

In World War II the Gibson-Girl Box Kite was standard issue as part of an airman's survival pack to aid radio communication. The pack also included an inflatable life-raft, a lifejacket, food rations and an emergency radio. In emergencies, the kite would be assembled with the radio aerial attached to the kite to be carried aloft significantly increasing the range of the emergency radio and the chances of being rescued.



I was pleasantly surprised to see one of these original box kites featured on a recent episode of BBC's The Repair Shop.

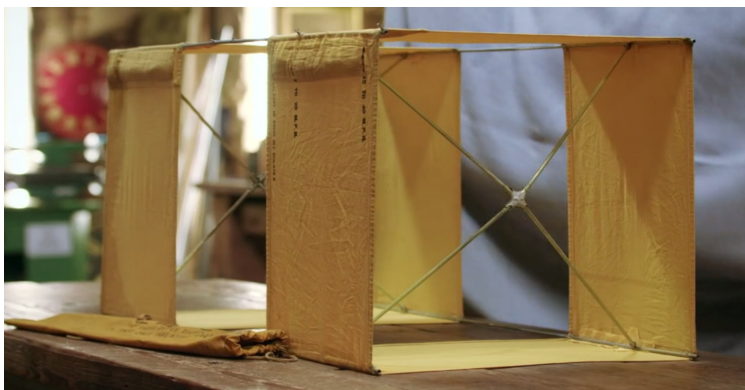
The kite would have originally been stored in an aluminium tube to protect it, but this seemed to have been lost and, after many years of use, was in a very sorry state.



The cotton fabric of the kite was badly torn in several places and both of the four-pronged pop-up frames which give the kite its familiar box-like shape needed plenty of TLC.

The more observant of you may have spotted the markings on the kite indicating its provenance and the fixing point for the flying line/aerial.

After the skilful efforts of two members of the Repair Shop Team, the kite was restored to its former glory, much to the delight of the original owners.



If you have one of these kites to sell or come across one, please let me know as I would like to add it to my collection.

