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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.