

"FLYING BEDSTEAD":

The Ministry of Supply has now given permission to release the first films of the fabulous "Flying Bedstead". Whisper of this extraordinary new flying machine reached us about five months ago. Designed for experiments in vertical take-off, the Bedstead has two jet engines mounted end to end. Their exhausts shoot the blast downwards and thus give the machine its upward thrust. Idea of the vertical take-off system is to do away with runways. As modern aircraft increase their speeds, so will runways need to be longer. Obviously there comes a limit to such lengths - indeed we are fast approaching it already. While American experiment with aircraft which take off standing on their tails, Britain pins her hopes on an evolution of the Flying Bedstead.

Captain Ronald Shepherd, the first man to fly the machine, is a test-pilot with Rolls Royce. With the Flying Bedstead, Britain makes another valuable contribution to the advance of jet aviation.

---