

U.S.A. NEW LAND SPEED RECORD.

At an air development centre in New Mexico, a rocket-propelled sled is made ready. With an Air Force officer in the seat, the sled, powered by nine rockets, will race along its tracks at a speed of more than 600 miles an hour. The officer, Lieutenant Colonel Stapp, has been the guinea-pig on many such tests, but none at such an incredible speed. He wears no special uniform for the run which simulates the effects experienced by pilots bailing out from supersonic aircraft. The sirens have sounded the warning, and all is set.

The slow-motion camera records Stapp's run. Within five seconds, he is travelling at 632 miles an hour, a new land speed record by more than two hundred miles an hour. His speed is equivalent to more than a thousand miles an hour at the normal cruising altitude of jet planes. Water brakes bring the sled to a halt within a second and a half. A medical check-up reveals that Stapp is unharmed after his record run.