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AIR NEWS

To a Coastal Command Station in the West Country comes an S.O.S. from mid-Atlantic. Radar spares are urgently needed by the Weather ship "Explorer." It's a parachute job for a Lancaster.

Taking off on the 600-mile-journey, the Lancaster "T for Tommy" is airborne just before dawn. Heavy Atlantic squalls make the going rough.

A three-hour search ends suddenly as, through a break in the cloud base, "Explorer" is sighted. "T for Tommy" makes his run-in.

The parachute fails to open but finds the target. Packed in a waterproof container attached to a "Mac West" the supplies are safely taken aboard. The Radar spares are wanted for plotting weather balloons and helping aircraft in distress. What "T for Tommy" did for her, "Explorer" might do for him some day.

In Washington - the first aircraft to fly - the Wright Brothers' "Kittyhawk" goes home to the Smithsonian Institute. Twenty years in the London Science Museum, a veteran is now grounded for life on her native soil. For the modern aircraft, a new, two-way propeller. By reversing in flight, it cuts down speed and time required to land. Flour thrown into the slipstream shows how quickly the props change direction. On a test flight in America, identical aircraft came in to land. Plane with reversible props drops 14,000 feet in 88 seconds, leaving its rival "way behind.

A thousand feet up, props are returned to normal, then reversed again to act as a brake on touchdown. More safety, speed and economy for tomorrow's aviation.

AIR NEWS

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Forty-five years ago, the Kitty Hawk made the first airplane flight.

Today, after twenty years of exile, the historic Wright Brothers plane comes home. Because recognition was first given to another, the Kitty Hawk was sent to London. Now it takes its rightful place in Washington's Smithsonian Institute among aviation's most treasured mementos.

A new, two-way propeller puts air brakes on transport planes. By reversing in flight, it drastically cuts down the speed and time required to land. Flour thrown into the air stream shows how the prop quickly changes direction.

Two identical C-54's, one with four reversible propellers, come in for landings. While the conventional type seems to hang in air, the test plane drops fourteen thousand feet in eighty-eight seconds.

A thousand feet up, the props are returned to normal, then reversed again to brake the plane on the ground. The two-way propeller is expected to bring greater safety, economy and speed to aviation.