

LONDON 100-812001

DOPE SHEET

**NEW SPEED RECORD SET IN
DRAMATIC TEST OF AIR
ROCKET SLED.**

(Official Air Force Footage Released by Dept. of Defense)

In a dramatic test performance, Lt. Col. John P. Stapp, USAF, goes from a speed of 632 miles per hour to a dead stop in less than one and a half seconds while riding a rocket-propelled sled.

The test vehicle pushed by 9 rockets is in experiments designed to reproduce exposure to windblast and slowdown effects experienced by aircrewmembers when escaping from aircraft at supersonic speeds.

During the test, Col. Stapp, Chief of the Aero-Medical Field Laboratory at Holloman Air Development Center, New Mexico, withstood a deceleration equal to 35 times the force of gravity and a wind pressure of more than two tons. At the 4100 foot altitude, the wind forces against his body when he reached the new speed record was equivalent to that which would be encountered at nearly 1.7 times the speed of sound at 35,000 feet, the normal cruising altitude of jet aircraft.

Sequences show ;

- a) General activity around the rocket sled.
- b) Col. Stapp is strapped to seat with a special nylon web harness.
- c) Interior of control tower, where preparations are being made for the test.
- d) At microphone, operator counts off 2 minute warning and gives firing signal
- e) Rocket is shot off
- f) Slow motion camera records speed of sled.
- g) Sled comes to a dramatic halt as water brakes take effect.