

## Two-Stage Rocket Is Fired 250 Miles in Air for Record

By the Associated Press

WHITE SANDS, N. Mex., Feb. 26.—A two-stage rocket has roared 250 miles from the earth for an all-time altitude record. The old mark was 114 miles.

The 15-ton projectile consisting of a German V-2 with a 700-pound American-built "Wac Corporal" in place of a warhead also set a new speed record. At an altitude of about 20 miles, the smaller rocket was expelled by remote control from the mother missile and sped away at 5,000 miles an hour. The old mark was just over 3,600 miles an hour.

(The "Wac Corporal" designation was the missile's wartime code name. It nominally weighs 700 pounds.)

Brig. Gen. Philip G. Blackmore, commander at White Sands proving ground, announced the flight yesterday. It was made Thursday.

### Outside Earth's Atmosphere.

"At the peak of the flight the rocket was for all practical purposes outside the earth's atmosphere," he said.

The height was so great it was necessary to compensate for the turning of the earth during the flight.

The former records were set by a V-2 fired December 17, 1946.

Gen. Blackmore said the smaller of the two rockets landed 80 to 90 miles north of the launching site. The V-2 came down about 20 miles from where it was launched.

Ground observers were kept constantly informed during the flight on altitude, speed and position by electronic instruments in the small rocket.

The rockets are fired from a point about 30 miles inside the southern boundary of the proving ground, which extends 150 miles north from Fort Bliss, Tex., into New Mexico. The target range is around 35 miles wide.

### Points Up Need for Range.

In view of this, yesterday's disclosure was viewed as amplifying official statements to Congress week before last that a 3,000-mile range now is required for rocket research.

Gen. Blackmore's statement evaluated the rocket performance this way:

"This successful flight is significant in a number of ways. As far as is known, it is the world's first successful multistage liquid-fueled rocket.

"It emphasizes the fact that we have gone far ahead in the development of high altitude rockets. Actually, it is an indication of the distance possibilities of a rocket of this type. No prediction can be made as to the possibility of hitting a target 5,000 miles away, but even now we can fire at a range of hundreds of miles.

The V-2 was one of 100 shipped to this country after their capture in Germany at the end of World War II. About half have been fired at White Sands in tests which started early in 1946.

Electronic instruments were installed in the WAC Corporal by the ballistics research laboratory of the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. The joint vehicle was contracted and designed by General Electric Corp., the jet propulsion laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, and Douglas Aircraft Co.