

ARMY FLIES COPTER-PLANE IN FIRST TEST

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. — (INS)—The Army announced today that its new convertiplane, a combination helicopter and airplane, has been flown for the first time, rising to a height of twenty feet in tests carried out in Texas.

Developed by the Bell Aircraft Corp. and the United States Air Force for the Army, the convertiplane has three bladed rotor propellers mounted on the ends of thirty foot fixed wings.

WORKS TWO WAYS.

It is designed to ascend and land like a helicopter and to operate as a conventional airplane by tilting the rotors forward.

Army officials said the initial flight demonstration, in which the convertiplane rose straight up from the ground to a height of twenty feet and maneuvered as a helicopter, was impressive.

Other tests will be made in which the rotor propellers will convert the helicopter into an airplane.

According to aircraft engineers, the conversion can be carried out in a maximum of fifteen seconds without loss of altitude or speed, and the pilot can reverse the conversion at any point and maintain stability with the rotor propellers in any intermediate position.

AID IN WARFARE.

An Army statement said that Assistant Secretary Frank H. Higgins has stated that the convertiplane "will be of great value in gaining the mobility which the Army must have in modern warfare."

The convertiplane, operating as an airplane, is expected to have a speed of about 150 miles per hour as compared with a normal helicopter speed of 110. It will carry four persons, or two litter patients and a medical attendant in addition to the pilot.



IN AIR—Capable of vertical ascent and conventional flight, the XV3 Convertiplane is shown in flight in this picture released yesterday by the Department of Defense. The plane ascended to about thirty feet in its initial flight at Fort Worth, Texas.

—U. S. Army photo via Associated Press Wirephoto