

SUCCESSFUL AND FATAL PARACHUTE DROPS



Reichelt, in His Parachute Suit for Airmen, and Remarkable Photograph of His Fatal Fall Taken from Beneath the Eiffel Tower

Two parachute descensions, unique because of the elevations selected from which to drop, were made recently in New York and Paris, one being successful and the other fatal. The first leap was made by F. Rodman Law, a steeplejack, from the torch of the Statue of Liberty. From the stone coping on which he landed to the top of the torch the distance is estimated at 345 ft. The photograph was made a moment after the parachute opened, the steeplejack falling like a dead weight for the first 75 ft. The parachute was so arranged on the torch platform that it would slide easily over opened the wind blew it clear of the statue and the landing was made 30 ft. from the water's edge. He received \$1,500 from a moving-picture concern for the descent.

The day following the Statue of Liberty descension, Franz Reichelt, an Australian tailor, who had been experimenting in Paris with a new form of parachute, jumped from the first platform of the Eiffel tower, 180 ft. from the ground. The parachute did not open, and Reichelt fell like a stone. His body was a shapeless mass when the police picked it up.



POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE

April, 1912

Steeplejack Making
Successful Parachute
Drop from the Torch
of the Statue of Liberty