

AIR SPEED RECORD:

The fastest man in the world, Peter Twiss (on the right) holds a model of the fastest plane in the world, the Fairey Delta 2. And they're both British! Now for the real thing - the Delta 2, preparing for the flight which will make history.

Thirty-four-year-old Peter Twiss gets ready to take her up. And ex-naval pilot with a D.S.C. and bar, he has probably flown more high-performance aircraft than any other Englishman. And the Fairey Delta 2 is certainly one of the strangest-looking of them all. Pilots and ground crew call her the "droop-snoot" - because (to give the pilot a clear view during land and taxing) her swordfish nose can be tilted downwards.

Everything is ready, and the Delta takes off.

To record the Delta's speed to an accuracy of one thousand of a mile an hour, highly complex photographic equipment is necessary. As she streaks across the sky, we get some impression of her tremendous speed when we realize that that vapour trail is seven and a quarter miles up!

Now the return trip over the measured course. Watch this, and remember it - it's the first time man has flown over 1,000 miles an hour in level flight!

The calculations, and the checking of reports begin. As Peter Twiss brings the Delta in, he knows the record's in the bag - the margin was too big for doubt!

And what a margin! His average speed was 1,132 miles an hour - beating the American-held world record by 308 miles an hour! A splendid achievement for British designers, British craftsmen, and a British pilot.

And what does Peter himself say? "Just routine"!