

THE RACE FOR SPACE

Produced and Directed by
DAVID L. WOLPER

Commentary by
MIKE WALLACE

Music Composed and Conducted by
ELMER BERNSTEIN

Associate Producer
JACK HALEY, JR.

Written by
LAWRENCE E. MASCOTT

A Feature Length Documentary
Produced in Cooperation with

**THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, U.S.A.
THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, U.S.S.R.**

The Race for Space is a documentary film which depicts, as the title implies, the frantic contest between the United States and the Soviet Union for propaganda and military advantages.

This unusual assemblage of actual footage includes American and Soviet rocket and space films never before seen by anyone outside the Intelligence Services.

The film gives an honest and startling appraisal of the controversial events that led to the United States' present position in the race for space.

A WOLPER, INC. PRODUCTION

9119 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood 46, California - Crestview 1-5771

"THE RACE FOR SPACE" CREDITS

PRODUCER-DIRECTOR David L. Wolper
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Jack Haley, Jr.
WRITER Laurence E. Mascott
MUSIC Elmer Bernstein
SUPERVISING FILM EDITOR Philip R. Rosenberg
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Alan H. Presberg
FILM RESEARCH Mel Stuart Jim McDonough
PHOTOGRAPHY Interview: Michael Nebbia
Location: Jerry Reeves
RESEARCH & TECHNICAL ADVICE James Scherer North American Aviation
Randy Morris Assistant to Commanding
General, Aberdeen Proving
Grounds
ADDITIONAL NARRATION Marya Stevens
TITLE DESIGN Ted Littlefield
PHOTOGRAPHIC EFFECTS Modern Film Effects
SOUND Ryder Sound Service
TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE David Samuels Joseph Root
HISTORIC FILM SOURCES Department of the Army, U.S.A.
Department of the Navy, U.S.A.
Department of the Air Force, U.S.A.
Rocketdyne Division, N. American Aviation
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Calif. Institute
of Technology
Moscow Popular Science Studios, U.S.S.R.
Leningrad Popular Science Studios, U.S.S.R.
British Information Service
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Lt. Colonel Maurice R. Fowler, U.S. Army
Major Robert T. Blauvelt, U.S. Army
Captain Damon E. Eckles, U.S. Air Force
Lt. Clark Gammill, U.S. Navy
Captain Wallace C. Marley, U.S. Army
Department of Defense

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OUTLINE

It is ironic that the early experimentation in the rocket age began simultaneously with a Russian and an American. The film starts just after the turn of the century by showing actual films of the Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky and his early experiments and theories on space flight. A few years later, an American, Dr. Robert Goddard, began building rockets using liquid fuel. An interview with his wife, Mrs. Goddard, and actual films of Goddard's successful rocket launchings are shown. Goddard established over 200 patents in the rocket field and a standing request for all of these patents was received in Washington from the German Rocket Society.

In post World War I Germany, the German Rocket Society was busily engaged in experiments of their own. One of its most enthusiastic members was an eighteen year old boy destined to become the hero of the American space program, Wehrner Von Braun.

The Rocket Club soon ran out of funds and in order to raise more money became technical advisors on the world's first modern science fiction movie, "Frau Im Monde," or "Woman in the Moon," produced by Fritz Lang in 1928. The German Rocket Club was given all of the props from the picture and these props became the actual components in their early rocket experiments.

But the money soon ran out and once again they looked for a new source of funds. They found it in the person of Adolf Hitler who built for them early in 1936 the secret rocket

city called Peenemunde. Here, during World War II, they developed man's first space weapon - the V-2. The Allies found out about the weapon when an experimental V-2 accidentally landed in Sweden. Desperately, the Allies searched for its source. Luckily, an RAF patrol bomber on reconnaissance over the Baltic Sea snapped by chance an aerial photograph of Peenemunde. When the picture was developed the hidden launching pads were immediately detected.

American and British bombers destroyed most of Peenemunde, but the Germans quickly moved much of their equipment by train to the East German city of Nordhausen.

Although the allied bombers did not wipe out the V-2 program, strangely enough Hitler did. He had dreamed that the V-2 would never land on England and when he heard of the Peenemunde raid, he cancelled the entire program. But when Von Braun and his associates heard this they rushed to complete a film showing what the V-2 could actually accomplish and set up a private screening of this film for Hitler. When the Fuhrer saw the film, he was so impressed that he reinstated the V-2 program immediately.

Within months the V-2s were falling on London. But the invasion of France was soon under way before the V-2s could cause serious damage. Europe and Germany were overrun by the Allies.

The Americans and the Russians soon met at the River Elbe. But while these troops were in each others arms, in the minds of some of their military leaders was the realization of the future importance of the V-2 and its creators.

A United States Colonel in Germany by the name of Holgar W. Toftoy formed Operation Paper Clip, a top secret American plan to capture and bring to the United States the German scientists who had developed the V-2. Colonel Toftoy, now a Major General, and commander in charge of Aberdeen Proving Grounds, met tremendous resistance in all branches of the government, but he insisted that these top German scientists were a necessity for the United States. The Russians had captured most of the V-2 equipment and most of the technicians, but through the efforts of General Toftoy America finally got the cream of the crop of scientists and enough V-2s to start a limited missile program in the United States.

In the film General Toftoy is interviewed and narrates the actual films of these exciting events.

However, when the United States brought the missiles and their creators back to this country, very little was done about further development of our missile program. The Russians on the other hand started a full-scale space program shown in exclusive Soviet films. Of special interest is actual footage of Russian dogs in space flights and early experiments with research rockets.

We then tell the background of how the United States made a series of wrong decisions against the advice of its leading missile men and how these wrong decisions brought about America's present position in the race for space.

IT IS A DEFINITE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD HAVE LAUNCHED THE FIRST EARTH SATELLITE NEARLY TWO YEARS AHEAD OF THE RUSSIANS.

While the United States was bickering about its missile program, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik #1. Exclusive films of this launching are shown.

Before the United States had a chance to recover from this psychological blow, the Soviet Union launched its second punch in a row, Sputnik #2. Aboard this satellite was the dog, Laika, the first space traveler. Exclusive films of the pre-launching preparation and the dog being placed into the satellite are also shown.

In desperation, the United States launched what it thought would be its first satellite, the Vanguard. With hundreds of press people from all over the world present, the United States' first attempt wound up a failure.

The finale of the picture is the build-up and launching of America's first satellite, Explorer I. The climax of this sequence are the intense and dramatic films of the actual count-down at Cape Canaveral.