

RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

TESTS OF AERODYNAMICALLY HEATED MULTIWEB WING STRUCTURES

IN A FREE JET AT MACH NUMBER 2

FOUR ALUMINUM-ALLOY MODELS OF 20-INCH CHORD AND SPAN

WITH 0.064-INCH-THICK SKIN, 0.025-INCH-THICK

RIBS AND WEBS, AND ZERO, ONE, TWO, OR

THREE CHORDWISE RIBS

By John R. Davidson, Richard Rosecrans,
and Louis F. Vosteen

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SUMMARY

Four multiweb wing models were tested at a Mach number of 2 in a free jet to investigate structural effects of aerodynamic heating and loading. The models had a 20-inch chord and span; a 5-percent-thick, circular-arc airfoil section; and three, two, one, or zero chordwise internal stiffening ribs. Each aluminum-alloy model had 0.064-inch-thick skins, six 0.025-inch-thick spanwise webs, and 0.025-inch-thick tip bulkheads. The model with no internal ribs survived the first test at sea-level static pressure and a stagnation temperature of 93° F, but failed during the second test at a stagnation temperature of 563° F. The other models survived all tests. Temperature and strain measurements were made on all models and the data were tabulated. Calculated stresses, determined from the temperature distribution on the model with one rib, are compared with the stresses determined from measured strains. The tests showed that the addition of a single rib maintained sufficient structural integrity to prevent flutter after loss of stiffness caused by thermal stress and reduced modulus of elasticity at elevated temperatures. Modes determined from laboratory vibration tests without heating show that the addition of only one rib nearly doubles the lowest frequency at which cross-sectional distortion occurs.

INTRODUCTION

This is part of a series of reports describing tests conducted by the Langley Structures Research Division to investigate the effects of combined aerodynamic heating and loading on built-up wing structures. Aerodynamic heating can reduce structural stiffness by lowering material moduli and inducing thermal stresses. Previous papers (refs. 1 to 4) describe the tests on the first seven models in this series. The first model (model MW-1) was of 40-inch chord and semispan and failed during a test in which the structure was subjected to aerodynamic heating. The second model (model MW-2) was essentially a half-scale version of model MW-1 and had a 20-inch chord and semispan; this model also failed under similar test conditions. Both models were tested at a Mach number of 2 and a stagnation temperature near 500° F, and both developed flutter involving cross-sectional distortion which ended with the destruction of the models. Additional tests were made on models of the MW-2 design to obtain pressure data and to investigate the effect of angle of attack on the flutter mode. (See ref. 5.) Model MW-4 differed from model MW-2 only in the thickness of the tip bulkhead (0.025 inch thick for model MW-4 and 0.250 inch thick for model MW-2); model MW-4 failed in a manner similar to that of models MW-1 and MW-2. The remaining models (MW-3, MW-5, MW-6, and MW-7) survived similar tests.

The flutter and failure of models MW-2 and MW-4 indicated the need for additional initial stiffness to maintain sufficient structural resistance to flutter after aerodynamic heating had lowered the material moduli and thermal stresses had changed the stiffness of the built-up wing structure. (See refs. 6 and 7.) Consequently, the design of model MW-4 was modified by the addition of one, two, and three chordwise ribs in models designated MW-18, MW-17, and MW-16, respectively. In addition, another model identical to model MW-4, and designated MW-4-(2), was included in the test program covered in this report. These models were tested to measure model temperature and strain distributions, to confirm the previous conclusion that aerodynamic heating contributed to the failure of model MW-4, and to evaluate the effectiveness of chordwise ribs in preventing distortion of the cross section. The effects of chordwise ribs are discussed, and an attempt is made to correlate measured stresses with calculated stresses.

SYMBOLS

R	radius, in.
T	temperature, °F

T^* normalized temperature, $^{\circ}\text{F}$; $T_b^* = \frac{(T_t - T_o)_a}{(T_t - T_o)_b} (T - T_o)_b + T_o,a$

T_t stagnation temperature, $^{\circ}\text{F}$

T_o initial temperature (model), $^{\circ}\text{F}$

α angle of attack, deg

Subscripts:

a test conditions experienced by model MW-18 during its first test

b test conditions or model temperatures under consideration

Stress, expressed in psi or ksi, is positive for tension and is negative for compression.

MODELS

Model Construction

Each semispan wing model had a 5-percent-thick, symmetrical, circular-arc airfoil section and was constructed from 2024-T3 aluminum alloy with a 20-inch chord and $24\frac{1}{8}$ -inch span of which $19\frac{7}{8}$ inches extended into the air-stream. Internal construction consisted of six 0.025-inch-thick spanwise webs spaced $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart and three, two, one, or zero 0.025-inch-thick chordwise stiffening ribs with the number depending upon the particular model. All models had a 0.025-inch-thick tip bulkhead, 0.064-inch-thick skin, and solid leading and trailing edges. At the base of each model there were two 0.081-inch-thick doubler plates, a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick root bulkhead, and two 1/2-inch-thick-steel clamping blocks for attaching the model to its supporting structure. Aluminum-alloy standard and blind rivets were used throughout. Sketches of each model showing individual construction details are found in figure 1. A photograph of the interior of model MW-16 prior to final assembly is shown in figure 2.

The model exteriors were painted with zinc chromate primer, upon which a black India ink grid was superimposed to help determine model

motions and deformations from motion-picture data. The effect of this paint on the heat transfer into the structure is small. (See ref. 4.)

Instrumentation

All models were instrumented with iron-constantan thermocouples with the beaded junctions peened into small holes drilled into the skins, webs, and ribs. Thermocouples mounted in the interior of the solid leading- or trailing-edge sections were first coated with cement and were then inserted into small holes drilled into these sections. Figure 3 shows the thermocouple locations for each model.

Figure 3 shows the locations where SR-4 type EBDF-7D temperature-compensated wire strain gages were attached to the models with thermosetting cement. These strain gages are compensated to read approximately zero strain when used on unstressed aluminum alloy at temperatures between 50° F and 250° F. The useful temperature range may be extended by first post-curing the gage cement to the maximum test temperature and then, after cooling to room temperature, calibrating the gage by slowly heating the model in an oven while measuring the indicated strain when load and thermal stresses are absent. The maximum model temperature expected during these tests was 450° F; inasmuch as heating the model to this temperature would change the aluminum-alloy properties, the gage cement was postcured to only 250° F and, therefore, gage accuracy was sacrificed to prevent changes in the material properties. The natural frequency of the galvanometers used to record strain data was about 100 cps; thus, these galvanometers were not suitable for measurement of high-frequency strain amplitudes.

The following list gives the estimated probable errors in individual measurements and the corresponding time constants. The time constant, which is considered independent of the probable error, is defined as the time at which the recorded value of a step-function input is 63 percent of that of the input; after three time constants, the response amounts to at least 95 percent of the input.

Item	Probable error	Time constant, sec
Stagnation pressure	±0.7 psi	0.03
Stagnation temperature . . .	±3° F	.12
Model temperature	±3° F	.03
Model strain	±150 microinches/inch	.02

Errors due to thermocouple installation have not been included but are believed to be small.

High-speed 16-millimeter motion pictures were taken of each test to record model behavior. The high-speed cameras had a frame rate of 600 to 1,600 frames per second. Monitor cameras running at 120 frames per second were used to augment the data supplied by the high-speed cameras. The cameras and oscillograms were correlated by using a common 1/10-second timing pulse.

APPARATUS AND PROCEDURE

Aerodynamic Test Facility

The tests were made in the preflight jet of the Langley Pilotless Aircraft Research Station at Wallops Island, Va. The preflight jet is a blowdown-type wind tunnel in which models are tested in a 27- by 27-inch free jet at the exit of a Mach number 1.99 supersonic nozzle. A description of the jet operation and characteristics may be found in reference 2.

Disturbances within the jet during the starting and shutdown periods cause violent model oscillations, and for some of these tests a retractable tip stabilizer was used to restrain the model until test conditions were reached. The stabilizer was activated at about 1 second after the start of the air flow, it released the model at 1.3 seconds, and it left the airstream at about 1.7 seconds. Immediately preceding the shutdown period, at about 11 seconds, the stabilizer reentered the airstream and had fully gripped the model at about 12 seconds.

Laboratory Vibration Tests

Prior to the wind-tunnel tests, a vibration survey was made to find the natural modes and frequencies of each of the models. An electromagnetic shaker supplied energy to the model, and the response was detected by a phonograph-type pickup whose signal was fed into a cathode-ray oscilloscope. The frequencies were measured by a Strobocorn frequency meter.

Jet Tests

Figure 4 is a photograph of a typical model mounted on the jet test stand preparatory to an aerodynamic test. An aerodynamic fence surrounded the model base and protected the model instrumentation leads. The sharp leading edge of the fence was raised 1/8 inch above the bottom wall of the jet nozzle to scoop off a small boundary of air. The leading edge of the

model was located 2 inches from the nozzle-exit plane; this separation may have diminished as much as 1/4 inch during a high-stagnation-temperature test because the nozzle expanded toward the model.

All tests were conducted with the model oriented at zero angle of attack with respect to the jet center line.

Model MW-4-(2) was first tested at a stagnation temperature near ambient temperature (93° F) and then at a high stagnation temperature (563° F). Model MW-16 was first tested with the stagnation temperature near ambient temperature; the next three tests were made at elevated stagnation temperatures. The other two models were tested at the elevated temperatures only.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Laboratory Vibration Tests

Vibration modes and frequencies for the models are indicated in table I. The node-line locations for individual model modes varied only slightly from the average locations sketched in this table. The addition of ribs changed mode C from one involving much chordwise distortion into a clear second bending mode, D. For model MW-4-(2), the lowest frequency at which chordwise distortion occurred was 268 cps. The addition of one rib to this design (to give model MW-18) increased the chordwise stiffness sufficiently to eliminate chordwise deflection below 465 cps, as is evident from the mode-pattern change between modes C and D. In all cases, whenever a single rib was added to the basic configuration the model frequency was raised; adding a second rib increased all frequencies again; but the addition of a third rib was accompanied by a decrease in the frequencies for modes A, B, and D, which may indicate that the added mass had more influence than the incremental change in stiffness. The MW-16 design (three ribs) was the only configuration that exhibited a distinct second torsion mode; the other designs seem to have had insufficient ribs to develop this form of vibration. It appears from these room-temperature tests that two chordwise ribs may represent optimum stiffening for a wing of this design.

Jet Tests

Test conditions.- A summary of the averaged test conditions is given in table II, and typical variations of stagnation pressure and temperature with time are plotted in figures 5 and 6, respectively. Test conditions were deemed to exist whenever the stagnation pressure exceeded 100 psia, which was the period from approximately 2 to 11 seconds after air began to flow into the jet. Averaged test conditions were determined from the

area under the quantity plotted against time curves for the 9 seconds during which test conditions existed.

Model data.- Data from the model instrumentation are presented primarily in tabular form, with values given at the even seconds during a test. All data herein are referenced to zero test time which was taken to occur when the static pressure in the jet nozzle 1 inch from the nozzle exit first deviated from ambient pressure. This occurrence is approximately 1.8 seconds before test conditions are reached.

The severe characteristic starting and shutdown disturbances of the jet destroyed some model instrumentation and caused other instruments to be unreliable. There were other instrumentation failures which probably were initiated by the starting shock but in which the instrument finally failed from a combination of heat and random disturbances. A gap was left in the data in the tables whenever an instrument failed or became unreliable.

The temperature data are presented in table III, and the strain data are presented in table IV. The tabulated strain values are the measurements read directly from the records with no corrections for errors caused by model-temperature changes.

Model Behavior

The behavior of the models during each test is summarized in table V and is described in detail in the following discussion. In addition, a motion-picture film supplement has been prepared of the two tests on model MW-4-(2) and of the second test on model MW-18 and is available on loan. A request-card form will be found at the back of this paper on the page immediately preceding the abstract and index pages.

No attempt was made to evaluate the amplitude of the oscillations from the strain-gage records at any time because the inherent instrumentation attenuation would create large inaccuracies in such an analysis. The exact beginning and ending of most of the recorded and observed oscillations were usually difficult to determine; hence, the times listed in the descriptions of the tests are given only to a valid number of significant figures for each respective measurement.

Test 1 of model MW-4-(2).- During test 1, strain gages 10 and 11 showed that model MW-4-(2) vibrated at 65 cps between 1.5 seconds and 1.8 seconds with a very small amplitude; this was after the jet starting disturbances had ceased. This slight movement was not discernible in the high-speed motion pictures. At 8.7 seconds small-amplitude oscillations commenced; strain gage 1 indicated a vibratory frequency of 130 cps. The motion pictures show that the small amplitude increased monotonically

until 9.5 seconds when the vibration stopped. No further motion was observed until 10.7 seconds when a slight torsional mode developed; strain gages 10 and 11 indicated a frequency of 80 cps, which changed slowly to 70 cps by 11.85 seconds. At 11.8 seconds a definite 173-cps oscillation was indicated by strain gage 1; the motion pictures show that a small-amplitude torsional vibration started at 10.7 seconds, reached a peak at 11.6 seconds, and then decayed to an unnoticeable movement at 12.3 seconds. At 12.5 seconds a torsional mode appeared and continued until the shutdown period, which started at 12.6 seconds.

