

60/77.

CAMPBELL CRACK-UP.

Everything seems favourable for Donald Campbell's attack on the World Land Speed Record. His wife was with him and both they and his devoted team of ace mechanics were optimistic. Not only did they expect to exceed 400 miles an hour, a much higher figure was whispered behind the scenes. Donald, himself, supervised preparations right up to the last minute. Everything had been done that could be done by the designers and builders of the fabulous million-pound super-car. It was now up to one man, and one man alone, the fearless record-seeker himself. On his first run Campbell was timed at about 300 miles an hour.

Now the return run. As he raced towards the measured mile he was touching 300, accelerating terrifically.

A mile and a half from the start he was doing 365. A strong cross wind blew the car a little off course into the softer salt. Within seconds Bluebird was a wreck. Onlookers were horrified. Could Donald Campbell possibly be alive? The miracle was that, apparently, he was not even seriously hurt. Even his instruments were unbroken. It seems that what saved his life was the safety harness, that, and the great strength of the car. Not many hours later Donald was saying he'd have a Bluebird at Bonneville next year, to try again. What an astonishing man Donald Campbell is.