



ZOMBIES OF THE STRATOSPHERE - MVD

In the space of three years (1949-1952), Republic Pictures put out three rocket man serials - all using the same rocket suit for the hero. Only the hero's identity changed. The first of the three was King of the Rocket Men - starring Tristram Coffin as the hero in the suit, Jeff King. Then came Radar Men from the Moon, starring George Wallace as the hero in the suit, Commando Cody. Finally, six months later, came Zombies of the Stratosphere starring Judd Holdren as the hero in the suit, Larry Martin. All three are worthy serials and all deserve recognition. But only 1949's King of the Rocket Men episodes achieved after-market success - later compiled into a standalone film release titled Lost Planet Airmen, released in 1951. Also of note, Zombies marks the science-fiction film debut of actor Leonard Nimoy. He plays Narab - one of the Martian "zombies" - and actually has a few lines in the film. I was kind of surprised Amazon didn't list him as an actor - since Nimoy's presence might actually lend to increased sales of this DVD set.

- Nick Nicholson