Test 2 of model MW-4-(2).- After 1.0 second, the end of the starting disturbances of test 2 of model MW-4-(2), the motion pictures showed that a small vibrational mode at 72 cps was present, but it quickly disappeared in the pictures. However, strain gage 11 showed that a 72-cps vibration was present until failure. In the motion pictures the model remained stationary until 7.32 seconds, at which time a 238-cps flutter mode began; this mode ended with violent and complete destruction of the model. The wing apparently first vibrated with skin panel flutter, but the amplitudes were so small that exact modal identification was made difficult. By 7.42 seconds a mode involving chordwise distortion was identified. This motion became increasingly violent, and at 7.64 seconds the tip rib showed evidence of crippling failure at the right side of the model at web 4. (Webs were numbered from the leading edge to the trailing edge.) At the maximum displacement of this same point from the model neutral center line at 7.656 seconds, the rear portion of the tip rib was torn from the model. The next sign of progressive failure occurred at 7.672 seconds when a tear started at the leading edge near the base of the model. The tear reached the trailing edge at 7.677 seconds, and the remains of the model were carried downstream. Photographs of this failure sequence are shown in figure 7.

Test 1 of model MW-16.- During the period throughout which test conditions existed, no motion of model MW-16 during test 1 was visible in the motion pictures. Some intermittent small-amplitude oscillations, probably excited by random jet noise, were indicated by the strain-gage records. These frequencies were between 60 and 78 cps.

Test 2 of model MW-16.- The strain-gage record of model MW-16 during test 2 showed some very small amplitude, random oscillations of intermittent duration at 275 to 286 cps from after the starting disturbances until the beginning of the shutdown period. At 10 seconds strain gage 9 showed a vibration of increasing amplitude with a frequency of 60 cps which may have actually started before 10 seconds, but the vibration was not large enough to cause a noticeable strain-gage signal. At 12 seconds this motion showed clearly in the motion pictures but died out after 13 seconds. At 13.3 seconds the shutdown disturbances began.

Test 3 of model MW-16.- The model tip stabilizer was used during the starting and shutdown periods of test 3 of model MW-16. Although the motion pictures showed no visible movement, strain gage 19 indicated that a small-amplitude vibration, 258 to 266 cps, existed throughout the test.

Test 4 of model MW-16.- After the starting period of test 4, model MW-16 remained stable until 9 seconds when strain gage 9 indicated a small vibration at 60 cps which lasted until the shutdown disturbances began. For this test only one camera, operating at about 100 frames per second, was used; this motion could not be seen in these pictures.

Test 1 of model MW-17.- The strain-gage records of test 1 of model MW-17 indicate that some form of disturbance (probably random jet noise in the test house) caused the model to vibrate slightly at frequencies between 130 and 140 cps. After the tip stabilizer reentered the airstream preceding the shutdown period, the model developed a small torsional mode that was visible in the motion pictures. All strain gages indicated a frequency of 140 cps. The motion pictures indicated that the vibrations were intermittent from 10.9 seconds until the shutdown period.

Test 2 of model MW-17.- After the starting period of test 2 of model MW-17, there was no motion until 11 seconds when the tip stabilizer reentered the airstream. Then, a torsional mode developed at 140 cps and continued until the beginning of the shutdown disturbances.

Test 1 of model MW-18.- Model MW-18 remained stationary after the starting period of test 1. At 11 seconds when the tip stabilizer reentered the airstream, a torsional and bending mode of vibration commenced at a frequency of 145 cps which remained until the beginning of the shutdown period.

Test 2 of model MW-18.- Strain gages 11, 12, and 20 indicated some small vibration of model MW-18 during test 2 at a frequency of 70 cps between 5 seconds and the shutdown period. This vibration was not observed in the motion pictures. After the tip stabilizer had fully regripped the model, the pictures showed intermittent torsional vibration modes of first 124 cps and then, immediately preceding the shutdown disturbances, 70 cps; the 70-cps vibration was barely evidenced by strain gages 2 and 4. However, for the period between 11.6 seconds and 12.6 seconds, several frequencies could be obtained from the strain-gage traces; for instance, strain gage 13 showed a 275-cps frequency, strain gage 6 showed a 400-cps frequency, and strain gage 10 showed a 538-cps frequency. The small amplitudes and diversity of frequency suggest random excitation.

For times other than those during the starting, shutdown, and failure periods, all the noted vibrations were of small amplitude, probably resulting from the random noise and pressure disturbances in the vicinity

of the jet. Whenever the jet stagnation pressure was below 50 psi, which was from the start until about 1.2 seconds and also from about 13.4 seconds until complete shutdown of the jet, the model experienced violent buffeting; when the stagnation pressure was between 50 and 100 psi, the jet shock was passing over the model and creating random but much less violent disturbances. The presence of the tip stabilizer in the air-stream prior to the shutdown period evidently disturbed the flow in a manner which excited the observed model torsional vibrations.

Temperatures

A typical temperature history of a skin and web is shown in figure 8 for a high-stagnation-temperature test. The temperature data from test to test were compared by normalizing the data with respect to the test conditions experienced by model MW-18 during test 1. The normalized temperature was determined from the formula

$$T_b^* = \frac{(T_t - T_o)_a}{(T_t - T_o)_b} (T - T_o)_b + T_{o,a}$$

where the subscript a refers to the test conditions which existed during the first test of model MW-18, and the subscript b refers to the test conditions or model temperatures for the particular model under consideration. The normalized temperatures plotted in figures 9 and 10 show that the agreement among the model-temperature data was very good. Figure 9 is a plot of the skin temperatures (midway between webs where the sink effect of the web is negligible) that existed at 6 seconds test time. In general, the skin temperatures decreased spanwise from the tip to the root and chordwise from the leading edge to the trailing edge. A temperature distribution was calculated by the method outlined in reference 4 using the Van Dreist method for calculating the heat-transfer coefficient; tunnel-survey data were used to determine the adiabatic-wall temperature. It can be seen from figures 9(b), 9(c), and 9(d) that the spanwise distribution indicated in figure 9(a) is typical of each chord station. The spanwise temperature variation is attributed to the parabolic-like stagnation-temperature distribution that is a characteristic of the jet. The calculated line shown with the test data in figure 9(a) actually follows the measured variation in the jet stagnation temperature.

Figure 10 shows the difference in the normalized temperatures between the skin thermocouples and the web thermocouples for webs 3 and 4 at specific span stations. This difference generally increases spanwise because of the more rapid heating of the model at stations near the center of the jet stream. However, significant deviations from this general

distribution may be taken as a rough indication of the local joint conductivity. Figure 10 shows that, near the tip of model MW-18, the joint conductivity was considerably below average for web 3, but was above average for web 4.

Stresses

Experimental stresses.- Inasmuch as the state of stress in the model skins was two-dimensional, stresses were determined from measured strains only at points where two perpendicular gages were mounted. In order to obtain the stresses at a given point, the chordwise and spanwise gages were considered as being superimposed upon each other at the location of the thermocouple placed between them. (See fig. 3(d).)

Several methods were tried in an attempt to account for temperature effects on the strain data obtained from the strain gages. Although no one method could be shown to lead to reliable and accurate strain data, especially in the temperature range above 250° F, inspection of the results indicated that the strain error could be as much as ± 200 microinches per inch. This would cause a skin-stress error of about $\pm 2,000$ to $3,000$ psi, which is of the same order of magnitude as the experimental stresses.

A survey of the strain data was made by using the measured values of strain at 6 seconds test time. These data indicate that at the model root the experimental chordwise strains were as much as twice the spanwise strains. The gages mounted on opposite skins in the center bay near the root indicate bending strains - counterclockwise strains (looking upstream) for models MW-17 and MW-18 and clockwise strains for model MW-4-(2); only one skin was instrumented at this point on model MW-16. The strain gages indicated tensile stresses in the ribs and webs (except in the tip rib in model MW-18 during the first test) for all the elevated-temperature tests. During the cold-temperature test on model MW-16, the rib strains were compressive; the conditions during this test were such that the model was cooled. Compared with the web strains, the rib strains were small, with a maximum rib strain (at 6 seconds) of 208 microinches per inch of tension on the middle rib of model MW-18 during the first test. This condition suggests that these ribs did not restrain the model skins as much in the chordwise direction as the webs did in the spanwise direction; this may be primarily due to the discontinuous nature of the ribs. The webs ran continuously over the span.

The strains measured on web 3 during the elevated-temperature tests on models MW-16, MW-17, and MW-18 were in the same range (822 to 953 microinches per inch of tension) at 6 seconds test time; whereas for the elevated-temperature test on model MW-4-(2), the strain at this point was 1,280 microinches per inch of tension.

At the time considered (6 seconds test time) the model skin temperatures were such that, because of imperfect strain-gage temperature compensation, the range of error in the indicated strains could be as much as 100 microinches per inch.

Calculated stresses.- The nonuniform temperature distribution over the models during high-stagnation-temperature tests gave rise to thermal stresses. Appendix E in reference 8 presents an approximate method for calculating these thermal stresses. This method, which does not take into account any influence on spanwise stresses caused by chordwise stresses, was used to calculate spanwise stresses at a cross section 3 inches from the tip of model MW-18, a section not influenced appreciably by chordwise ribs. At this section the general spanwise gradient was very small and was neglected. The experimental model temperatures (from test 1 of model MW-18) were used to determine the temperatures of the area elements shown in the idealized cross section in figure 11. Aerodynamic loads were neglected because it was assumed that, at zero angle of attack, only the drag force would appreciably add to the thermal stresses; preliminary calculations indicated that stresses due to drag load were less than 5 psi. End effects were also considered negligible at this section.

Figure 12 shows calculated skin stresses at the midchord and web stresses at the web center for the two webs immediately adjacent to the midchord (webs 3 and 4). The largest peak web stress ($\approx 14,000$ psi) was found to exist in web 3 and was a direct result of the low temperature measured at this point. This stress is 75 percent higher than the stress in web 4 and shows that for these test conditions the joint conductivity can have an important effect on the stresses. (See ref. 9.) Peak stresses for the other webs at the same spanwise station were between 8,000 and 10,000 psi with the 8,000-psi stress occurring in web 4. A somewhat above average value of joint conductivity is indicated in figure 10(b).

The skin stress histories at the bay centers were all similar, with peak stresses of about -3,000 psi. The maximum leading-edge stress, which occurred at 6 seconds test time, was calculated to be 740 psi; the maximum trailing-edge stress of 1,750 psi occurred at 9 seconds.

Comparison of calculated and experimental stresses.- Several significant facts are apparent from a comparison of the calculated stresses with the experimental-stress values obtained from the strain data for model MW-18. Both the experimental and calculated spanwise skin stresses have a magnitude of about -3,000 psi at the section 3 inches from the model tip. The strain gages also show that the chordwise stresses at this section were about 2,000 psi. This value of chordwise strain, considered with the low values of rib stress and small rib area (when compared with the skin area on a spanwise section), indicates that

some form of chordwise restraint, other than the ribs, was present. Such a restraint exists in a flat plate which is clamped at one edge and is subjected to a uniform temperature rise. (See ref. 10.) Calculations using the methods outlined in this reference indicate that the root restraint will induce chordwise stresses in the same range as those measured at a distance 3 inches from the tip of model MW-18.

The singularly high calculated peak stress in web 3 in model MW-18 is a direct consequence of the relatively low temperature measured at this location and probably results from a low, local joint conductivity which retarded the heat flow into the web. The joint conductivity may be expected to vary from one location to another, inasmuch as it is a function of such things as tightness of joint and contact-surface condition of materials (things which are difficult to evaluate on other than a statistical basis).

The low values of strain (when considered with the ratio of rib area to skin area) measured in the ribs show that the assumption that chordwise rib restraint could be neglected in the spanwise stress calculations was valid for these model tests. Inasmuch as the strain gages on the chordwise ribs in models MW-16, MW-17, and MW-18 indicated that these members contributed little thermal-stress restraint to the models, the stress calculations at the section 3 inches from the tip on model MW-18 should also apply to all the other models in this group provided the stresses are normalized with respect to the individual test conditions (with respect to the difference between the test stagnation temperature and the initial temperature of the model).

Discussion of Failure

The first test of model MW-4-(2), which occurred under conditions where aerodynamic heating was not present, showed that, although this design may be near-marginal, the model was strong enough to withstand the aerodynamic forces at a Mach number of 2 and sea-level static pressure and was stiff enough to resist flutter under these test conditions. The second test, made at a stagnation temperature of 563° F, added thermal stresses due to aerodynamic heating to the stresses caused by aerodynamic loading and reduced the modulus of elasticity of the aluminum alloy. Both the thermal stress and the reduced modulus contributed to the decrease of the effective stiffness of the model; a chordwise flutter mode developed, and the model completely destroyed 0.36 second after the flutter mode began. The first model (model MW-4) of this design had been previously tested and had failed at 5.60 seconds after the start of the test (ref. 4); whereas model MW-4-(2) failed at 7.68 seconds after the start of the test. Other than the small difference in the time of failure, the two models failed in a very similar manner: both failed 0.36 second after the

beginning of the flutter mode; the flutter frequency of model MW-4 was 240 cps and that of model MW-4-(2) was 238 cps; and both models failed when the large distortions of the cross section crushed the tip rib.

