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[**Adeline Gray**](http://frogstorm.com/?p=4161)

As told by [Josh Troy](http://frogstorm.com/?author=1)

**June 6, 1942** – It was on this day that a 24-year-old woman from Oxford, Connecticut made the first  jump from an airplane using a nylon parachute.

[](http://frogstorm.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Adeline-Gray-packing-a-parachute.jpg)

Adeline Gray packing a parachute.

The leap was a test of a new lightweight material developed by Dupont that would soon replace the heavier and more expensive silk chutes that were in use.

The nylon parachutes had been tested with dummies (and probably animals, too) but this was the first jump with a live human.

As World War II heated up, Adeline Gray’s successful landing paved the way for a massive rollout of the cheaper, stronger and more durable nylon chutes that would figure prominently in the Allied liberation of Europe.

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Adeline Gray [Wrong Adeline Gray?](http://www.zoominfo.com/people/Gray_Adeline_578484827.aspx) |  |  Employment HistoryParachute RiggerPioneer Parachute Company 8 Total References  Web References  [Industries - Business History of Industries - Business History Books](http://www.businesshistory.com/ind._chemicals.php) www.businesshistory.com, 6 Feb 2012 [[cached]](http://cache.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive_id=0&page_id=-1257471777&page_url=//www.businesshistory.com/ind._chemicals.php&page_last_updated=2012-02-06T08:06:45&firstName=Adeline&lastName=Gray)  June 6, 1942 - Adeline Gray, parachute rigger at Pioneer Parachute Company, made first parachute jump in U.S. using nylon parachute; jumped from aircraft flying from Brainard Field, Hartford, CT; convinced audience of 50 critical army, navy observers.  [The Liz Library Presents: Irene Stuber's Women of Achievement and Herstory](http://www.thelizlibrary.org/undelete/woa/woa06-06.html) www.thelizlibrary.org, 28 Sept 2009 [[cached]](http://cache.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive_id=0&page_id=-1202468633&page_url=//www.thelizlibrary.org/undelete/woa/woa06-06.html&page_last_updated=2011-11-26T07:57:15&firstName=Adeline&lastName=Gray)  Event 06-06-1942: Parachuteswere tested with dead weights until Adeline Gray who became the first human to jump with a nylon parachute. She was employed as a parachute rigger with the Pioneer Parachute Company in Connecticut. (Why a woman?)  [June Gnus](http://www.sciencegnus.com/June%20Gnus.html) www.sciencegnus.com, 8 Sept 2008 [[cached]](http://cache.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive_id=948456260&page_id=-1724167717&page_url=//www.sciencegnus.com/June%20Gnus.html&page_last_updated=2010-11-19T11:30:21&firstName=Adeline&lastName=Gray)  using a nylon parachute was made by Adeline Gray.  ...  Gray, a parachute rigger at the Pioneer Parachute Company jumped from an aircraft flying from Brainard Field,  [Cut and Paste Aviation: 2006-06-04](http://cutandpasteaviation.blogspot.com/2006_06_04_cutandpasteaviation_archive.html) cutandpasteaviation.blogspot.com, 4 June 2006 [[cached]](http://cache.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive_id=0&page_id=1717018794&page_url=//cutandpasteaviation.blogspot.com/2006_06_04_cutandpasteaviation_archive.html&page_last_updated=2006-09-15T13:22:27&firstName=Adeline&lastName=Gray)  1942 - The first parachute jump in the U.S. using a nylon parachute was made by Adeline Gray.  Cotton had been superceded by silk cloth as a higher-strength, lower-weight parachute fabric.Oriental high-volume sources of the silkworm product were cut off during WWII.Fortunately, nylon, a newly invented synthetic substitute produced by the DuPont Co was available, as exhibited at the 1939 World's Fair.Nylon parachutes were been tested with dead weights, but the military needed a live trial to confirm personnel use.Gray, a parachute rigger at the Pioneer Parachute Company volunteered.She jumped from an aircraft flying from Brainard Field, Hartford, Conn. convincing an audience of 50 critical army and navy observers.  Adeline Gray  [June 6 - Today in Science History](http://www.todayinsci.com/6/6_06.htm) www.todayinsci.com, 20 July 2004 [[cached]](http://cache.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive_id=0&page_id=1102338753&page_url=//www.todayinsci.com/6/6_06.htm&page_last_updated=2005-05-01T09:49:43&firstName=Adeline&lastName=Gray)  In 1942, the first parachute jump in the U.S. using a nylon parachute was made by Adeline Gray.Parachutes were tested with dead weights until she became the first human to test a nylon parachute.She jumped from an aircraft flying from Brainard Field, Hartford, Conn. Gray was a parachute rigger at the Pioneer Parachute Company. |