

"NEW SPEED RECORD SET
IN TEST OF AIRFORCE ROCKET SLED"
JACK - ISSUE #40

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Abbott
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632 M.P.H. ROCKET SLED SEES RECORD

The "fastest man on earth" -- Air Force Lieutenant Colonel John P. Stapp--who attained 632 miles per hour. His record run was made at Holloman Air Development Centre in New Mexico by means of a rocket propelled sled. Colonel Stapp, chief of the Aero-Medical Field Laboratory, is wearing no special clothing except a plastic helmet and visor. He is submitting to decelerative and air-blast effects in order to reproduce escape conditions experienced by aircrewmembers at supersonic speeds.

This test simulates the effect of a man ejected from a jet traveling more than one thousand miles per hour at an altitude of 35 thousand feet. Through slow motion cameras the dramatic test run down the 28 hundred foot track. From pictures of an earlier run, at over 400 miles per hour, the agonizing results of wind pressure. This test, nine-tenths the speed of sound, takes $5\frac{1}{2}$ seconds, with water brakes stopping forces 35 times the force of gravity and wind pressure of more than two tons.

Greater safety for airmen may be attributable to work below by the fastest man on earth, Colonel Stapp.

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