

For release            By Major A.H. Thiessen  
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Atmospheric limits to airplane speeds! It is not the pilot or the engine that seems to place a limit on airplane speed but the atmosphere itself. Great speed involves problems of airplane and engine design, and when these are met, the atmosphere interposes an obstacle. This is the inability of the air to get out of the way of the advancing airplane. Air moves away at the speed of sound; and when airplanes are forced to higher speeds, the air is very much harder to push away. The speed of sound is about 750 miles an hour, and as the speed of the air on the top side of the wings is higher than the air speed of the plane itself, the theoretical limit of airplane speed is about 600 miles per hour.

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