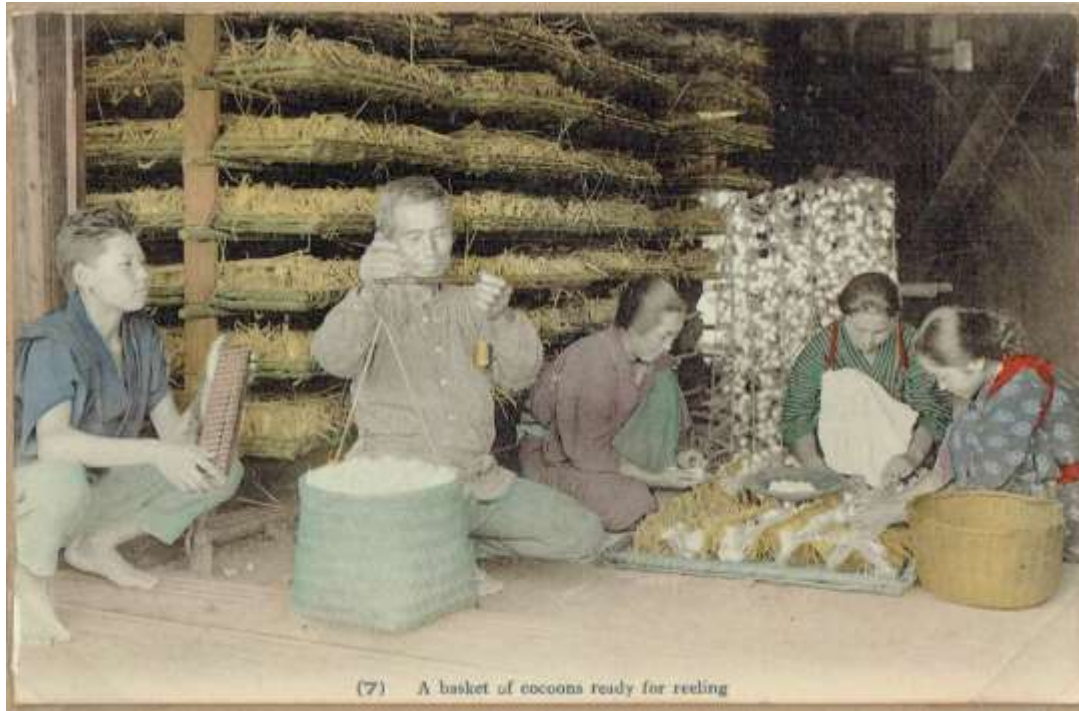


# LADIES FROM HEAVEN

A Presentation of

Postcards showing ladies who  
parachute or support parachutists.

# In the beginning there was silk



Getting the silk thread out of the cocoons and then putting it on to reels takes time and a lot of patience!

