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ULTRA MODERN FIGHTER 'PLANES

Something new in the science of aviation. Everything looks back to front in this new American fighter pictured here at its tests. The wings go away back, the propeller is on the tail and can be dropped off in case a pilot has to bail out. Other 'planes have the rudders on the tail, this one has 'em on the wings. The elevators are on the nose, not the tail.

It's called the XP55 Ascender. Back to front, and not to be confused with the silly story of the oogle-bird, reputed to fly backwards and disappear. But, though it looks odd, it's fast and exceptionally manoeuvrable. First newsreel pictures of the prototype British Gloster, jet propelled aircraft made to the design of Air Commodore Frank Whittle. The R.A.F. flew the first "squirt" 'planes ever to go into action against the enemy. E28/29

Says a pilot who flew in the first jet Squadron, "The squirts have plenty of power and if you open the throttle suddenly you get a kick in the back from your seat. They go up like a lift, the faster the higher. They're sweet to handle and it's jets for me from now on." American jet 'planes - like the Bell P59 pictured here - had full benefit of Air Commodore Whittle's research. These machines suck in hundredweights of air a minute.

An ordinary 'plane compared with the P59 flying above. This 'plane has similar qualities to the British jet. It has a tremendous rate of climb - straight up - and terrific speed, vulture-like peel -offs and super-swift manoeuvres. Jet propelled aircraft are a certainty for the airlines of to-morrow.