

U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT WINGFOLDS

-or-

HOW TO GET ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE

Text & illustrations

by

David Gallagher

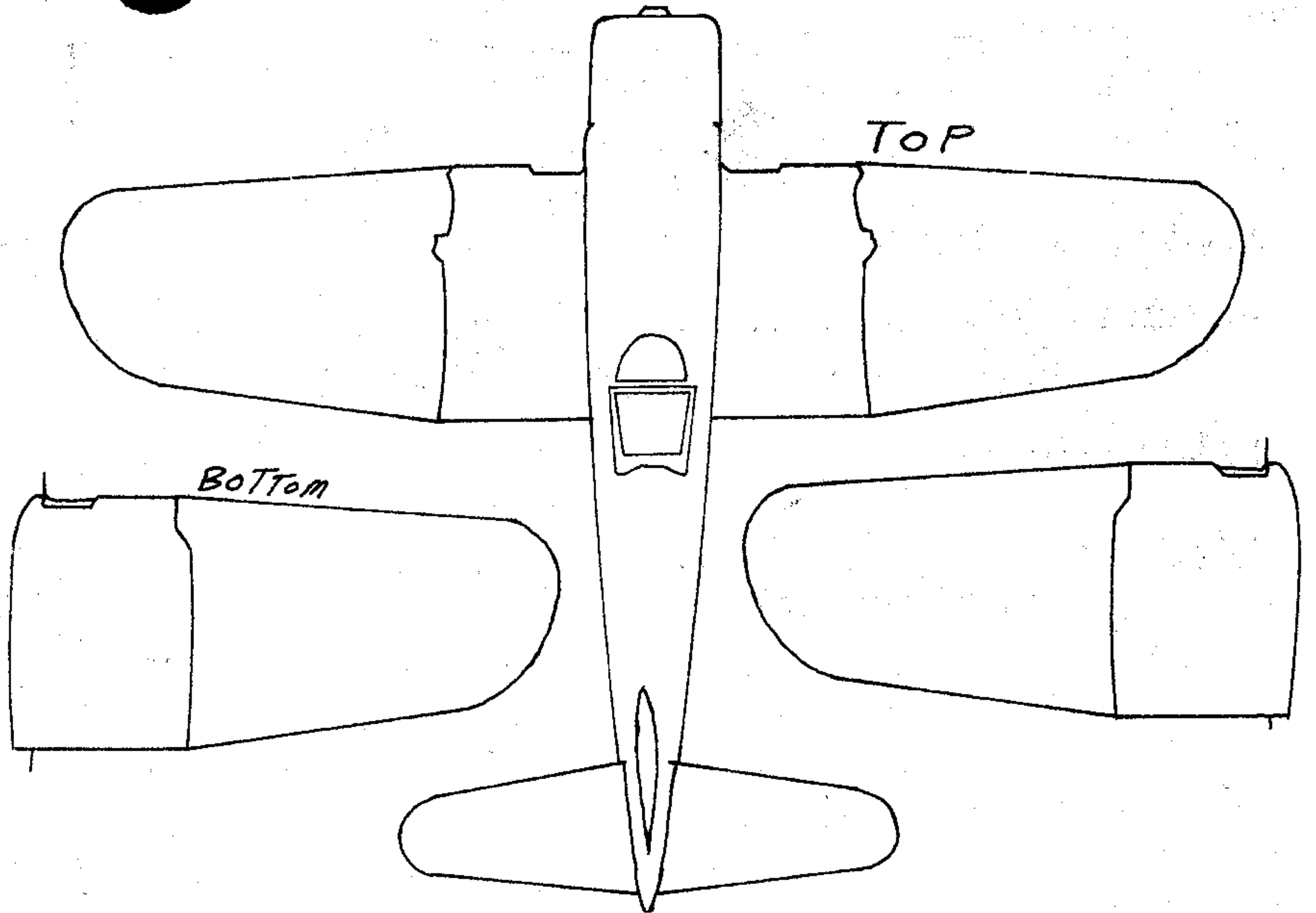
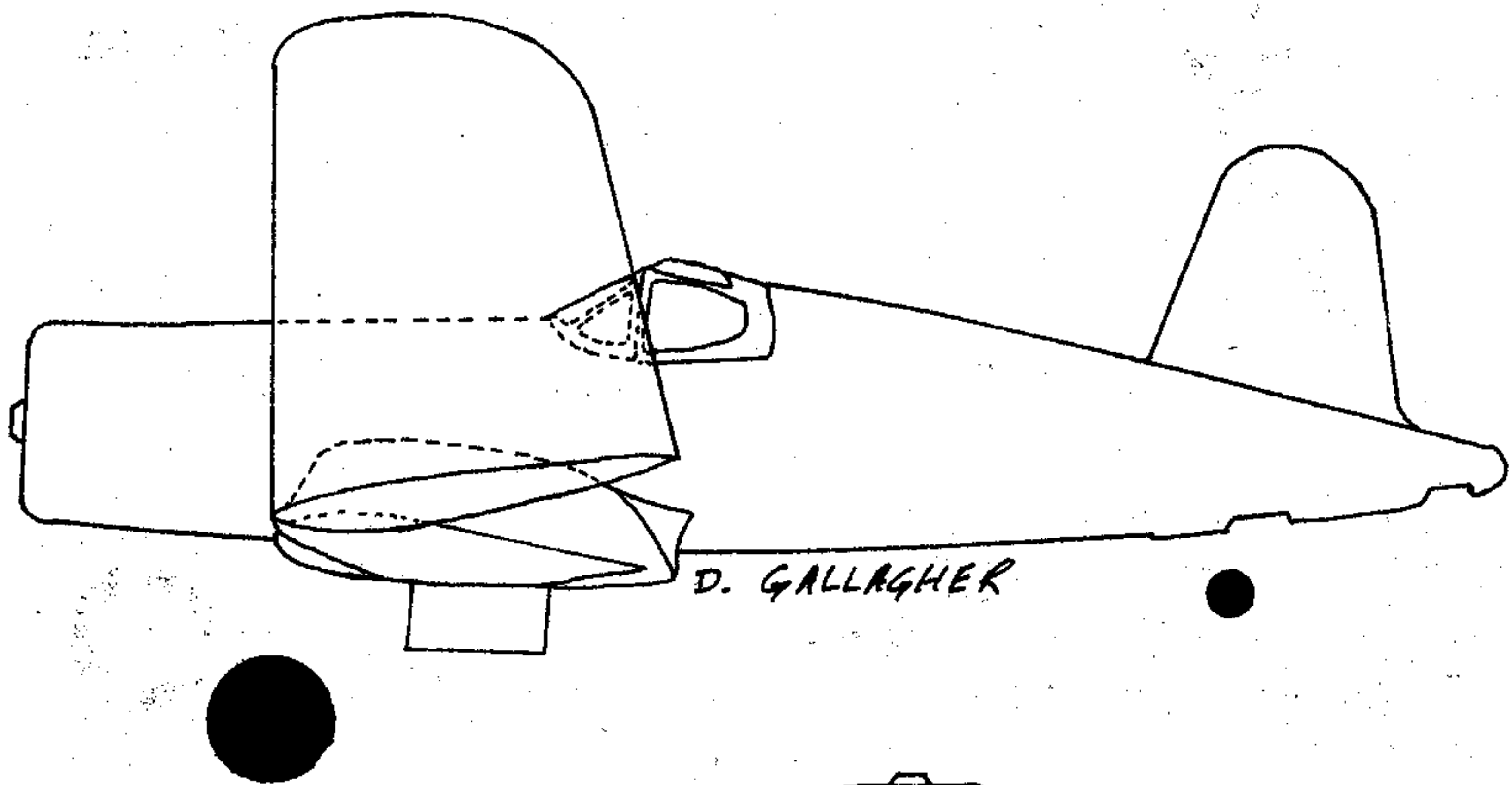