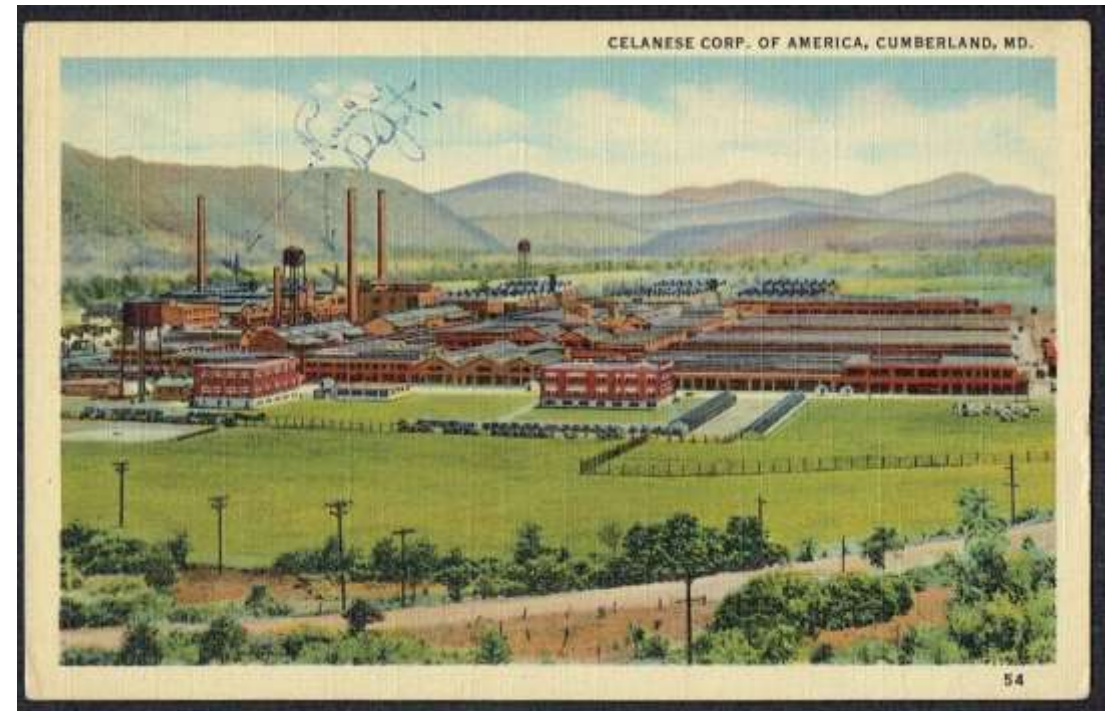


Spinning the silk thread is a slow and very skilled job.

# Before you can jump you need a parachute!



A Silk Mill. Notice the number of female workers.



An alternative to silk was necessary during WW2 as most silk came from Japan at that time. This factory in the USA made Rayon.

# Making the parachute

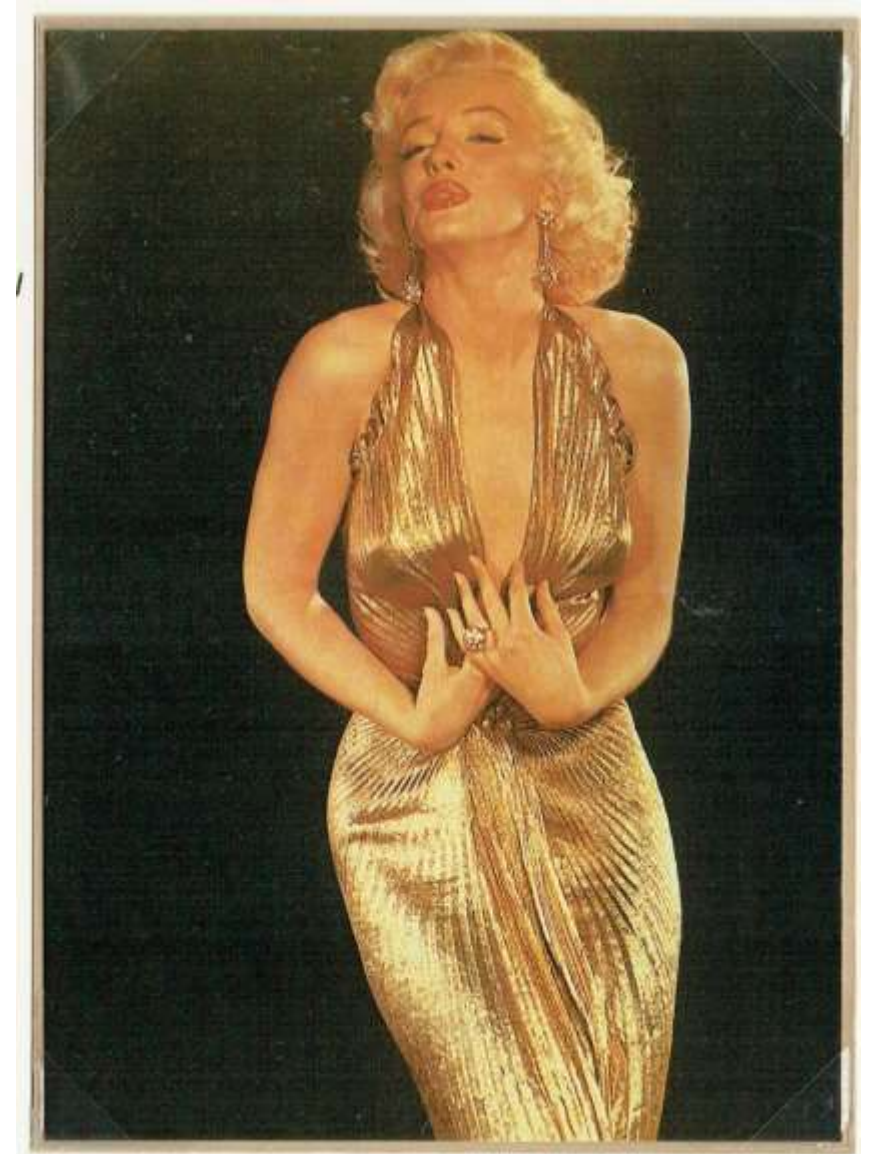


Ladies making parachutes with hand powered sewing machines.