A comparison of the test conditions of the two models shows that the thermal stresses in model MW-4 should be about 10 percent lower than those in model MW-4-(2) (see appendix of ref. 3); however, a comparison of the normalized temperature distributions between the two models leads to discrepancies which indicate that the methods used to determine aerodynamic test conditions did not give compatible values between the two sets of tests. In reference 4 two probes mounted on posts behind the model were used to measure the stagnation temperatures; whereas for the tests reported herein, probes mounted in the screen section just downstream from the jet settling chamber were used either exclusively or were averaged with the probes mounted behind the model. As a check, the experimental adiabatic-wall temperature was calculated for model MW-18 in run 1 by using the model temperature data (see ref. 4), and the stagnation temperature was then calculated by using a recovery factor of 0.88. The resulting stagnation temperature, as experienced by the model, was 480° F, which was considerably lower than the stagnation temperature of 523° F indicated by the tunnel data. The results, if the data agreement in figure 9 is used as justification, may be extrapolated to the elevated-temperature test on MW-4-(2). The temperature comparison indicates that, if the stagnation temperature in the test on MW-4-(2) had been lower, better agreement would be found among the test data between the MW-4 design models; this would also have the effect of lowering the stress level in model MW-4-(2) to that in model MW-4. Thus, the small discrepancy in time of failure between the two models can be partly attributed to experimental error in determining the test conditions. A difference in joint conductivity between the two models also might have influenced the time of failure, but no reliable comparison between the models could be made since the only skin-and-web thermocouple combination available in model MW-4-(2) was near the root, a position where the parabolic-like stagnation-temperature profile across the jet stream would cause the temperature difference between these somewhat offset (spanwise) thermocouples to be questionable. (See fig. 3(a).)

Studies of a cross section of the MW-4 design show that the mode of cross-sectional distortion observed during the flutter of models MW-4 and MW-4-(2) may be induced by applying shearing loads to the skins in such a manner that the opposite skins tend to slide with respect to each other. (The same effect may be obtained by applying equal moments and equal and opposite forces at the leading and trailing edges, respectively.) If the riveted joints between the webs and the skins are replaced by pinned connections, the cross section in figure 1(a) becomes a series of four-bar linkages and will have no resistance to distortion; also, if the aforementioned loading is applied, the cross section will distort into a shape

approximating the distortion of the cross section during flutter. This shape is a direct result of the fact that the opposite skins are not parallel to each other (except at the center chord) but instead slope together. In the actual model, however, the skin is continuous and must bend when the cross section distorts; for ribless models, then, the skin bending stiffness is a criterion in determining the flutter resistance.

The major effect of the chordwise ribs in models MW-16, MW-17, and MW-18 was not to increase the skin bending stiffness but to restrain the chordwise distortion by preventing the skins from sliding past each other at points other than those at the leading and trailing edges. It may be possible to add sufficient restraint (for these test conditions) by using only a partial chordwise rib extending over one or two cells; if one or two cells are restrained, the effective stiffness of the entire cross section against this type of distortion is increased.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Four multiweb wing models of 20-inch chord and span with 0.064-inch-thick skin, 0.025-inch-thick ribs and webs, and zero, one, two, or three chordwise ribs were tested. The following results are given:

1. The model without chordwise ribs survived the first test where aerodynamic-heating effects were absent, but it failed during the second test when heating effects were included; thus, the present test confirmed the conclusions formed after an earlier test on another model of the same design (see NACA Research Memorandum L57H01) that aerodynamic heating made the model susceptible to flutter.
2. The mode of flutter failure involved distortion of the entire cross section of the model, a condition which required that the individual cells of the model cross section distort and the opposite skins slide with respect to each other. Chordwise ribs helped to restrain this sliding tendency. One chordwise rib was sufficient to prevent flutter of this model design under these test conditions. The addition of one chordwise rib nearly doubled the lowest natural frequency at which chordwise deformation occurred.
3. The temperature data compared very well from model to model on a normalized basis.
4. The experimentally measured stresses were well below yield stresses for the aluminum alloy used in the model construction. The largest stresses were in the spanwise webs. Chordwise skin stresses near the model roots were larger than those elsewhere in the skin because of the

large restraint at this location. Direct rib stresses were small. The error in the measured strains is estimated to be about the same as the skin strains caused by thermal stresses.

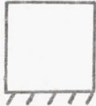





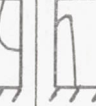

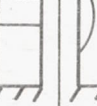



5. The thermal stresses calculated for one model were in agreement with the measured stresses within the accuracy of the test data. The low strains measured in the chordwise ribs indicate that these calculations which neglect the restraint of ribs may be extrapolated to the other models with more or fewer ribs.

Langley Aeronautical Laboratory,
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics,
Langley Field, Va., November 27, 1957.

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TABLE I.- NATURAL VIBRATION MODES AND FREQUENCIES FOR MODELS

Model	Frequency, cps, for node line ^a -											
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
MW-4-(2)												
MW-18	72	144	268	---	392	---	427	---	529	---	---	
MW-17	73	156	---	326	---	465	---	---	---	---	585	
MW-16	75	160	---	335	---	533	---	---	---	746	661	
MW-16	70	147	---	318	---	554	---	439	---	747	677	

^aModes shown are composites from modes for all models. Individual modes varied slightly from those shown. Sketches show node lines obtained during room-temperature vibration tests.

TABLE II.- AERODYNAMIC-TEST-DATA SUMMARY GIVING AVERAGED TEST CONDITIONS

Model	Test	Stagnation pressure, psia	Stagnation temperature, °F	Free-stream static pressure, psia	Free-stream dynamic pressure, psi	Free-stream temperature, °F	Free-stream velocity, fps	Free-stream density, slugs/cu ft	Speed of sound, fps	Reynolds number per foot
MW-4-(2)	1	110	93	14.3	39.8	-152	1,713	3.90×10^{-3}	861	27.7×10^6
	2	116	563	15.1	41.7	111	2,330	2.21	1,171	12.8
MW-16	1	114	111	14.8	41.0	-141	1,741	3.89	875	26.1
	2	116	521	15.1	41.8	89	2,284	2.30	1,148	13.4
	3	115	514	15.0	41.5	84	2,275	2.31	1,143	13.5
	4	112	506	14.5	40.2	79	2,265	2.26	1,138	13.3
MW-17	1	114	530	14.8	41.2	92	2,292	2.26	1,152	13.2
	2	113	524	14.7	40.7	89	2,284	2.39	1,148	13.9
MW-18	1	114	523	14.9	41.0	88	2,285	2.26	1,148	13.3
	2	114	556	14.8	41.0	107	2,322	2.19	1,167	12.6

TABLE IV. - MODEL STRAIN HISTORIES - Concluded

Model	Test	t, sec	Strain, microinches per inch, at strain-gage location ^a -																				
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
MW-17	1	0	-4	-13	0	15	22	0	-7	-29	-6	-18	4	17						0	15		11
		1	387	-228	165	191	-155	129	76	-52	-47	-156	144							125	-120		-11
		2	340	-287	251	543	225	62	51	-119	-251	-141	267							91	210		-78
		3	312	-462	233	805	208	42	-44	-208	-402	-170	275							77	220		-85
		4	186	-143	196	897	185	15	-304	-202	-233	-493	-168	264						62	212		-91
		5	111	-129	131	892	159	-23	-306	-364	-260	-552	-202	239						36	170		-33
		6	251	-529	151	817	138	-44	-260	-447	-245	-561	-226	243						45	168		6
		7	239	-291	645	779	112	-108	-304	-533	-237	-564	-252	241						114	152		26
		8	162	-291		711	123	-171	-314	-643	-165	-566	-274	213						-12	162		46
		9	214	-150		622	152	-198	-273	-504	-10	-533	-278	206						18	228		126
		10	254	-86		536	161	-181	-246	-383	31	-524	-285	174						161	266		150
		11	350	-361		460	238	-108	-154	-179	148	-488	-280	116						164	264		179
		12	192	-162		390		-194	-231	-162	66	-481	-313	80						351	741		205
		13	256	-106		306		185	-662	274	231	-373	-300	39						378	322		277
		14	378	8		197		71		312	299	-282	-256	-19						423			244
15	587	175		99		196		510	389	-260	-263	-146											
MW-17	2	0	2	-15	-4	0	2		-16	-17	-34	-4	-12	5					-4	-7		-23	
		1	365	-240	54	271	129	80	-54	-153	-74	252	209						22	74		-110	
		2	331	-209	88	592	55	94	-110	-333	-56	323	475						93	55		-166	
		3	303	-249	165	814	26	68	-204	-454	-101	305	666						122	44		-110	
		4	281	-211	184	906		16	-221	-548	-125	305	731						135	52		-94	
		5	238	-200	-4	910	-38	-17	-212	-642	-116	293	731						139	23		-135	
		6	297	-238	-227	887	-56	-14	-214	-705	-166	286	713						117	30		-107	
		7	270	-198	-322	833	-89	-30	-236	-748	-182	277	677						104	22		-86	
		8	229	-225	-395	772	-144	-31	-115	-790	-187	235	615						75	5		-24	
		9	218	-267	-442	709	-186	35	-59	-817	-212	236	559						40	-8		-28	
		10	202	-273	-480	653	-133	26	-78	-851	-237	222	495						9	-20		-24	
		11	217	-253	-490	588	-122	30	-30	-851	-207	241	439						4	49		58	
		12	231	-320	-475	487	75	10	24	-893	-182	219	385						20	166		12	
		13	201	-262	-440	388	-15	278	95	-982	-94	319	316						36	75		383	
		14	358	185	-448	337	-44	71	340	-881	512	-362	236						57			77	
15	329	-80	-442	239	71	76	115	-787	-56	139	205						22						
MW-18	1	0	18	-4		20	23		-7	-37	9	-7	-13					8	-14	22	-2	-7	
		1	375	-93		26	285	-86		-40	-126	248	-108	-225					5	69	93	7	101
		2	256	-312		-122	616	318		-99	-264	56	240	-497					83	20	101	-143	-61
		3	279	-276		-166	861	350		-203	-411	12	248	-524					140	18	103	-181	-40
		4	39	-316		-155	909	343		-238	-458	-21	201	-381					171	28	99	-170	37
		5	-107	-445		-122	892	306		-261	-519	-39	153	-265					193	26	78	-170	7
		6	-122	-171		-103	834	197		-186	-556	-55	122	-123					208	-12	62	-179	94
		7	-172	-52		-96	758	234		-144	-590	-62	110	-30					211	-46	99	-181	64
		8	-193	-47		-78	672	265		-66	-617	-51	94	18					217	-57	120	-98	117
		9	-206	44		-66	578	238		-72	-612	-60	78	55					222	-75	132	-25	120
		10	-213	24		-54	502	227		-20	-576	-76	59	120					201	18	236	84	146
		11	-234	33		-59	416	193		-7	-563	-95	35	161					193	24	248	125	167
		12	-286	109		-80	329	356		18	-620	-102	-16	195					189	218	363	165	173
		13	-345	171		-5	193	645		59	-780	33	-122	225					239	1445		157	2
		14	-164	94		129	127			-88	-399	-210	62						254	----	----		195
15	-274	381		-2	-180			96	-536	-86	-154						506	----	----		186		
MW-18	2	0		-21	-34	18			-53	5	-19	8						3			-21	-22	
		1		-42	-49	345	145		-205	175	114	373							2			-72	-36
		2		-335	-110	714	714		-418	90	324	737							63			-107	-143
		3		-291	-134	965	965		-555	21	324	858							114			-181	-534
		4		-217	-131	1040	1040		-653	-28	312	1089							147			-256	-109
		5		-101	-83	1027	1027		-709	-36	282	1081							177			-325	-72
		6		72	-39	953	953		-735	-40	249	1008							199			-374	-24
		7		261	-8	833	833		-758	-48	213	901							220			-423	-3
		8		316	19	732	732		-768	-43	220	789							255			-439	41
		9		251	14	634	634		-775	-42	210	682							285			-467	60
		10		293	58	551	551		-789	-33	194	572							309			-479	78
		11		494	53	461	461		-671	-24	17	461							324			-472	111
		12		512	36	361	361		-858	-5	165	374							348			-493	87
		13		473	15	253	253		-862	42	57	307							609			-395	143
		14		491	134	163	163		-725	54	66								669			-402	145
15			88	94	94		-822	48	55											-435	136		

^aDashes in data denote that the instrument failed or was deemed unreliable; blanks denote that the instrument was not used; and negative signs indicate compression.