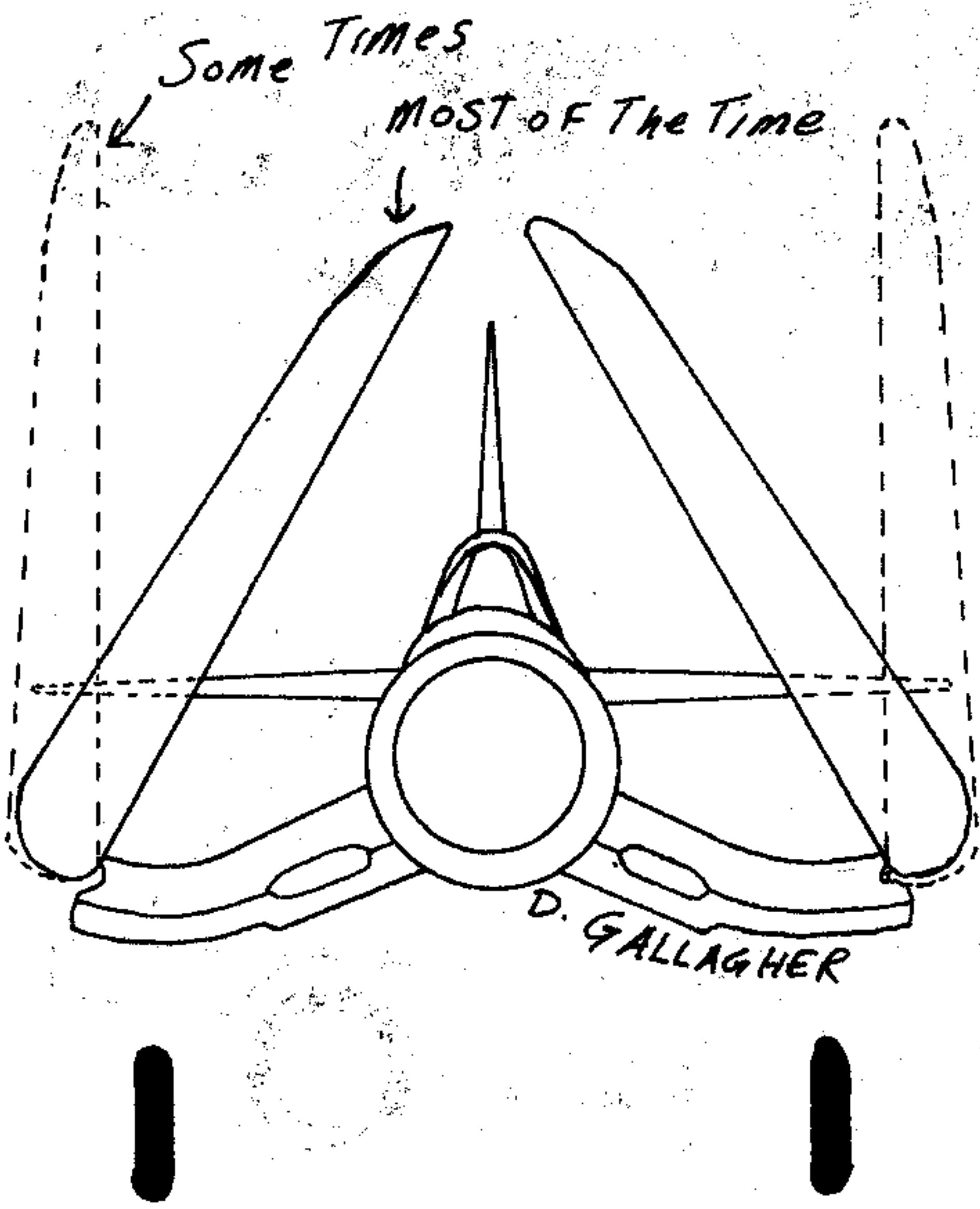
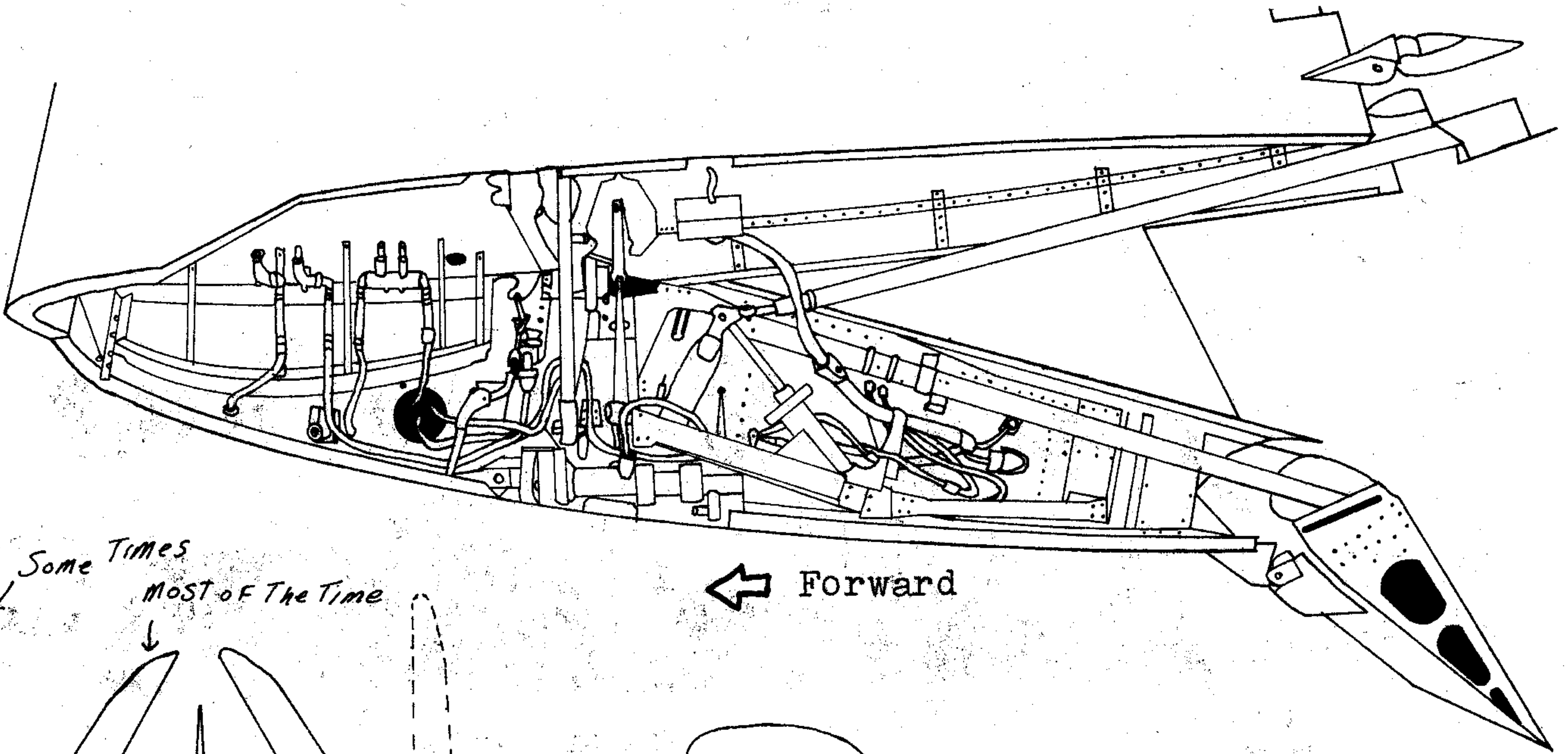
This article is for those of us who are Navy aircraft lovers as well as lovers of detail.....lots of little, complex shapes that are part of the makeup of post WW II carrier-based aircraft.

