

SPITFIRE BEATS JET.

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At Lympne airport in Kent, a record entry prepares for the annual international air rally. Competitors from all over Europe make this air racing's big day. And it's a day of records all round. There is a record crowd, including Douglas Fairbanks and his wife. There are records, also, from the competitors. Flying a borrowed Spitfire, a Devonshire girl, Lettice Curtis sets up a new woman's international speed record. Competing against ace jet pilots like "Cats Eyes" John Cunningham, Miss Curtis's old Spitfire puts up a performance truly worthy of the plane that, eight years ago, won the Battle of Britain. In this highspeed handicap race over an 80 mile circuit, the relatively older aircraft - like the Spitfire - take off first and are in the air before the jets take off.

Neal Goward joins the Fairbanks as the planes hurtle round on their four lap course. A Spitfire is in the lead.

And now Cunningham's Vampire jet is going all out to make up lost ground.

A Spitfire - piloted by Flight Lieut. Colquhoun - is first home with an average speed of 324 miles-an-hour - beating by a few yards John Cunningham's Vampire jet, in Europe's fastest air race.