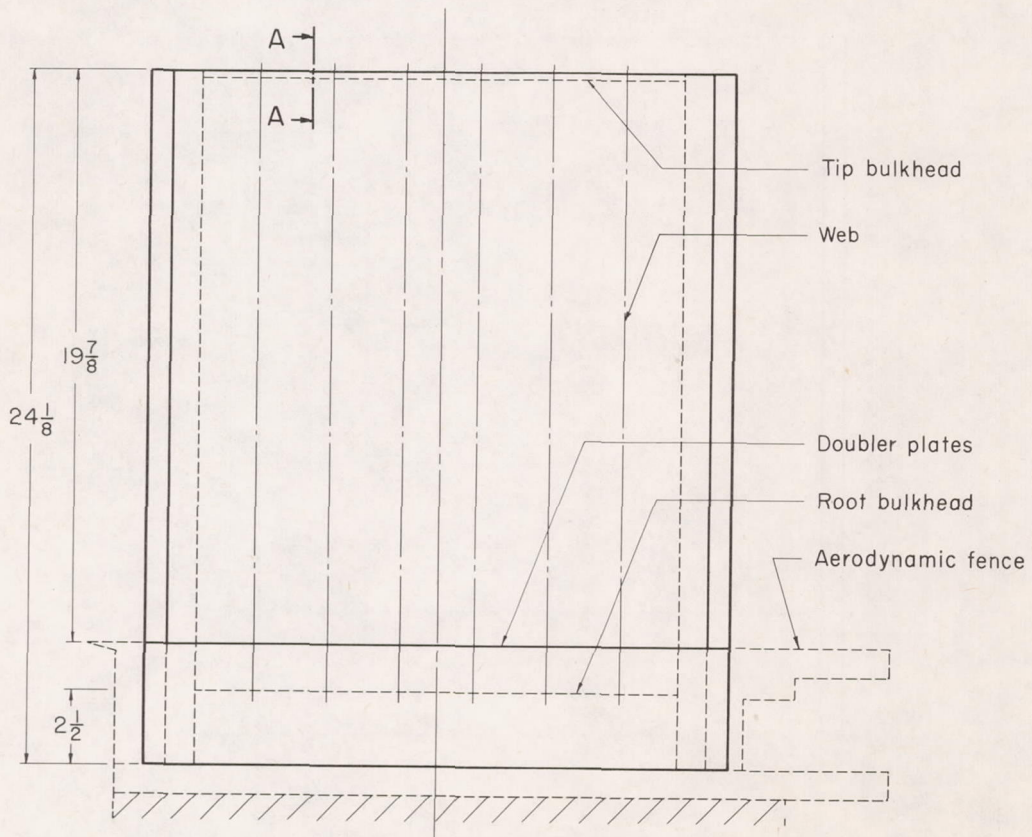
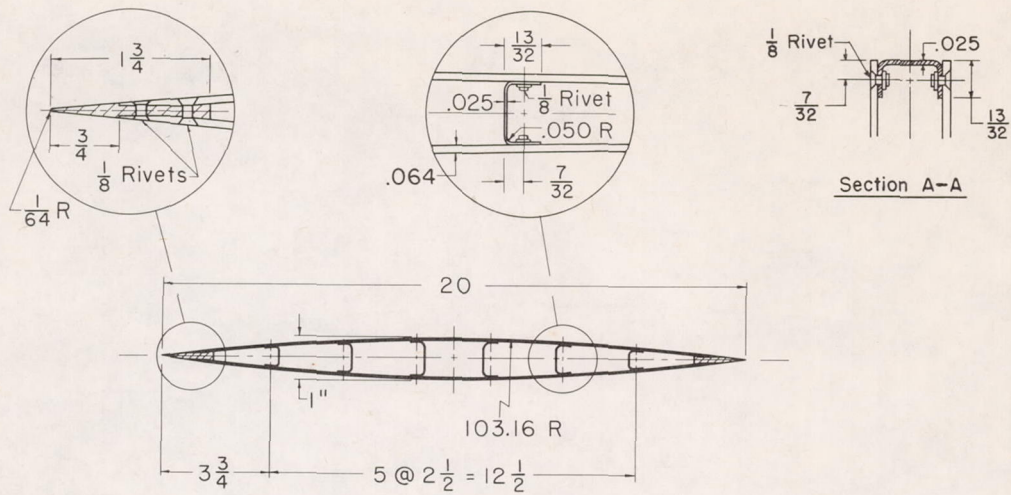
TABLE V.- SUMMARY OF MODEL BEHAVIOR

(a) Description of model-vibration tests

Model	Test	Model vibration
MW-4-(2)	1	65-cps bending and torsion after starting disturbances; 130-cps random vibration at 8.7 seconds; 80-cps torsion at 10.7 seconds; 173-cps torsion after tip-stabilizer reentry
	2	72-cps vibration after starting disturbances; 238-cps flutter until destruction between 7.32 seconds and 7.68 seconds
MW-16	1	60- to 78-cps random vibrations throughout test
	2	275- to 286-cps random vibrations throughout test; 60-cps vibration before shutdown disturbances
	3	258- to 266-cps random vibrations throughout test
	4	60-cps vibration at 9 seconds
MW-17	1	130- to 140-cps vibrations throughout test; 140-cps torsion after tip-stabilizer reentry
	2	140-cps torsion after tip-stabilizer reentry
MW-18	1	145-cps bending and torsion after tip-stabilizer reentry
	2	70-cps vibration from 5 seconds until shutdown; 124- and 70-cps torsion after tip-stabilizer reentry

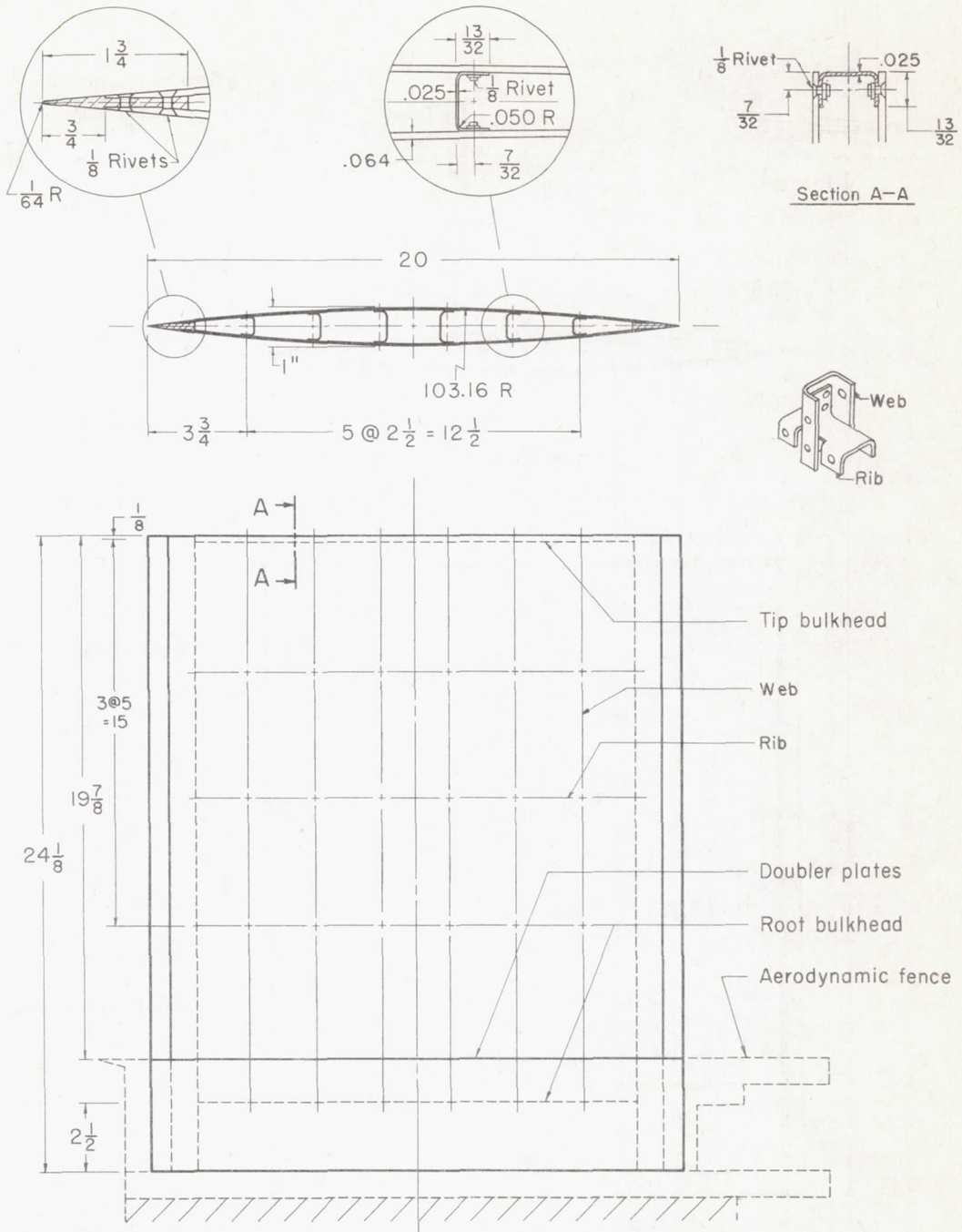
(b) Approximate times for particular events

Approximate time, sec	Stagnation pressure, psia	Model condition
0 to 1.2	<50	Violent model buffeting
1.7 to 11.5	>100	Test conditions exist
1.7 to 11.0	----	Tip stabilizer out of airstream
13.4 to end	<50	Violent model buffeting



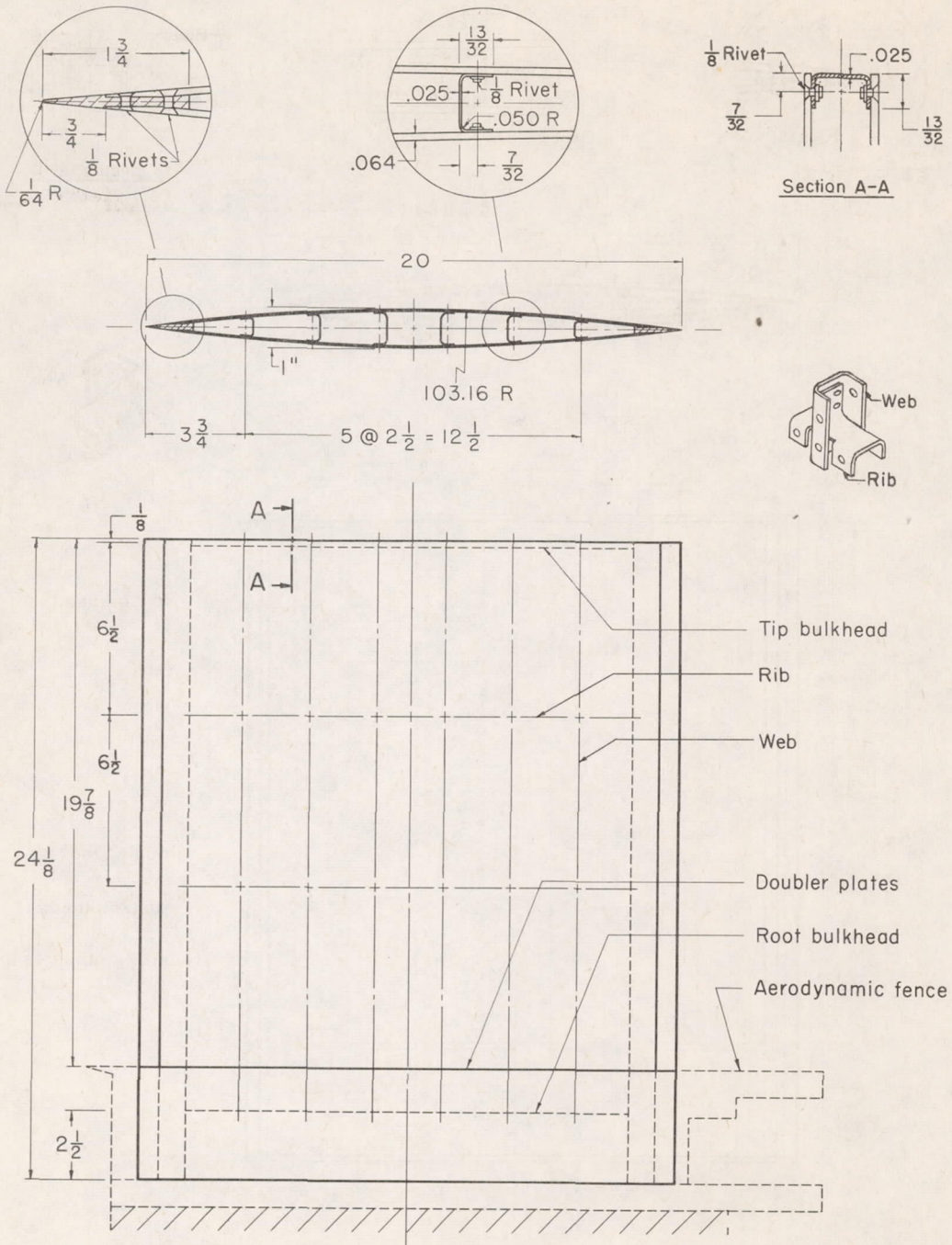
(a) Model MW-4-(2).