The aircraft in this article run the gamut from the immediate post war period, where pistons were the main source of power, through the more complex and contemporary jets & piston planes of today. And while the method of propulsion might have changed, the one thing that seems to have remained the same over the years is the intricate & complex equipment that is fitted into a plane's wingfold. Outside of the rather simple wingfolds of the F-8 Crusader and the F-18 Hornet, the remaining 14 aircraft and one helicopter included here have quite a bit of wiring, ribbing, hinges, lightning holes, etc, in them.

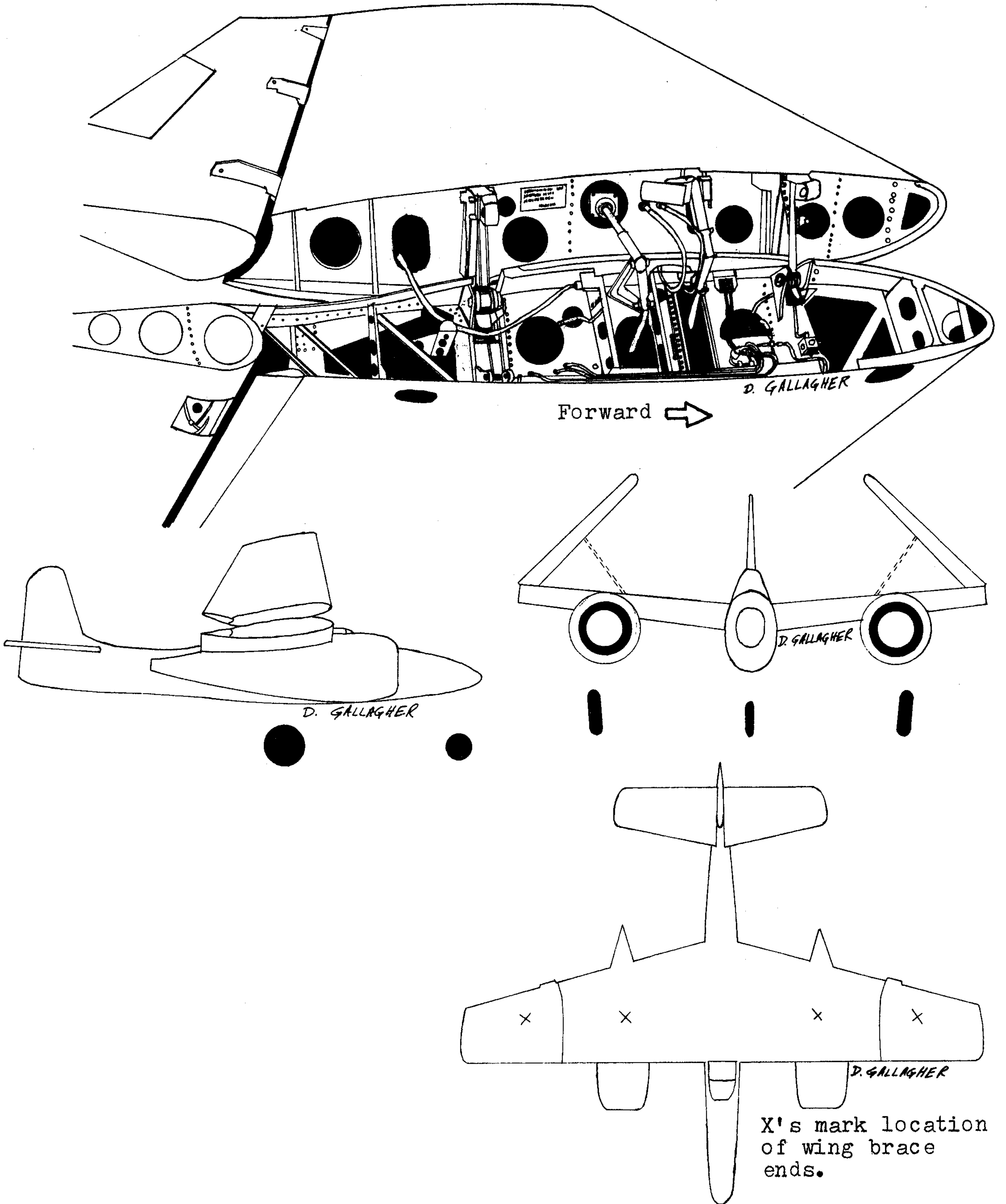
All of the planes' wingfolds shown here can be detailed in the hobby kits available. Of course, the decision to fold a model's wings rests with the builder, but it would seem a safe bet that the person seriously thinking of opening up & detailing the various folds on the S-2 Tracker or E-2 Hawkeye or A-3 Skywarrior should consider it a life's project. There is enough stuff to add into each of these folds to make a separate & highly detailed model! However, there do seem to be such modelers amongst us, and that was one of the reasons that I did this article: to put in one article as many of these detailed illustrations as I could. I don't doubt that some of you will read through this article and immediately notice that there quite a few planes missing.

