of aerial transport which marks the progress of man's conquest of the air. It provides a safe and convenient means for the parachutist to descend at will to earth from an airplane, airship, or balloon. In its present form, the parachute represents the climax of the combined research and experiments of generations of scientists and inventors.

The parachutes used by the U. S. Army are safe, efficient, and durable. They are the product of the best technical research and experience, the best manufacturing methods, the best materials that can be produced. They are the best in the world.

The parachute, safe, efficient, and durable as it is, requires skill in its operation, precise preparation for its use, and intelligent attention to its care. These the parachutist must learn—and learn well.



## ***Varied Training of the Parachutist***

First of all, the parachutist is an Infantry soldier. He is trained to fight on the ground. He learns to use the weapons of the Infantry: the rifle, the bayonet, the pistol, the grenade, the machine gun, the tommy gun, the trench mortar, the antitank gun.

He learns how to ride a motorcycle; to drive a truck; to operate a tank and to fire tank weapons. He is even taught to run a locomotive!

But that is not all. He learns how to handle explosives with which to destroy bridges, buildings or other structures behind the enemy's lines where the parachute troops strike hardest.

The parachutist must always be in prime physical condition—agile, supple, tough. Physical training is given constantly. It includes calisthenics, running, rope climbing, tumbling, boxing, wrestling, hand-to-hand combat, and body coordination. As his course progresses, the physical training of the student parachutist is intensified. Exercises on the "trainasium," a maze of steel bars and ladders twenty feet high and forty feet long, over which he must climb and walk, further develop his strength and give him a sense of balance.



## ***Training for Aerial Adventure***

The parachutist's most spectacular duty is in the air. The parachutist's ability to jump from a speeding airplane and land safely and accurately at his objective requires great skill and precision in the operation of the parachute that carries him to the ground. It requires courage and confidence, too. These are qualities that thrive and develop as the parachutist acquires knowledge and skill through a carefully planned and strenuous course of training. His training course is divided into four principal subjects: parachute packing, jump training, tower training, and qualification jumping.

### **Text**

#### **Parachutists Have Many Opportunities For Promotion**

Parachutists are paid \$50 monthly in addition to the pay of their respective grades. A private receives \$100 a month, minimum. Other enlisted men are paid up to \$188 minimum, plus extra pay for length of service.

**Action — Adventure — All You Want!**

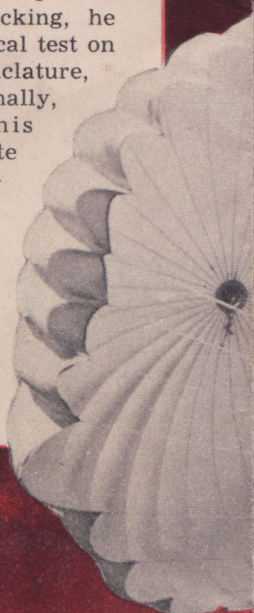


## ***Parachute Packing***

The parachutist is required to pack and inspect his own parachute. In order to do this properly, he must be well acquainted with its nomenclature and design, and he must be able to pack the 28-foot canopy and its suspension lines so that the parachute will be sure to open when required. He must learn how to fold the panels of the canopy so that they will lie evenly and smoothly in the pack. He must learn to adjust his parachute so that it will fit snugly and open smoothly.

The parachutist must have a thorough knowledge of the parachute's construction. He must know how to inspect it in minute detail before using it. As part of his training in parachute packing, he must pass a written and practical test on the theory of design, nomenclature, and detailed inspections. Finally, under the vigilant eye of his instructor, he must demonstrate the complete procedure of packing a parachute and making it ready for use in jumping.

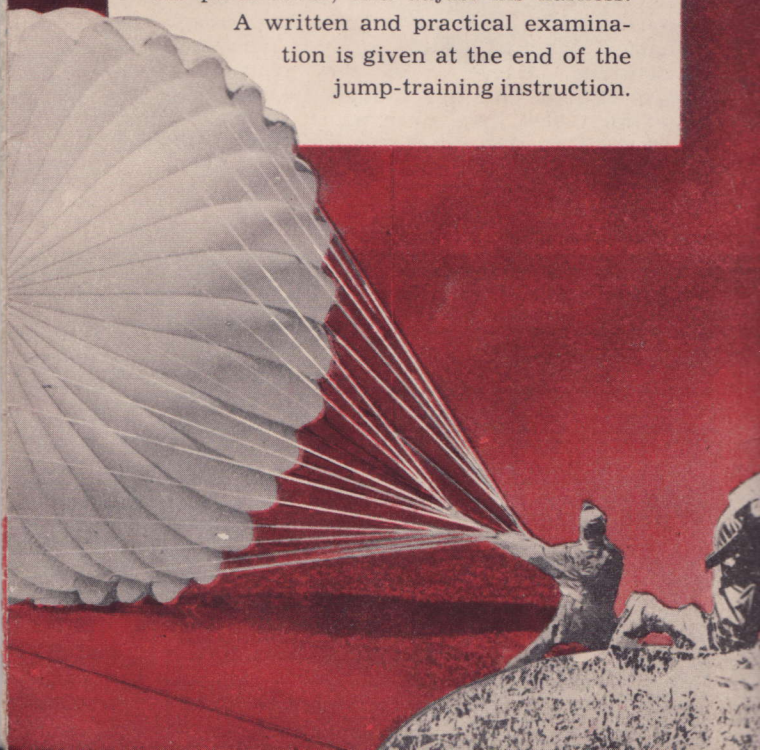
The parachutist's confidence in his parachute is thus developed, for nobody will pack it more carefully than the man who is going to use it.



