

CG-13 Snatch

THE little red connection warning light suddenly came on and Lt. Wilkie decided he had better find out where they were. Poor connections made telephone conversation with the C-47 almost unintelligible but they managed to hear that they were a few miles east of Columbus, Ohio. Lt. Wilkie and his co-pilot, Lt. Tuck, wondered if the warning light really meant what it was indicating—that the tow plug connection was poor and they were about to have an accidental release. They had been on tow for an hour and a half on a cross country from Stout Field, Indianapolis, Indiana and everything had been fine. Suddenly all doubt left their minds. With a loud bang the tow plug released and they were on their own.

The country below was rough but not impossible. With their 10,000 feet of altitude they had plenty of time to

look around. Besides, from 10,000 you really can't see much about the character of a field. The tug pilot, Lt. McKee, immediately started to search for a field for them. They kept an eye on him and, after a bit, saw him buzz a fairly good field that was close to the edge of a town. They were slightly surprised when a shower of sparks flew up behind the C-47 on one of the passes. It turned out to be a 66,000 volt power line which the tow rope took out. They made a good landing with plenty of field to spare and reassured themselves about the tactical qualities of the CG-13. The town was New Lexington, Ohio. Everybody was glad to see them, including the farmer. The C-47 flew over a few times to see that everything was O.K. and then returned to Stout Field.

It was mid afternoon before the pick-up crew could take off from Stout, which meant that the pick-up could

The First Pass Was High.

