

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

jumpers of the U.S. Forest Service as well as the paramedics and other personnel of the U.S. Air Force Air Rescue teams.

C. H. PELLEY

Irving Air Chute Co., Inc.
Lexington, Ky.



HART TYPE CHUTE



DERRY TWO-SLOT CHUTE

● LIFE was right in saying the Russians built a better chute, for it beat U.S. chutes in competition. But Americans did invent the principle of the open gore or slot parachute. Richard H. Hart patented one in 1938, a forerunner of the Air Force's present parachute chute. Smoke jumpers use a two-slot chute Frank Derry patented in 1945. The Russian chute is probably a modified version of a chute they saw a British jumping team use in a 1954 meet.—ED.

RUSSIAN PARACHUTE

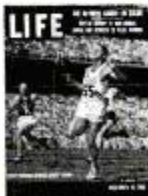
Sirs:

I am sure that it was not LIFE's intention to contribute validity to the Russians' claim they have invented everything from the wheel to the jet airplane. But that is what you have done in "Russians Build a Better Chute" (LIFE, Nov. 19).

This type of parachute has been manufactured and used in this country for many years.

American models are widely used today for the smoke

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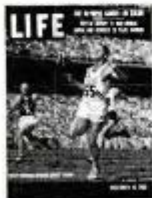
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