Escape and Evasion Behind Enemy Lines Prediction Sheet

World War II was the first time that the United States used paratroopers to fight battles. The 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion jumped into combat in North Africa in 1942. The 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion also made combat jumps into Italy, southern France, and Belgium.

When paratroopers jump from their airplanes behind enemy lines, they need to carry enough resources to survive for up to 48 hours before being able to join up with the rest of their unit. These resources range from food and water to tools that can be used to avoid being captured. During World War II, paratroopers would jump with 70 pounds of gear. Officers carried an additional 20–25 pounds worth of gear. When combined with the parachute, paratroopers jumped with 90–120 pounds of gear in addition to their own body weight.

Use the space below to record your predictions of what paratroopers would pack for their jump.

Prediction	What would it be used for?	Was it correct?