Figure 1.- Construction of multiweb wing models. All dimensions are in inches.



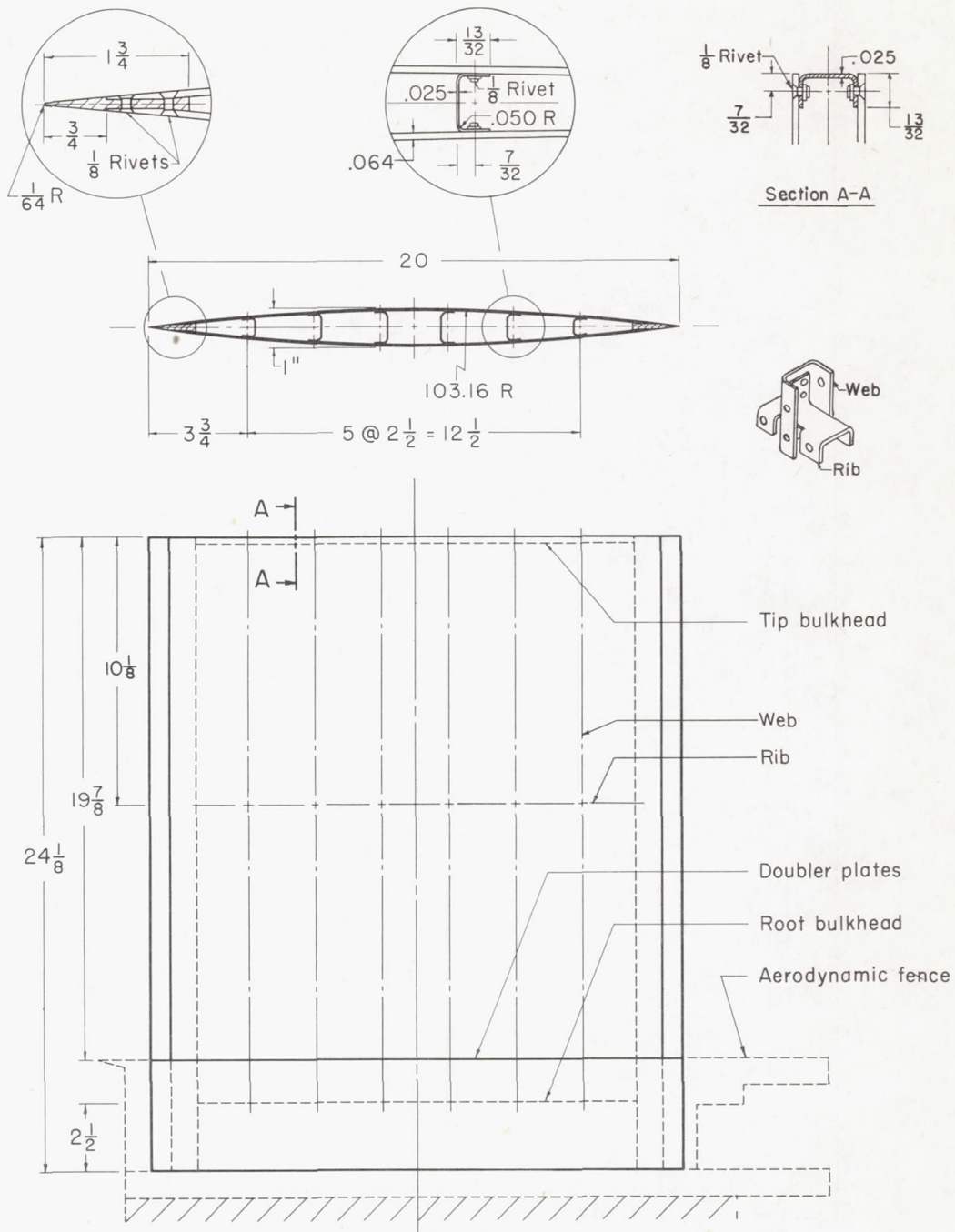
(b) Model MW-16.

Figure 1.- Continued.



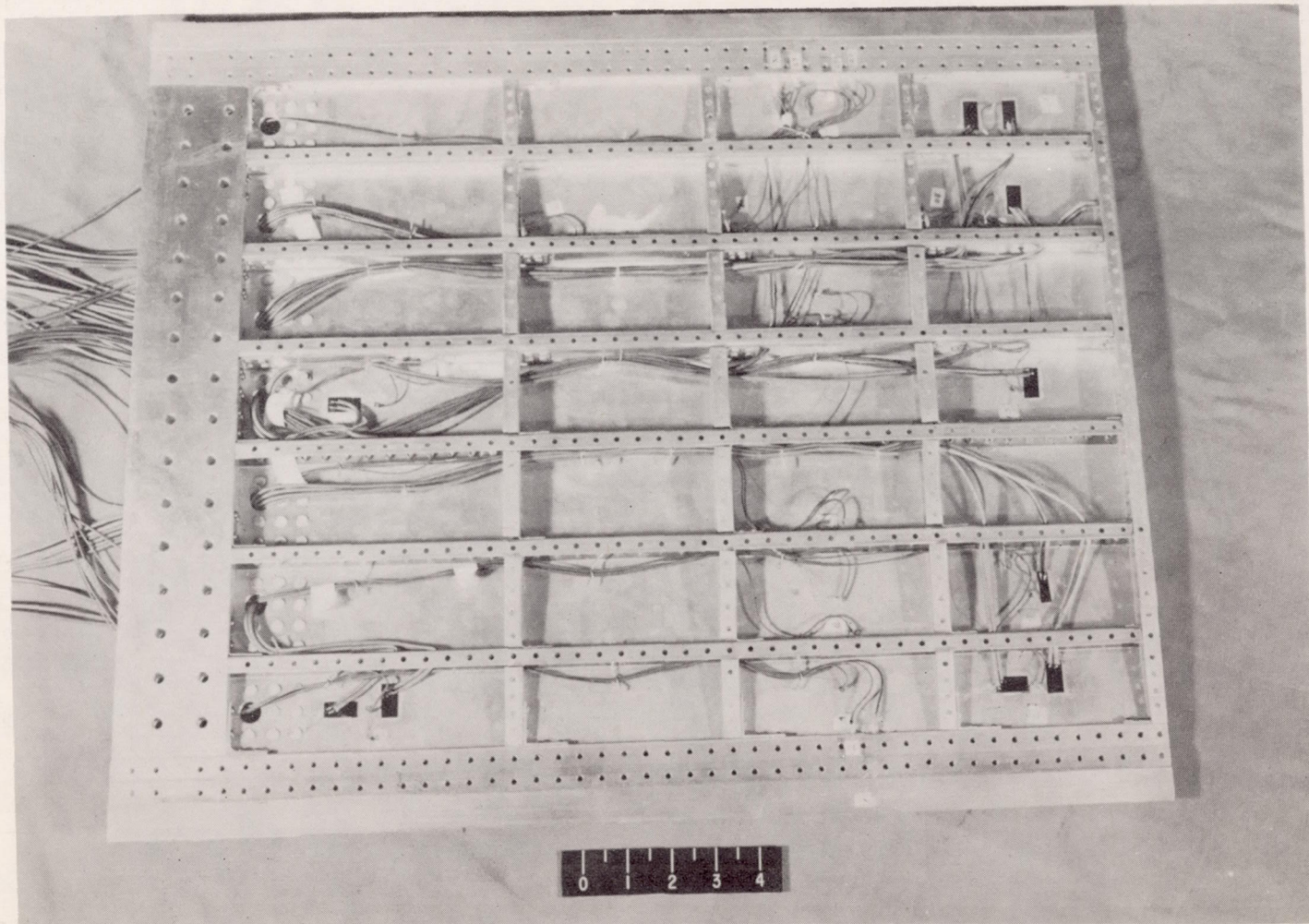
(c) Model MW-17.

Figure 1.- Continued.

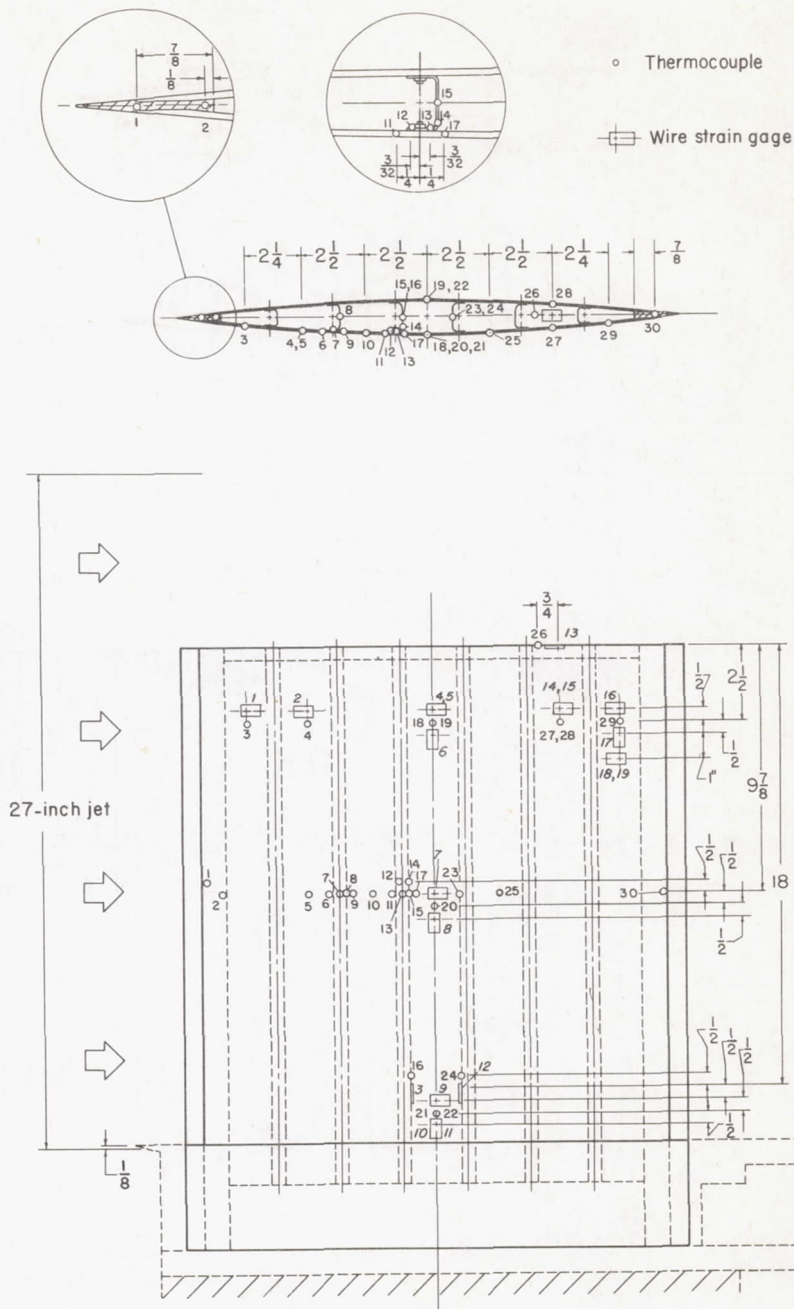


(d) Model MW-18.

Figure 1.- Concluded.



L-80729.1
Figure 2.- Photograph showing installed instrumentation in interior of
model MW-16 prior to final assembly.



(a) Model MW-4-(2).

Figure 3.- Location of instrumentation of multiweb wing models. Where two wire strain gages are listed, the second is on the far skin.

