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BELL X-2 CRASHES.

Disaster has overtaken the fastest plane in the world - the American Bell X-2, in which Colonel Pete Everest reached the incredible speed of 1,900 miles an hour only a few months ago. These pictures recall that great achievement, when Colonel Everest dared the mysterious heat barrier - and survived.

Later, the little rocket plane, launched once again from a parent bomber, was piloted by Captain Iven Kincheloe to make the world's fastest plane also the world's highest. He took her aloft to reach an altitude of 24 miles - seven miles higher than man had ever flown before. Now comes the news that she has crashed, killing her pilot, Captain Milburn Apt - a tragic end to a fine aircraft and a brave airman.