... and checking the parachute!



Ladies making parachutes with hand powered sewing machines.



Arguably the most famous of all parachute packing inspectors, Marilyn Monroe!

But many parachutes need repairing after use.



Making repairs to parachutes. Yet more ladies supporting parachutes.

# But not everybody wants to use a parachute!

Notice the airship in the top left hand corner. Stanley Spencer was an early English aeronaut, famous for ballooning and parachuting and later for building and flying an airship over London in 1902.

*Produced by FC Morgan & Co. circa 1920s.*



*Produced by Bamforth circa the 1930s by the Halftone process.*

# And some are more effective than others!

*Printed by H.M. & Co. Used in 1909.*



*Used on 15 September 1944.*



*The skirt becomes the parachute!*

*Translates as 'Very first parachute jump'*



# Early parachutists.

Not very effective parachutes! A little on the small size!  
And hanging onto the handle is not as effective as using a harness!



*An undivided back postcard from France.*

# The mother of European Parachutists



Katy Paulus, arguably the greatest European female parachutist, entertainer and aerial acrobat.

Born in 1868 and joined up with Hermann Lattemann in 1893 who was a balloonist and parachutist.



Paulus was the inventor of the first packable parachute in 1902. In WW1 she set up a production line producing thousands of parachutes for the German Army. Credited with saving many men's lives.

# American parachutists



*A USA divided back postcard printed by the halftone process.*

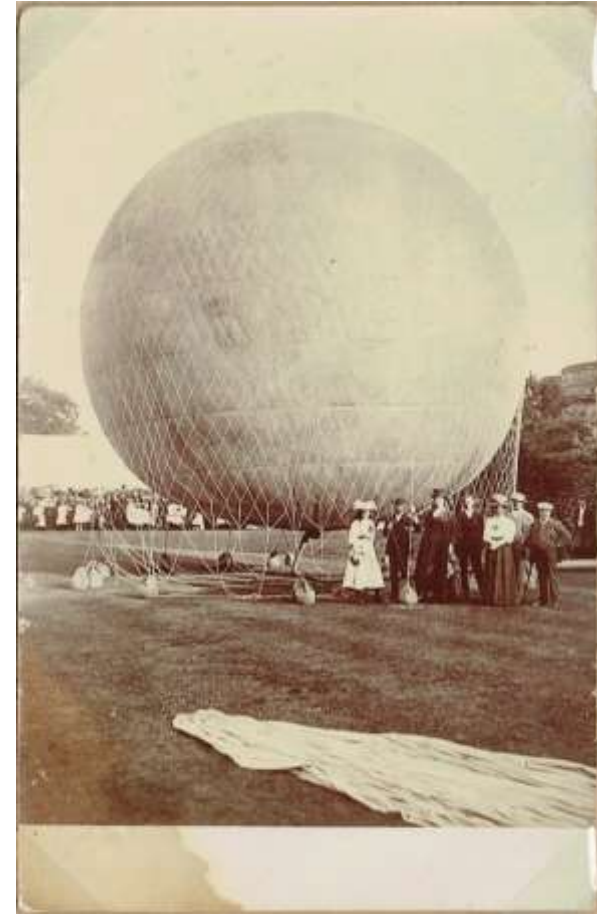
*The so-called white border era in USA postcards was from about 1915 until 1930. The postcards were usually of poor quality, saved money by using smaller pictures (hence white borders) and cheaper printing.*

*An unknown parachutist circa 1920/30s.*

# Early British Parachutists



In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Alexandra Palace was a centre for ballooning and parachutists.



*Postcard is circa 1908. Real Photo Postcard.*

Dolly Shepherd, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left. Spent her summer months travelling around the country at weekends making parachute jumps.

