

PATHE JOURNAL

Paris, March 12. 1959

FRENCH ROCKETS IN HIGH ATMOSPHERE

Site :Algerian Sahara testing grounds

Army Pictorial Service material serviced to all competition

35 mm. developed positive :103 meters - 343 ft

French Army scientists fired a second rocket in four days Tuesday night from a testing range in the Algerian Sahara. The test was entirely satisfactory from both observation and propulsion standpoints.

The rocket called "VERONIQUE" of french conception was launched into the upper atmosphere. The altitude reached reported was over180 kilometers [The rocket which was launched shortly after sunset released a trail of sodium and an orange cloud formed that was observed for 30 minutes over a radius of 60 miles.

This is part of a series of test launchings which will take place on the HAMMA GUIR range near Colomb Bechar in the Sahara, and scientists say that the study from the ground of the physical properties of the cloud of sodium released will permit the determination of many characteristics of the high atmosphere (winds, turbulence, temperature etc.) The over-all results of the tests however will not be known until the series is completed and the assembled information studied and evaluated.

This coverage shows : Last preparations before launching on the ground, Head cone with instruments is placed take-off arms will stabilize the rocket while flying upwards, in spite of violent winds crewmen wearing special protection helmets while fueling rocket, for security in case of explosion everybody has been ordered away from starting stand launching, take off , sodium gas released while the rocket flies upward at a 5000 Kms-hour speed.