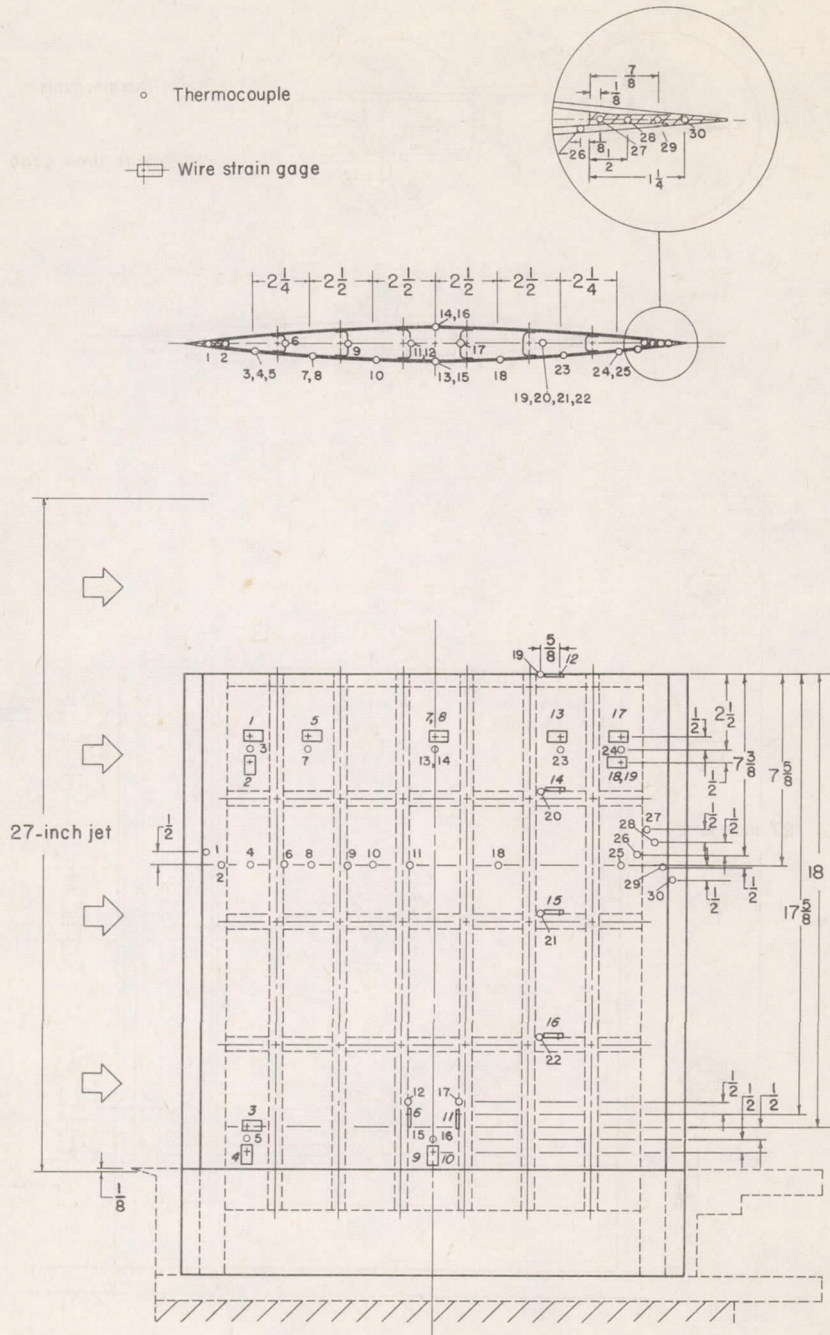
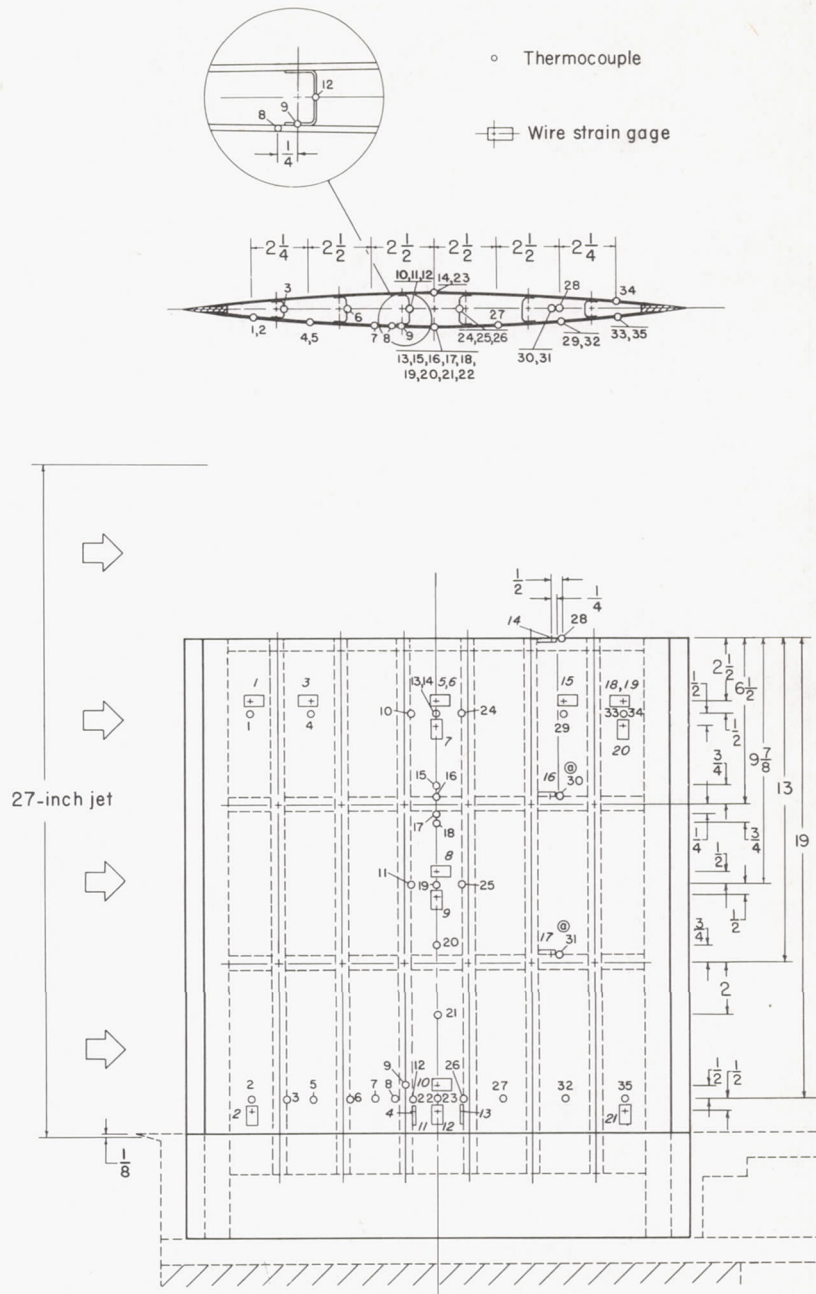


Figure 3.- Continued.

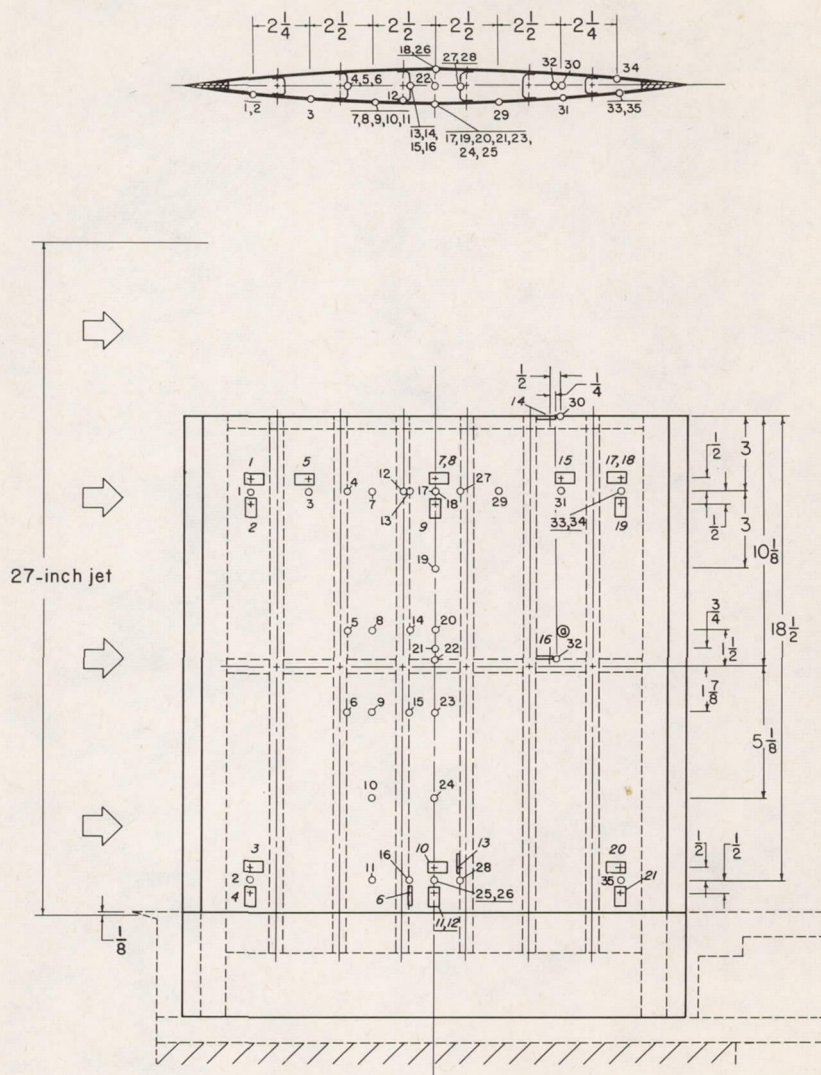


(c) Model MW-17. The symbol (a) denotes a dimension of 3/8 inch between thermocouple and wire-strain-gage center line.

Figure 3.- Continued.

○ Thermocouple

□ Wire strain gage



(d) Model MW-18. The symbol (a) denotes a dimension of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch between thermocouple and wire-strain-gage center line.

Figure 3.- Concluded.

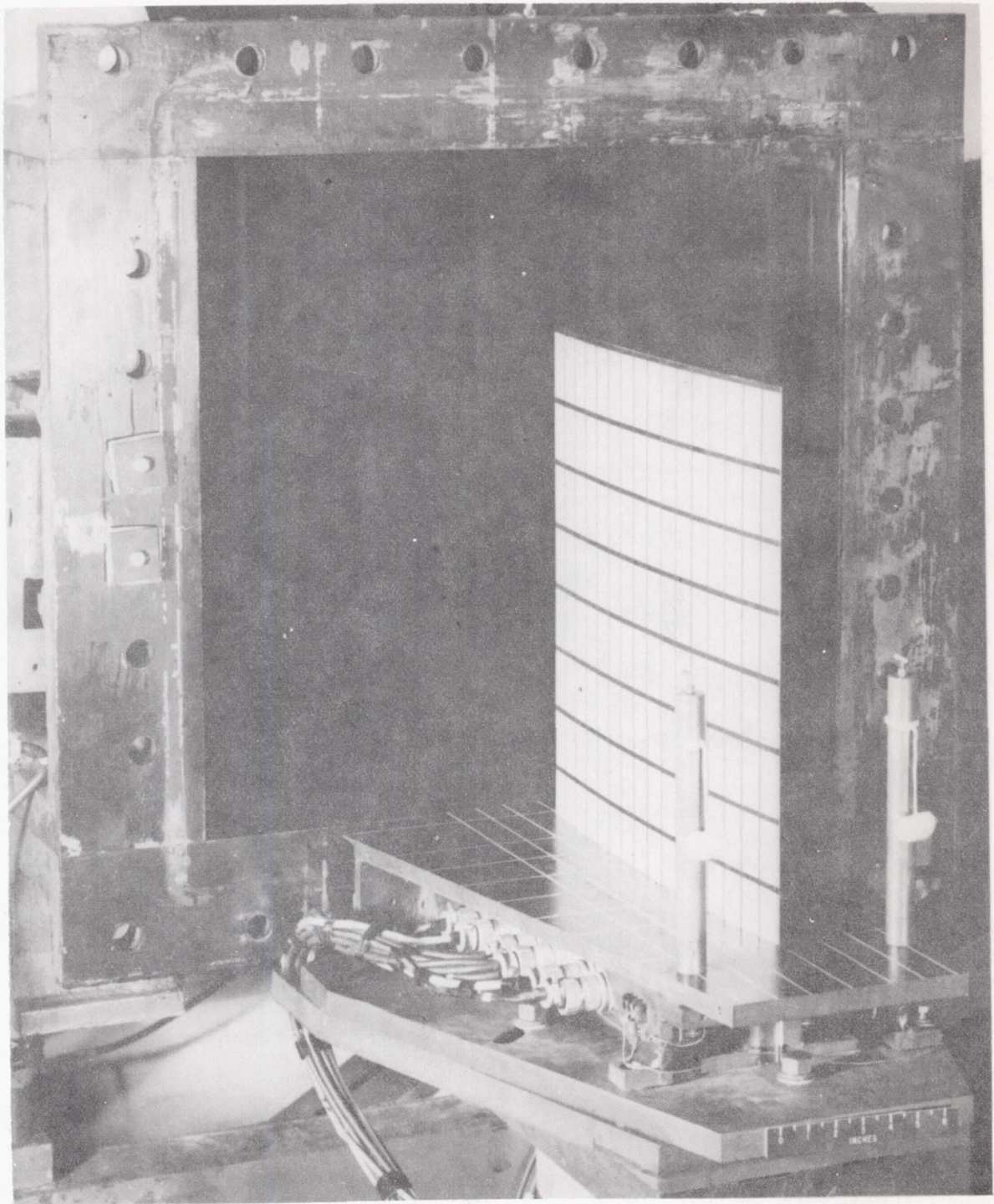


Figure 4.- Model in place at nozzle exit prior to test. L-81922

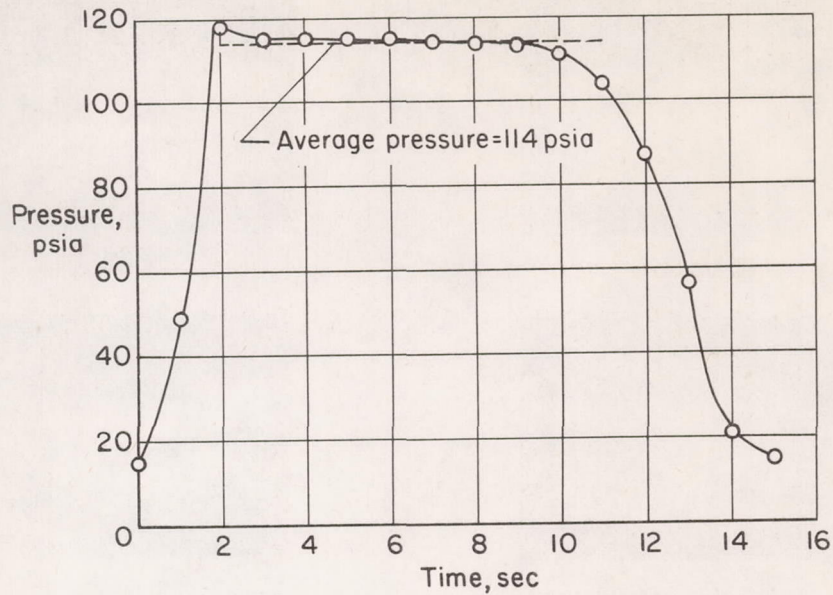


Figure 5.- Typical variation of stagnation pressure with time. Model MW-18; test 1.