# Dolly Shepherd in her 'uniform'



Dolly Shepherd often parachuted in this uniform.

She features in the Guinness Book of Records as she rescued a colleague on a double parachute jump when her colleague's release pin froze.

Both ladies came down under one parachute and Dolly landed very hard and was paralyzed for some weeks. But she was jumping again later in the season.

In between parachute jumps she worked during the week as a milliner in her Aunt's shop.

# Dolly Shepherd and her later life.



At the age of 26 and after eight years parachuting Dolly retired in 1912. Aircraft were becoming the aeronautical attraction and balloons were on their way out.

During WW1 she was a driver on the Western Front.

During WW2 she was a senior air raid warden in East London in charge of public air raid shelters in the East end of London.



# Sometimes it goes wrong

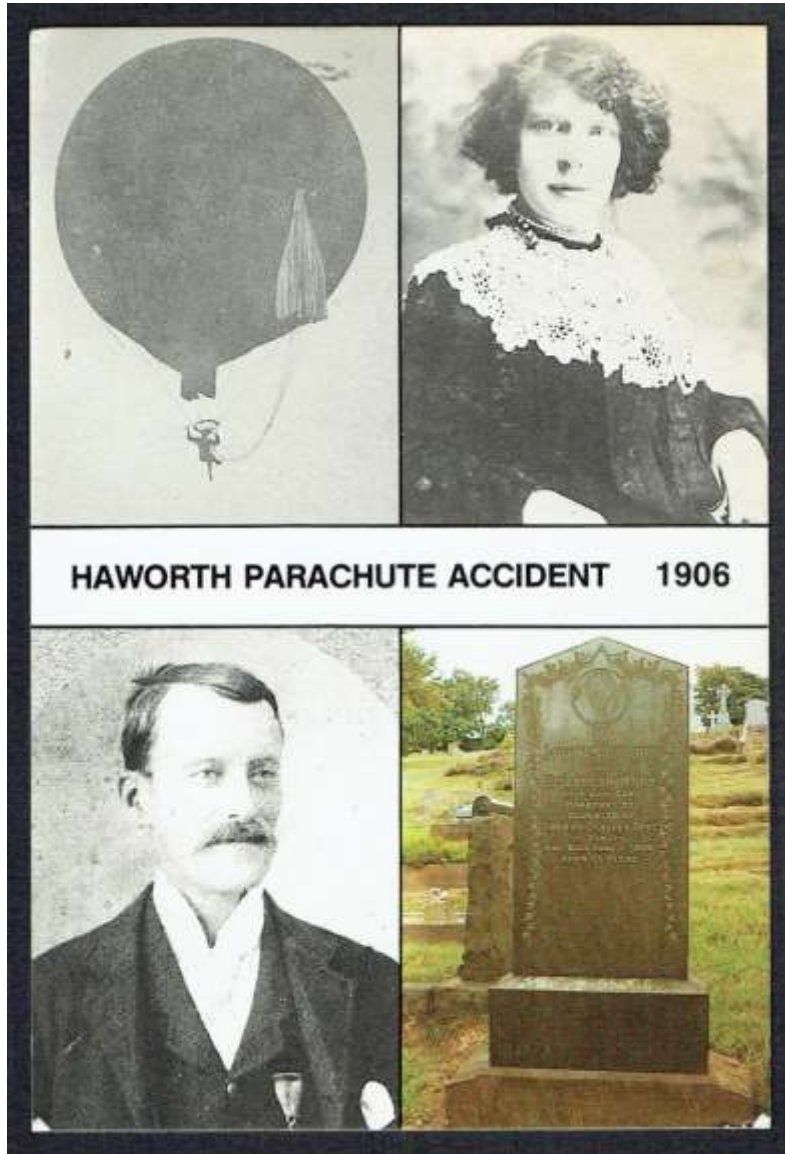


On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 1906 at the Haworth Gala (Yorkshire) Lily Cove rose up under the hot-air balloon and a photo was taken and made into this postcard. Originally the jump was scheduled to be done by Dolly Shepherd but she was unwell.

Lily jumped at around 1000ft (330m) and the parachute opened. But she misjudged her height and let go of the parachute too soon and fell to her death.

