

Air Force Turns Back For New Plane Designs



THE RAIDER: XC-125 looks like an old Ford tri-motor, with some shrewd new ideas in its design.

By DOUGLAS LARSEN
WASHINGTON (NEA)—A look at two of the air force's newest planes may make you think aviation is going backwards.

And the simple fact is that the experts have reached back into aviation history to find some "revolutionary" ideas for the air transportation of ground troops. It all started when the army complained to the air force that its aircraft needs were being sadly neglected at the expense of the development of super fast jets and giant intercontinental bombers.

Breeding the army's plea for some better means than parachutes and gliders for getting troops into combat from the air, the air force appealed to the aviation industry. Of the ideas that resulted, the two that at first glance seemed most ridiculous, have now proved to be among the most practical.

The Northrop company offered what at first glance seemed to be the funniest idea of all, its "Pioneer." It was almost an exact copy of an old Ford tri-motor, but with some shrewd ideas in its design.

The old tri-motor was the aviation sensation of the '20's but has since become a museum piece.

When Northrop's engineers began explaining their antique-looking plane, the air force experts' laughs turned to amazement. Its old-fashioned fixed landing gear is lighter and stronger than the new

retractable gear. The old-fashioned high wing makes for greater stability and slower landing. Three motors with one in the center of the fuselage makes for more efficient flight.

Moreover, the plane could be produced cheaply and quickly. It could be easily fitted with skis for arctic use and floats for water landing. The tail, old easily be jacked up and a ramp lowered through the opening for easy loading.

After that sales talk, the air force ordered Northrop to build 23 experimental models, numbered the plane the XC-125 and named it the "Raider." It has a wing span of 87 feet. The first one has already flown successfully. Just as the old Ford tri-motor used to land in any cow pasture to pick up sightseers and give them a ride at one cent a pound, so can the Raider land in any kind of a cow pasture and at amazingly slow speeds. Other details of this ancient-looking aircraft are being kept a secret.

The second plane which the experts now think has great possibilities looks like the old flying boats which airlines used on first overseas flights. Actually, it is a modified glider which was declared obsolete several years ago. With two motors it is now called the C-123.

Designed by the Chase Aircraft company, which designed and built the original glider model, the plane looks like a waddling duck built too

close to the ground. But its outward appearances are deceptive as far as its troop-carrying performances are concerned.

Its construction is so simple and cheap, it is almost considered expendable. Top speed is 232 miles per hour, fast for a cargo plane. Its glider wing is extremely efficient and makes for slow safe landings. It can carry a 155-mm howitzer and one truck, 60 fully-equipped troops or 50 litter patients. Wing span is 110 feet and length is 77 feet.

In addition to special gear, which makes loading the plane very easy it has numerous special safety features. The pilot is safe from minor accidents as a result of a steel cage built around his compartment. He rides above the load and consequently isn't crushed by heavy cargo in the case of a belly landing or a mishap, which may occur in landing troops near a battlefield.

Both the C-123 and the CX-125 have good possibilities for commercial use.

Scout Honor Court Makes Five Awards

An apprentice seaman rating and four long cruise badges were awarded to members of explorer ship 100 at a Boy Scout court of honor held at the Elks lodge Tuesday evening.

Winning the apprentice seaman rating was Garry Rose, and the cruise badges went to Jim Lawhead, Lorrin Guthrie, John Yanila and Duane Daly.

During the last week of September, 78 Scout troops, cub packs and explorer units of the Modoc area Scout council will undergo a thorough uniform inspection and roll call. This is the first full-dress inspection to be held since before the war.

During a similar period approximately 80,000 Scout units throughout the nation will also be inspected. Ratings will be given the units on personal appearance of individuals, condition of uniforms and comprehensiveness of unit programs.

Paul Tanner, Klamath county district scout commissioner is in charge of all arrangements for the Modoc area inspection.

New US Schools Irk Moscow

MOSCOW (AP)—The Teachers Gazette has accused the United States of a "pedagogical expansion."

This kind of expansion, the paper said, is manifested above all in the systematic spreading of American schools and higher educational establishments in South America, Africa, Asia and Europe.

"These educational establishments," said the paper, "are converted into outposts of American 'democracy' and active executors of American ideology and American policy."



TRIPLE DOUBLE—Charles E. Summers and his wife, Margaret, former WAC, who started rearing their own "army" with three sets of twins in 27 months, arrive in New York from Doylestown, O., en route to Philadelphia where Mrs. Summers will attend WAC convention. Held by the couple are John and Charles, 1. On steps, left to right, are Paul and Michael, 2; and Patricia and Susan, 3. The Summers were married in 1945 in New Guinea when both were in the service.

Damage Suit Entire Estate

A damage suit for \$5000 is listed as the entire estate of the late Thomas Moore, who died two years ago from injuries received when hit by an automobile.

The unsettled claim for damages was brought by Dora Cole, administratrix of Moore's estate, against Walter Ziemieniecuk, whose car struck the aged man on the Lindley Heights road late in August, 1947.

Moore, 79, died September 12 of

Major Kirkpatrick Now On Cruise

Marine Major F. C. Kirkpatrick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick of 1900 E. Main, departed from the world's largest marine corps air station, Cherry Point, N. C., for a five month's carrier cruise with his unit, Marine Air Group 11.

Major Kirkpatrick wears three distinguished flying crosses, 10 air medals, American theater, presidential unit citation and the navy unit citation.

that year. He left no will. U. M. Valentine is attorney for the estate.

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THE CHASE C-123 looks like a waddling duck, but outward appearances are deceptive.

Russ 'Hack' Writer Gets Slapped

MOSCOW (AP)—Writer I. Yevgenyevich has been severely criticized in "Komsomol Pravda" for a book described as "rubbish."

"How could it happen," asked the critic, "that such a harmful book, such base hackwork which has ob-

viously been written on the model of foreign boulevard literature could be published here in the Soviet Union, where the most progressive literature in the world, highly artistic and highly ideological has been created, where the rank of author has been raised to unprecedented heights?"

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