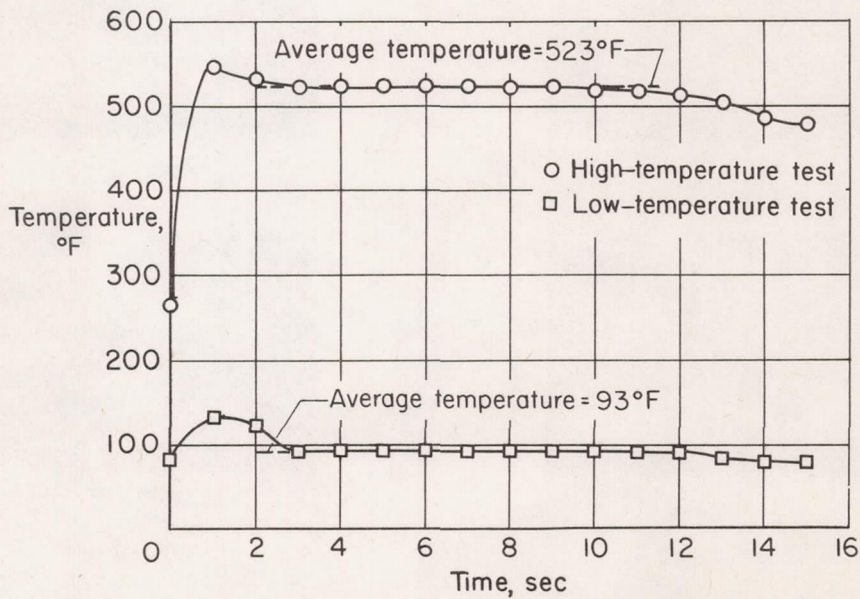
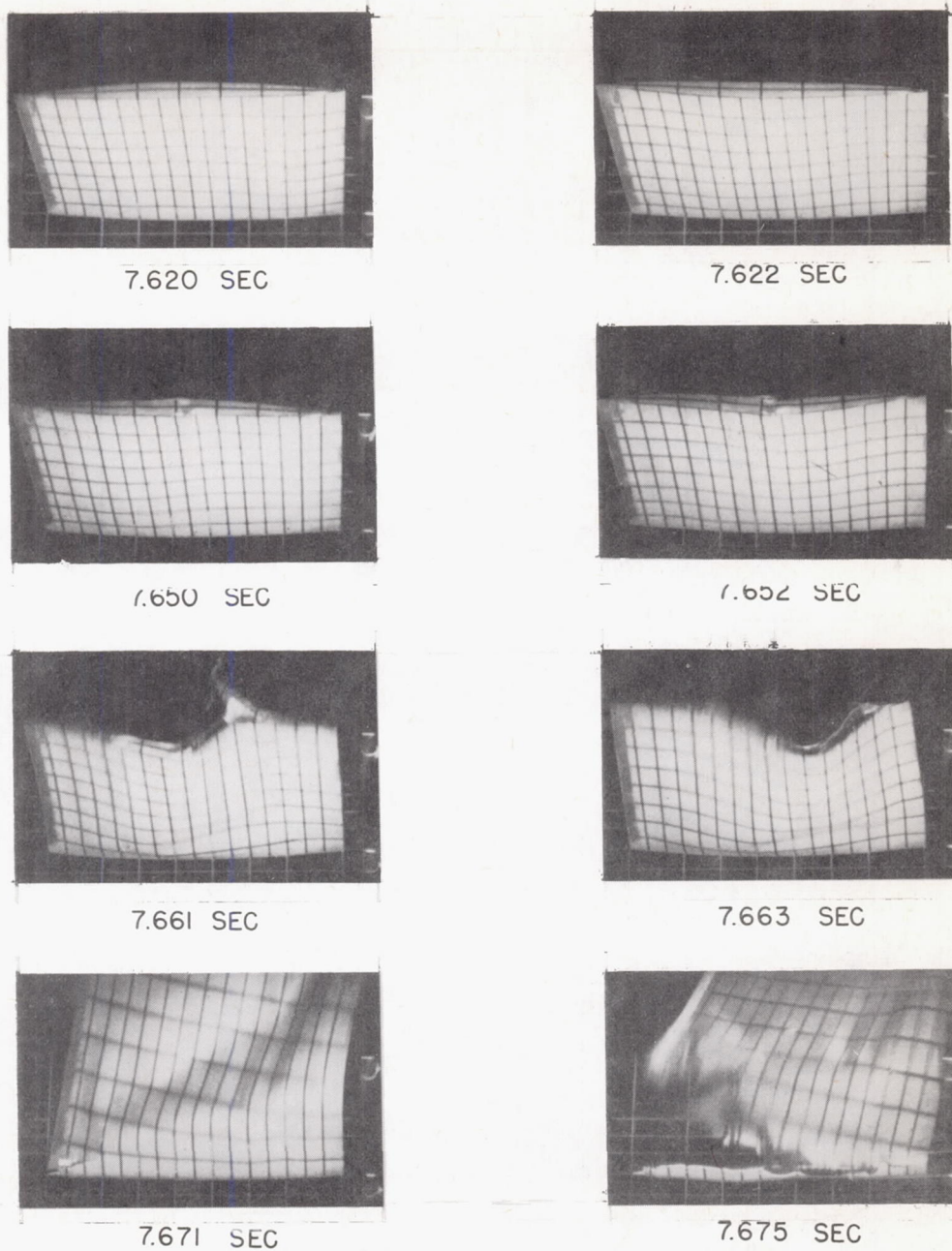


Figure 6.- Typical variation of stagnation temperature with time. Elevated-temperature test data are from test 1 of model MW-18; low-temperature test data are from test 1 of MW-4-(2).



L-57-4443

Figure 7.- Flutter and failure sequence of model MW-4-(2) at $\alpha = 0^\circ$.
Flutter frequency, 240 cps; air flows from left to right.

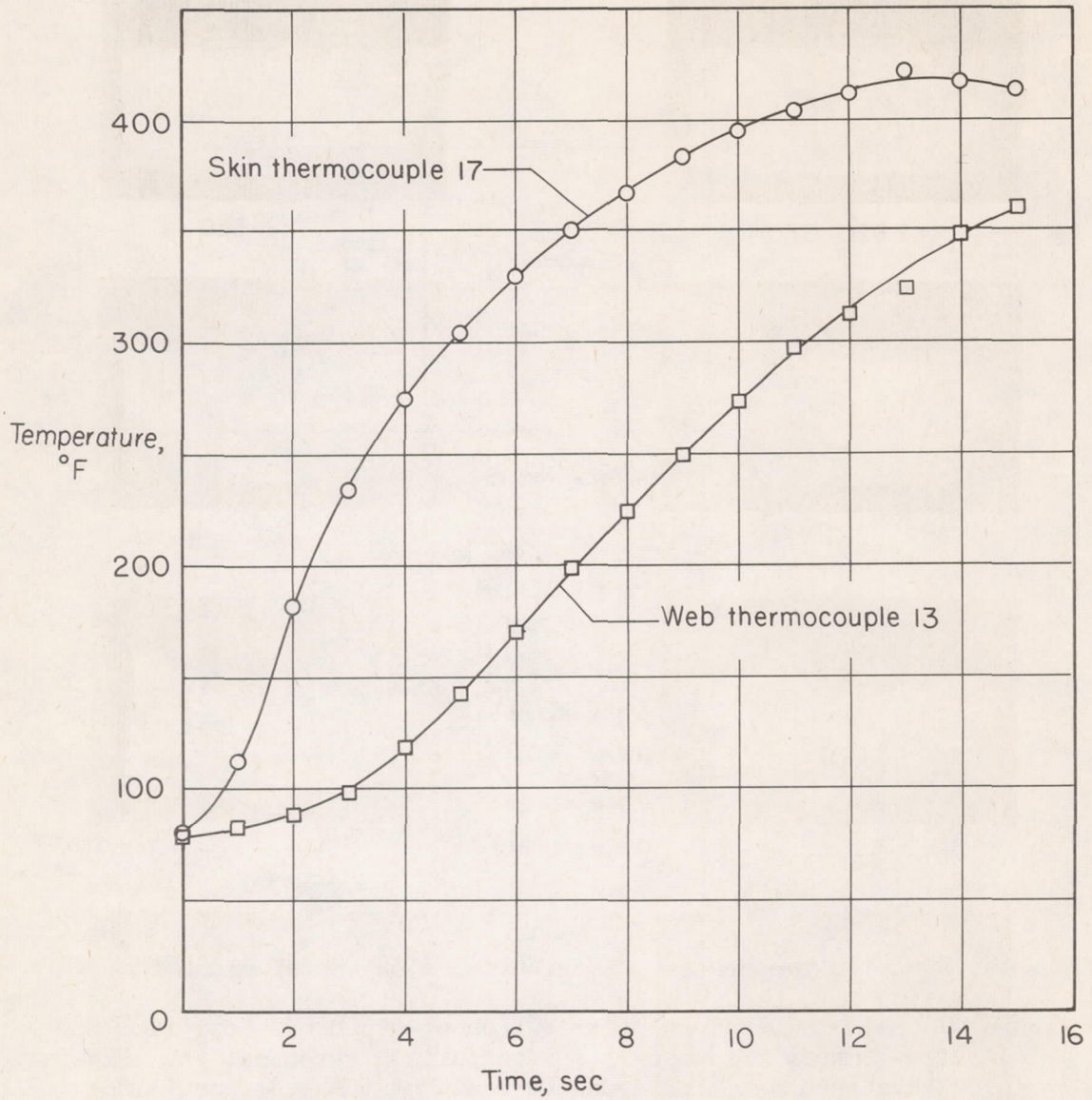
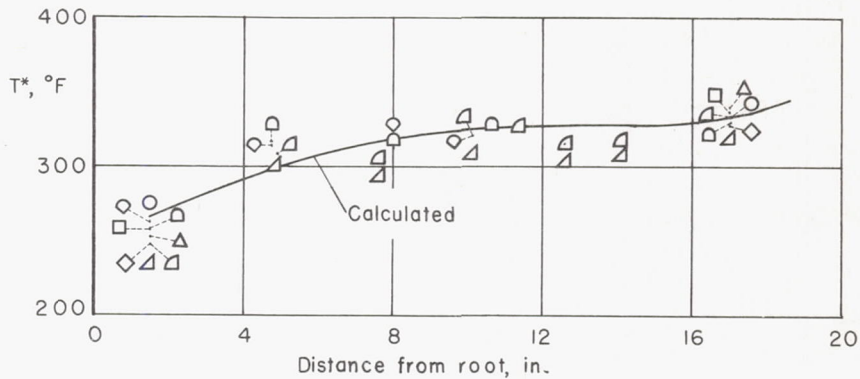


Figure 8.- Typical model temperature histories during a high-stagnation-temperature test. Model MW-18; test 1.

