

BELL-X-2

Baruch-Fitzgerald

X The Air Force conducts preliminary tests of its new X-2 Rocket plane, which is carried beneath a mother ship. Light skis replace wheels for landing, since the X-2 needs no wheels for take-offs. With it, the Air Force hopes to penetrate the "heat barrier" -- the next big obstacle in supersonic flying.

X At thirty thousand feet, the X-2's canopy is lowered. The pilot sits behind glass built to resist one-thousand-degree-heat.

X A push button releases the plane for a test glide to earth without power. The fuselage will withstand heat of air friction at fantastic speeds.

X When power tests ~~start~~ start, the X-2 may reach two thousand miles an hour in mastering the sky's newest challenge -- the heat barrier.