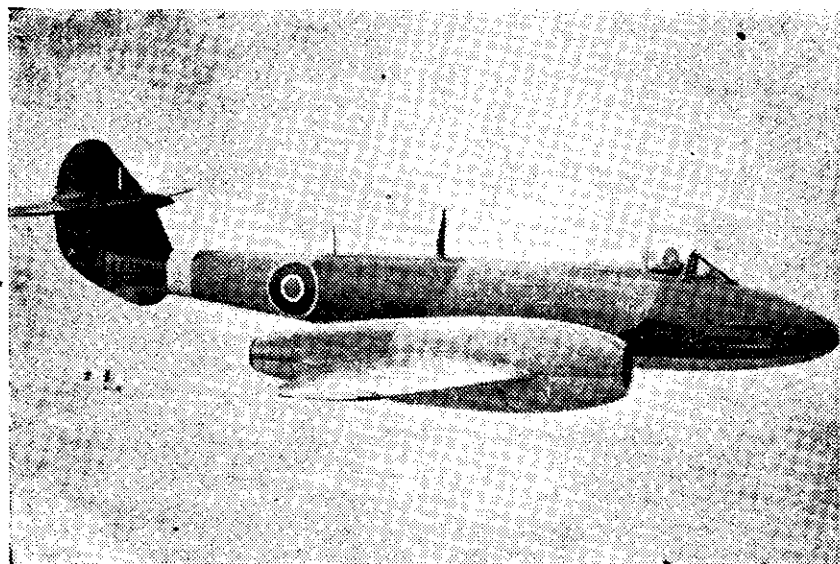


FLYING ALMOST AS FAST AS SOUND

What Flesh and Blood Can—And Cannot—Bear



GOING WITH THE WIND: A Gloster Meteor jet plane on a test flight. Notice the characteristic tail designed to clear the thrust from the power-units

BECAUSE the Meteor planes which last week established a new world speed record were stressed for speeds of 600 miles an hour, no attempt to set a new mark substantially higher than that is likely to be made for some time. But though the cables told us so much, they did not refer at all to the risks run by the pilots. Some of these are obvious, others are more insidious, as this article shows.

EVERY schoolboy knows (and most adults remember) that an express train travelling 60 miles an hour—when there are no slips on the line—covers 88 feet a second. With that to go on, it is easy enough to figure out that a jet-plane, whistling along at about 600 m.p.h. in level flight is covering about 880ft. per second. It is just as easy to appreciate the importance to the pilot of the phrase "in level flight." The slightest dipping of the nose of the plane could hurtle one downwards with such tremendous yet imperceptible velocity that the safety margin of 250ft. could be swallowed up in a matter of seconds.

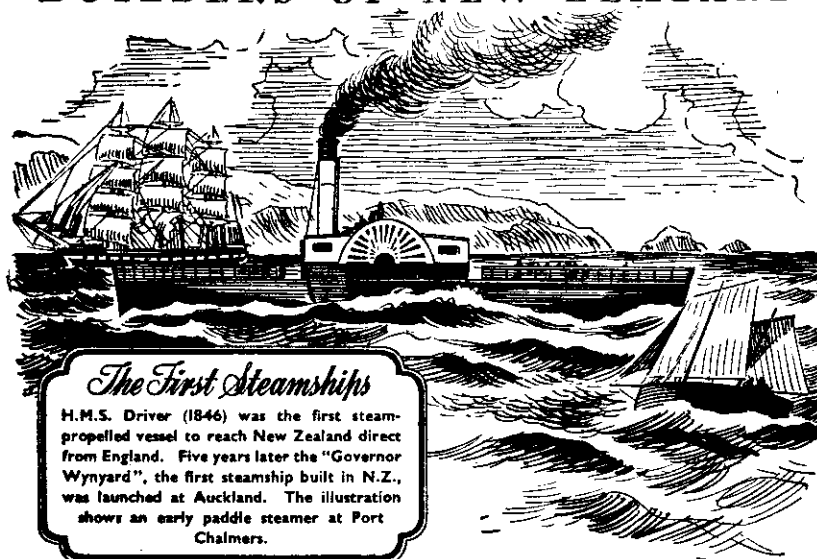
That is obviously possible even in still air and ideal conditions of visibility. The official report that low visibility and sea-haze created a serious problem in the preliminary test-flights may properly be regarded as a good example of Ministerial under-statement.

Hidden Enemy

These, however, are but the mechanical—or mathematical—dangers which must be surmounted by those who travel close to the speed of sound. More perilous still is the hidden enemy, the ebb and flow of blood within their own bodies, and more unpredictable because so little is yet known about it. But of this one can be sure, that each pilot, as

(continued on next page)

BUILDERS OF NEW ZEALAND



The First Steamships

H.M.S. Driver (1846) was the first steam-propelled vessel to reach New Zealand direct from England. Five years later the "Governor Wynyard", the first steamship built in N.Z., was launched at Auckland. The illustration shows an early paddle steamer at Port Chalmers.

The development of New Zealand has been linked inseparably with ships and the sea—in earlier days by the picturesque old sailing ships, and later by the faster steamships which replaced them. Long before the almost total eclipse of sailing vessels on our sea lanes, the Government Life Insurance Department was founded. This great institution, too, has been inseparably linked with the growth of our country. For over seventy-five years the 'Government Life' has taken pride in the fact that its Life Assurance service is specially fitted to the individual needs of New Zealanders. Insure with the...

GOVERNMENT

The Pioneer
New Zealand Office
Established—1869



LIFE
INSURANCE
DEPARTMENT

25



Save that Twinkle!

That roguish twinkle from a pair of bright young eyes. Do not let eye-strain dim its brightness. Remember these four rules for avoiding eye-strain.

- (1) All reading, sewing, studying should be done close to a source of good light.
- (2) Avoid shadows. Make sure you have good light directly on your work.
- (3) Avoid glare. Don't sit facing the light.
- (4) For good light use Mazda Lamps.



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