*This is a Real Photograph Postcard (RPPC) and is the only one I have ever seen.*

# Postcards love a disaster



Lily Cove was just 21 when she died. A number of postcards showing Lily were quickly produced after her death and sold at fairs and galas.

*A Real Photograph  
PC, now faded.*





# Parachuting from aircraft



*A Tucks Real Photograph Postcard,  
circa 1930s, of Amy Johnson.*

On 5 January 1941 Amy Johnson bailed out of her aircraft in bad weather over London and was never seen again. She was 38 years old.

# Parachuting from aircraft



Also pre-WW1, Mr and Mrs Pelletier piloted and parachuted respectively from a Goupy Gnome aircraft.

# Parachuting from aircraft



Anybody fancy doing this!?

# Parachuting from aircraft



The female parachutist is wearing a harness and her parachute is folded on the ground. Jumping from aircraft was the norm after WW1.

The aircraft looks like a Bristol Bulldog.

*This is a Real Photograph  
postcard from the 1930s.*

# Fashions start to change



Ladies attire still not too practical for parachuting!

Parachuting has been described as the most exciting sport with your clothes on!

*Circa 1920s. Hand-coloured postcard.*

*Circa 1941 Swedish printed in halftone.*



# Fashions start to change



Translates to: I've done well to jump before her!

The parachutist is meant to be looking down not up!

*France, circa 1940s. Printed by Lithography.*

# Fashions start to change



*Belgium circa 1936  
coloured halftone.*

Carrying flowers becomes a theme!

Fur coat and a  
dog. Love the  
dog!



*French circa  
1950s. Coloured  
halftone.*

# Fashions start to change

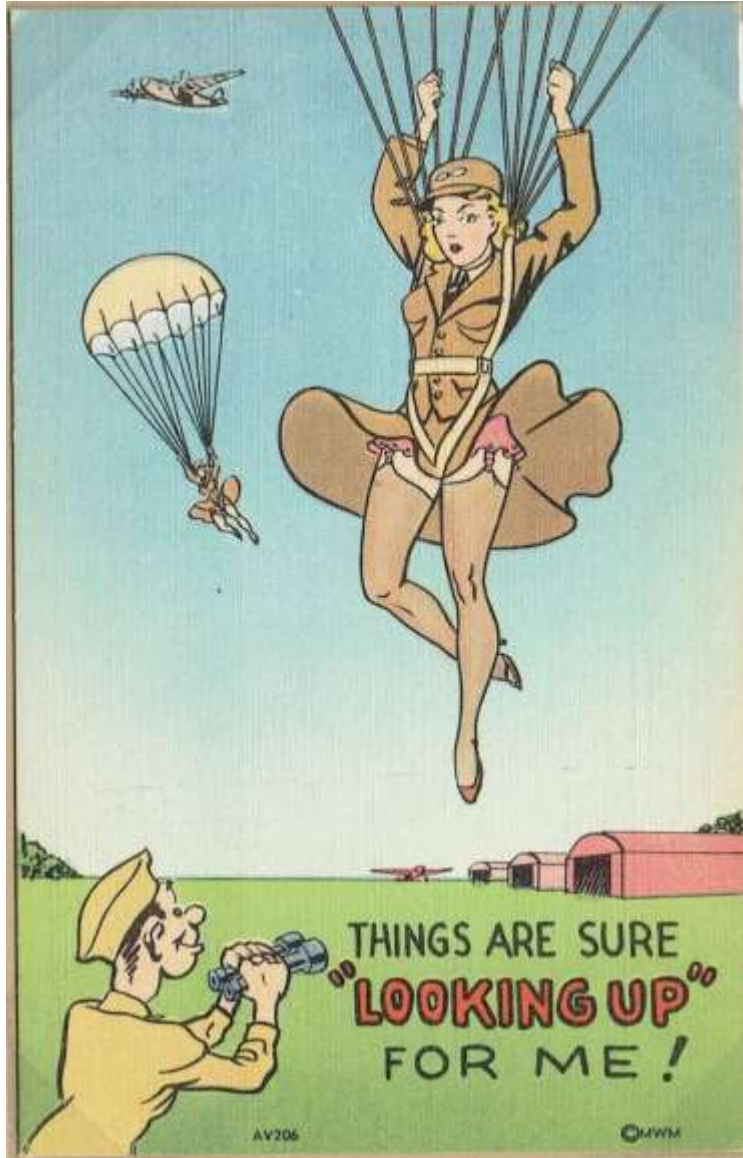


Still not very appropriate attire for parachuting but at least it is modest!