## ***Jump Training***

The student parachutist jumps from platforms of varying heights to learn how to absorb the landing shocks. He learns how to guide his parachute during descent by being suspended in a harness and pulling on the risers to direct its course through the air. He slides rapidly down an inclined beam on a suspended harness and is released above the ground to accustom himself to landing from a height with a horizontal velocity. During this phase of instruction the student parachutist learns how to stow the suspension lines of his parachute, to sew his pack cover, and adjust his harness.

A written and practical examination is given at the end of the jump-training instruction.





## ***Tower Training***

To accustom the student parachutist to the sensation of descent, he is given rides in a seat guided by cables attached to a 250-foot tower. Later, he is given a shock absorber test on the controlled tower, by means of which he experiences the sensations of a free fall and the opening jerk of the parachute.

His next step in tower training is a descent from the free tower. In this practice his parachute is released from the top of the 250-foot tower and is free to descend and drift with the wind. Here the student has an opportunity to put into practice all of the theory that he has learned so far.

The student parachutist now learns to pack his reserve parachute. This is an extra parachute twenty-two feet in diameter, slightly smaller than the main parachute, which he may open at any time during his descent. The parachutist thus has two parachutes at his command, and his safety is thereby doubly assured.

## ***Qualification Jumping***

The climax of the student parachutist's training is the series of qualification jumps. Here at last he faces the adventure he has hoped to meet. Every day for five successive days the student parachutist jumps from an airplane and descends to earth by means of the parachute whose structure and capabilities he has studied so faithfully—to the packing of which he has devoted such painstaking care.

His first jump is at 1,500 feet. The others are at lesser altitudes. After each jump the student carefully repacks his parachute in readiness for the next. Critical jump masters accompany the student in the airplane to observe and appraise his reactions, his technique of jumping, and his manner of controlling his parachute in the air.

Then comes the great event—Graduation Day. Now, as a soldier of distinction, he proudly receives the coveted parachutist's insignie—the “Silver Badge of Courage.”

He has reached his goal—he has tasted of aerial adventure—he is a Parachutist!

# ***How to Become a Parachutist***

All U. S. Army parachutists are men who have volunteered for this service. Any citizen who has the proper qualifications may apply for service with the parachute troops. If he is accepted and enlisted, he will be given a course of basic training and then will be sent as a student to the Parachute School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

## **Qualification Requirements for Parachute Troops**

Must volunteer for parachute duty.

Must be alert, active, supple, with firm muscles and sound limbs; capable of development into an aggressive individual fighter, with great endurance.

Age — 18 to 32, both inclusive.

Weight — Maximum, not to exceed 185 pounds.

Height — Maximum, not to exceed 72 inches.

Vision — Distant vision uncorrected must be 20/40 each eye, or better.

Feet — Greater than a nonsymptomatic 2nd degree pes planus disqualifies.

Genitourinary system — Recent venereal disease disqualifies.

Nervous system — Evidence of highly labile nervous system disqualifies.

Bones, joints, and muscles — Lack of normal mobility in every joint, poor or unequally developed musculature, poor coordination, asthenic habitus, or lack of at least average athletic ability disqualifies.

Medical history — History of painful arches, recurrent knee or ankle injuries, recent fracture, old fracture with deformity, pain or limitation of motion, recurrent dislocations, recent severe illness, operation, or chronic disease disqualifies.

Blood pressure — Persistent systolic pressure above 140 millimeters or persistent diastolic pressure above 90 millimeters disqualifies.

Other than as listed above, the physical standards to be the same as prescribed for entrance into the Regular Army.

## **JUMP INTO THE FIGHT with the Parachute Troops!**

Apply at any **UNITED STATES ARMY  
RECRUITING AND INDUCTION STATION**

