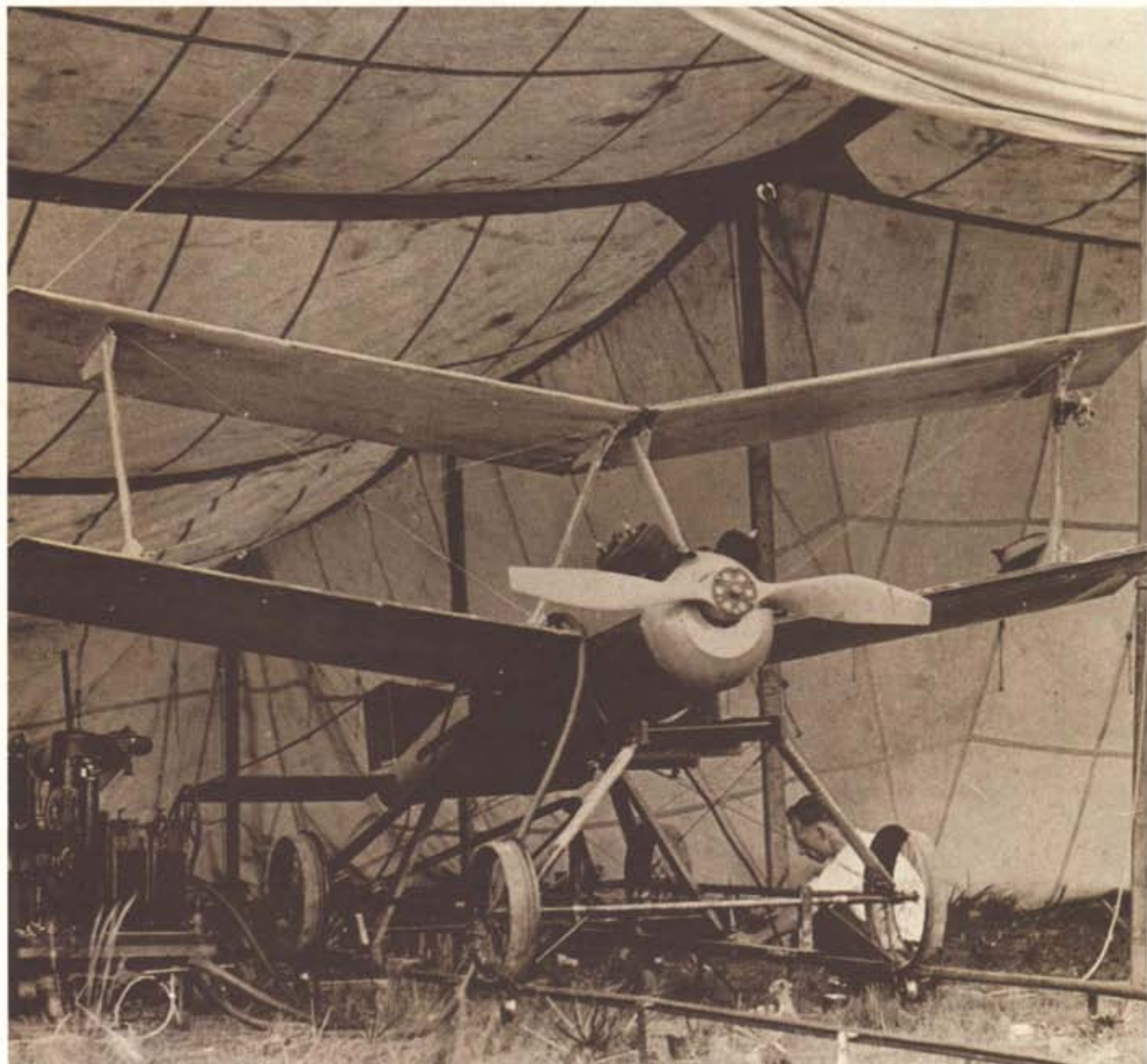


The Bug



The Kettering Aerial Torpedo, nicknamed the "Bug," was the first guided missile—an ancestor of such weapons as the ground-launched cruise missile and the AGM-130. It was invented by Charles F. Kettering of Dayton, Ohio, and built by the Dayton-Wright Airplane Co. in 1918 for the Aviation Section of the US Army Signal Corps.

Launched from a track, it was guided to its target by preset vacuum-pneumatic and electrical controls. At predetermined times, the engine shut off, the wings released, and the Bug crashed, detonating 180 pounds of explosives. World War I ended before the Bug could enter combat. Lack of funds halted further development.