*USA circa 1940s. Linen card.*



# Parachuting gets too risky for some!



The original postcard ...

... now without stockings!

*The one on the right has 'Buy war bonds' on the reverse.*

*Circa 1940s. Linen printing.*



# Parachuting gets too risky for some!



Humour is a constant factor in many 'extreme' activities.



Again, the one on the right has 'Buy war bonds' on the reverse.

# Just hanging around



Hanging around in trees is an occupational hazard for parachutists.

For a USA postcard in 1943 this would have been very risky!

*USA Circa 1943.  
Halftone.*

# Same card different place!



These pull-out cards were very popular from the 1930s onwards.



Often the same image can be found in dozens of locations.

# Some interesting luggage



Dogs and parachuting is one thing. A suitcase is another!

Circa 1946

Flowers feature again!

*France, circa 1910.  
Chromolithograph.*

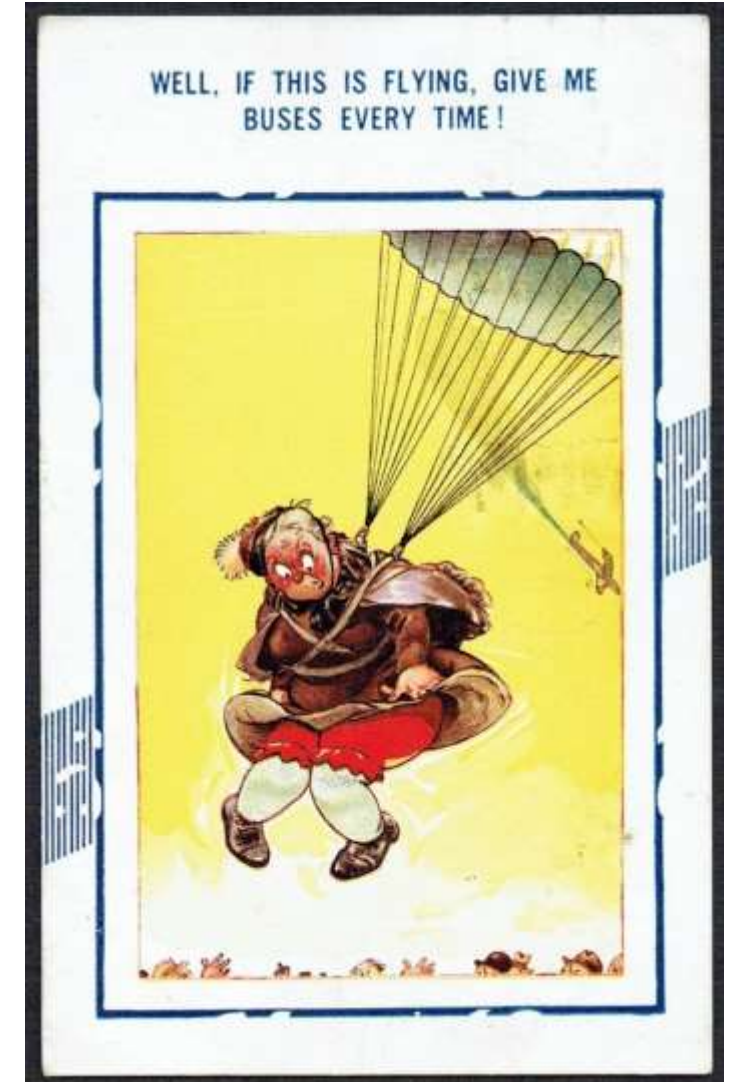


# Impractical fashions!



1940s Linen

The 1938 World Fair held in New York had a very popular parachute ride.



Published by  
Bamforth in  
1939

# Modern parachutists more appropriately attired



This is called 'stacking'. 23 parachutes is the world record.

*Circa 1990s. Screen printed.*

# On the ground



The parachutist on the ground wearing the appropriate clothing.

*Printed in 1967. Gravure printing*



# When is a Postcard not a Postcard!



A lovely postcard to finish an exhibit on parachuting

But when it arrived ....

# Buyer beware



It was not a  
postcard but a  
business card!

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