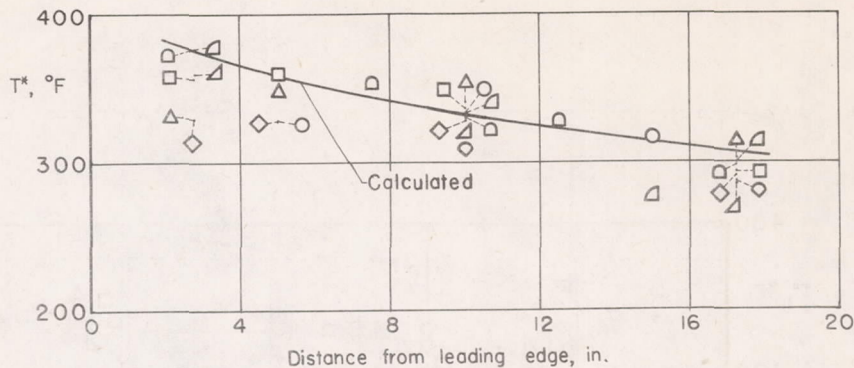


Symbol Model and test

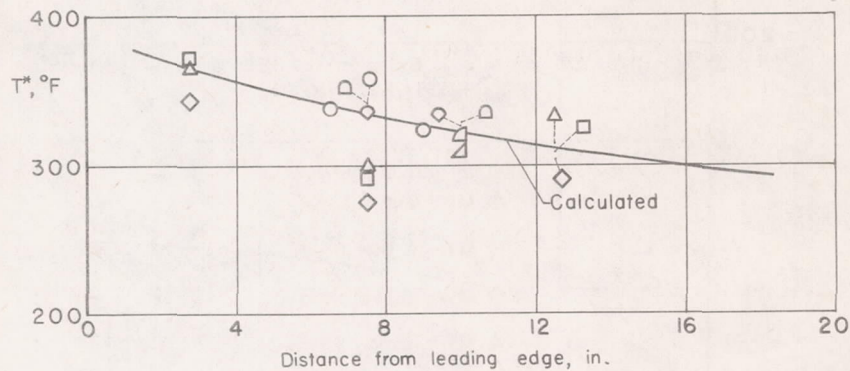
- MW-4-(2), test no. 2
- MW-16, test no. 2
- ◇ MW-16, test no. 3
- △ MW-16, test no. 4
- ▽ MW-17, test no. 1
- ◁ MW-17, test no. 2
- ◻ MW-18, test no. 1
- ◊ MW-18, test no. 2

(a) Spanwise temperature distribution along model midchord.

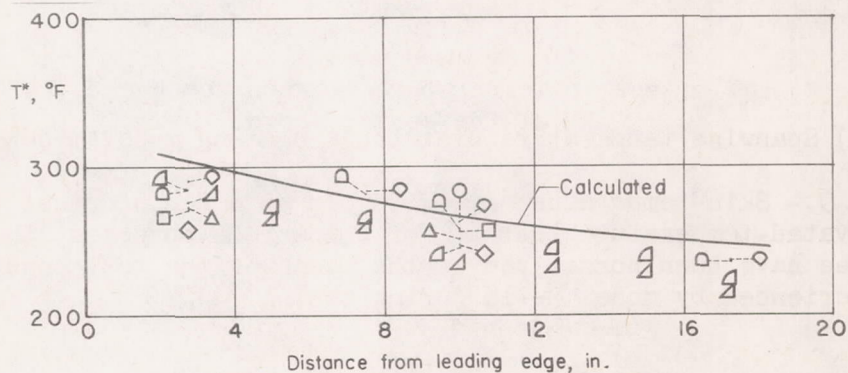
Figure 9.- Skin-temperature distribution at 6 seconds test time for elevated-temperature tests. For comparison purposes, the temperatures have been normalized on the basis of the test conditions experienced by model MW-18 during test 1.



(b) Chordwise temperature distribution at approximately 17.25 inches from the root.

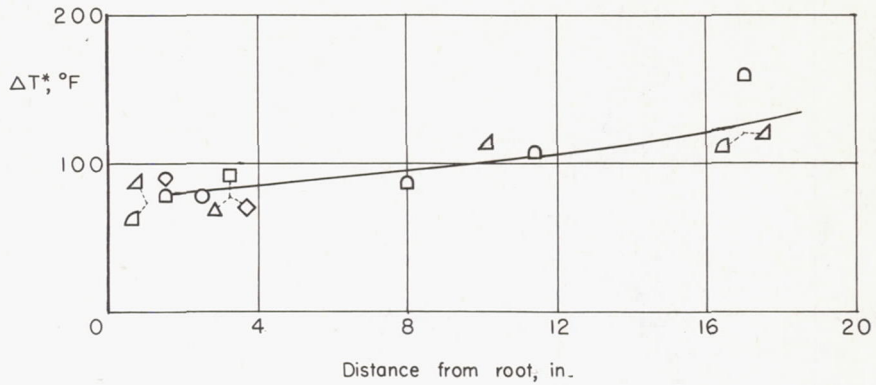


(c) Chordwise temperature distribution at approximately the midspan.

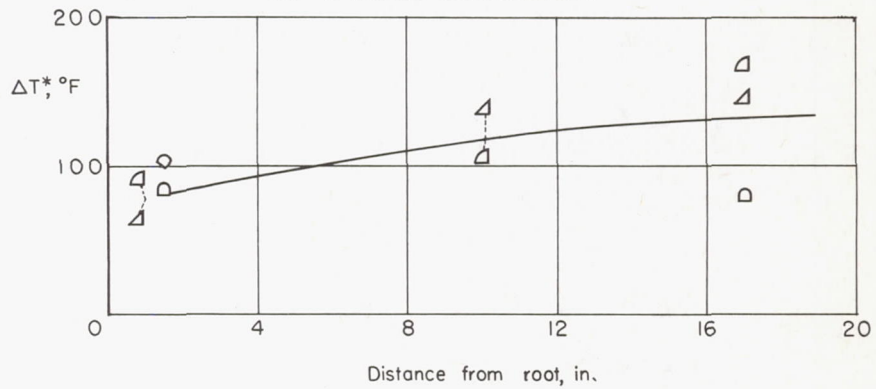


(d) Chordwise temperature distribution at approximately 2 inches from the root.

Figure 9.- Concluded.



(a) Difference in temperature between web 3 and the skin at the midchord.



(b) Difference in temperature between web 4 and the skin at the center chord.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ○ MW-4-(2), test no. 2 | △ MW-17, test no. 1 |
| □ MW-16, test no. 2 | ◻ MW-17, test no. 2 |
| ◇ MW-16, test no. 3 | ○ MW-18, test no. 1 |
| △ MW-16, test no. 4 | ◇ MW-18, test no. 2 |

Figure 10.- Difference between skin temperatures and web temperatures at 6 seconds test time.

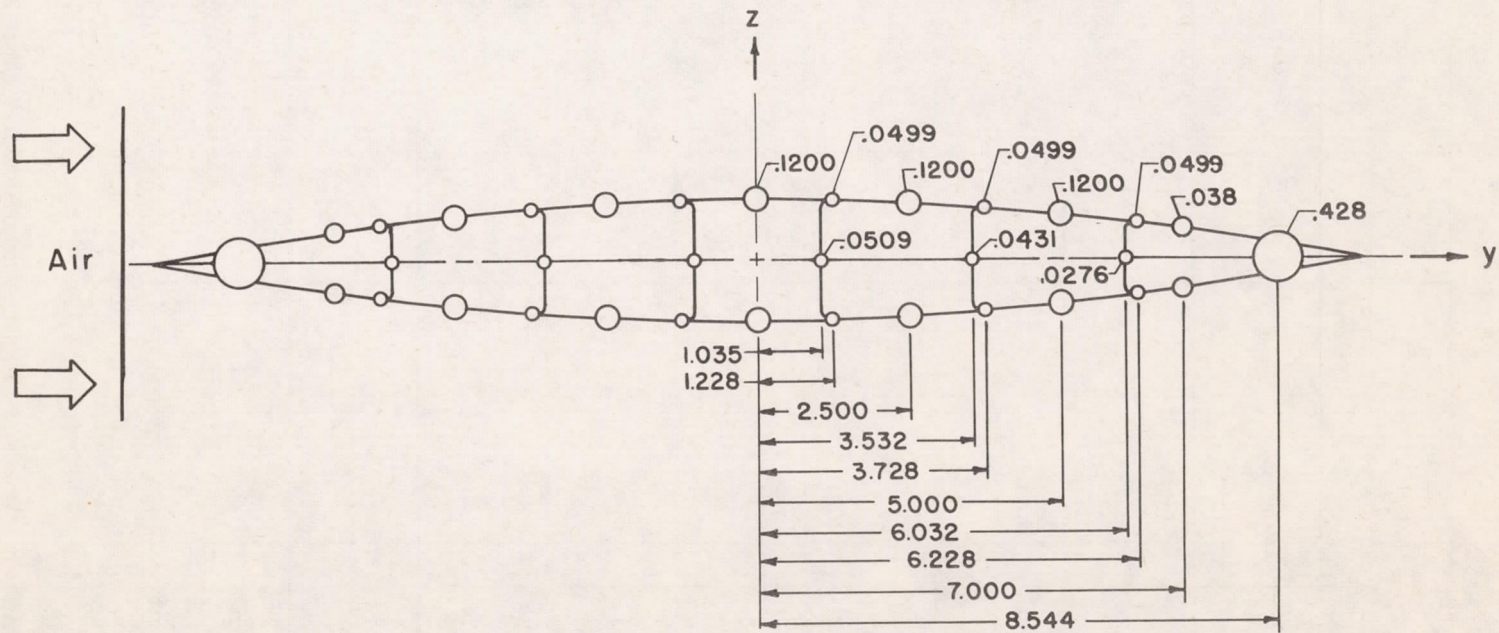


Figure 11.- Idealized cross section used to calculate thermal stresses from the experimental temperature distribution. The cross section is geometrically doubly symmetric.

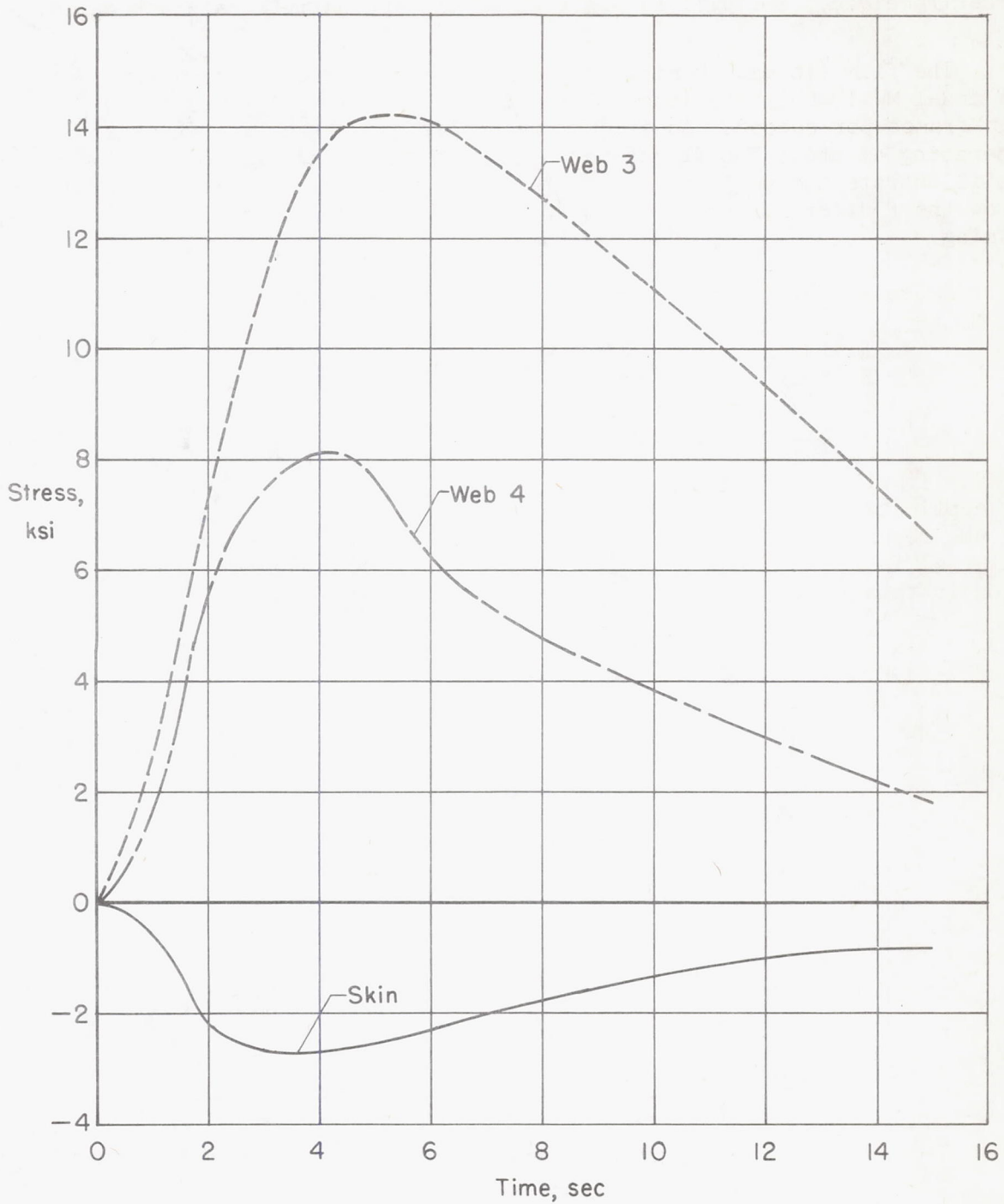


Figure 12.- Calculated stresses about the midchord at a section 3 inches from the tip of model MW-18 during test 1.