The individual wingfold subjects have three parts: the wingfold itself, with as much detail as possible added; three-view drawings of the plane to show the wingfold and some tail fold lines.

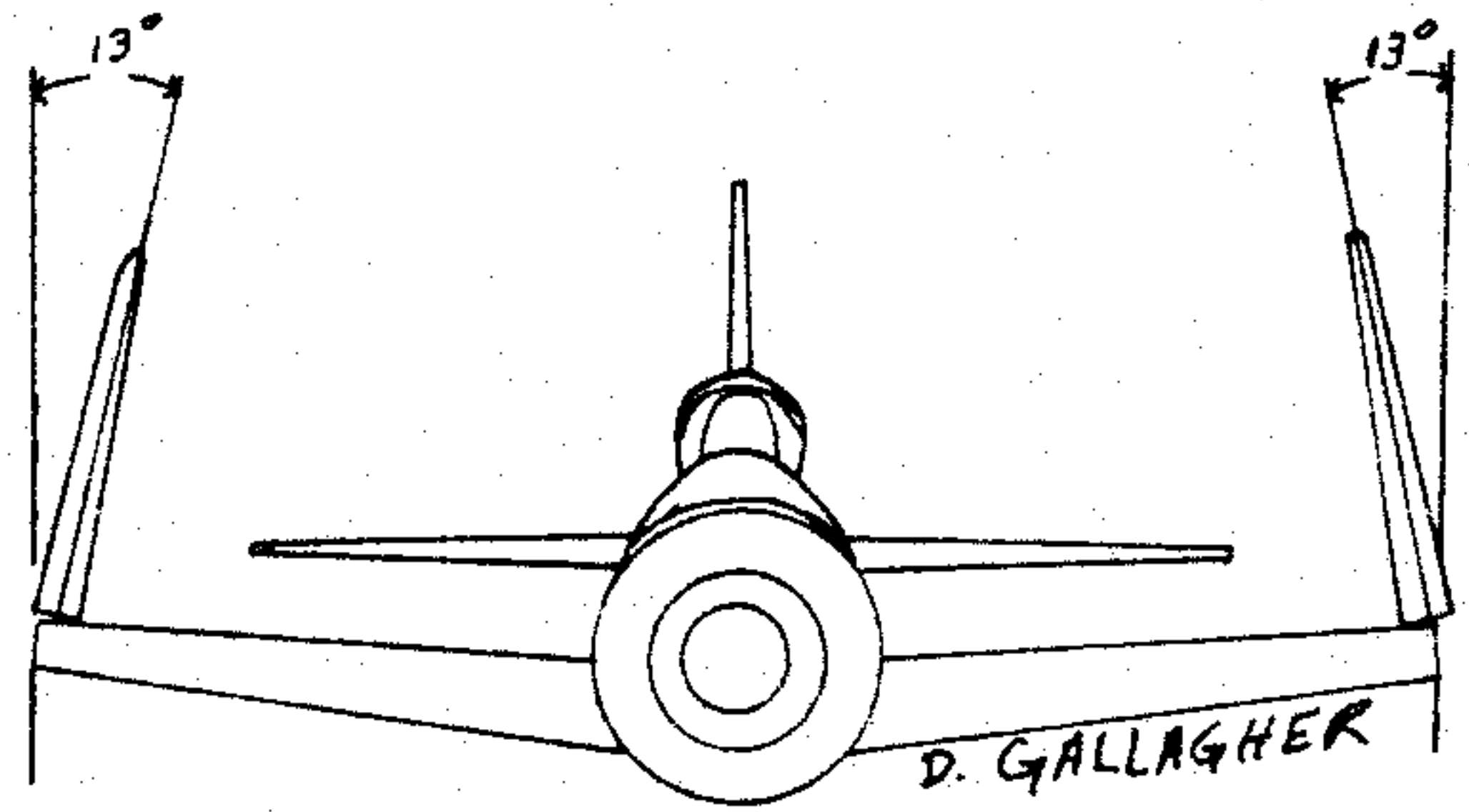
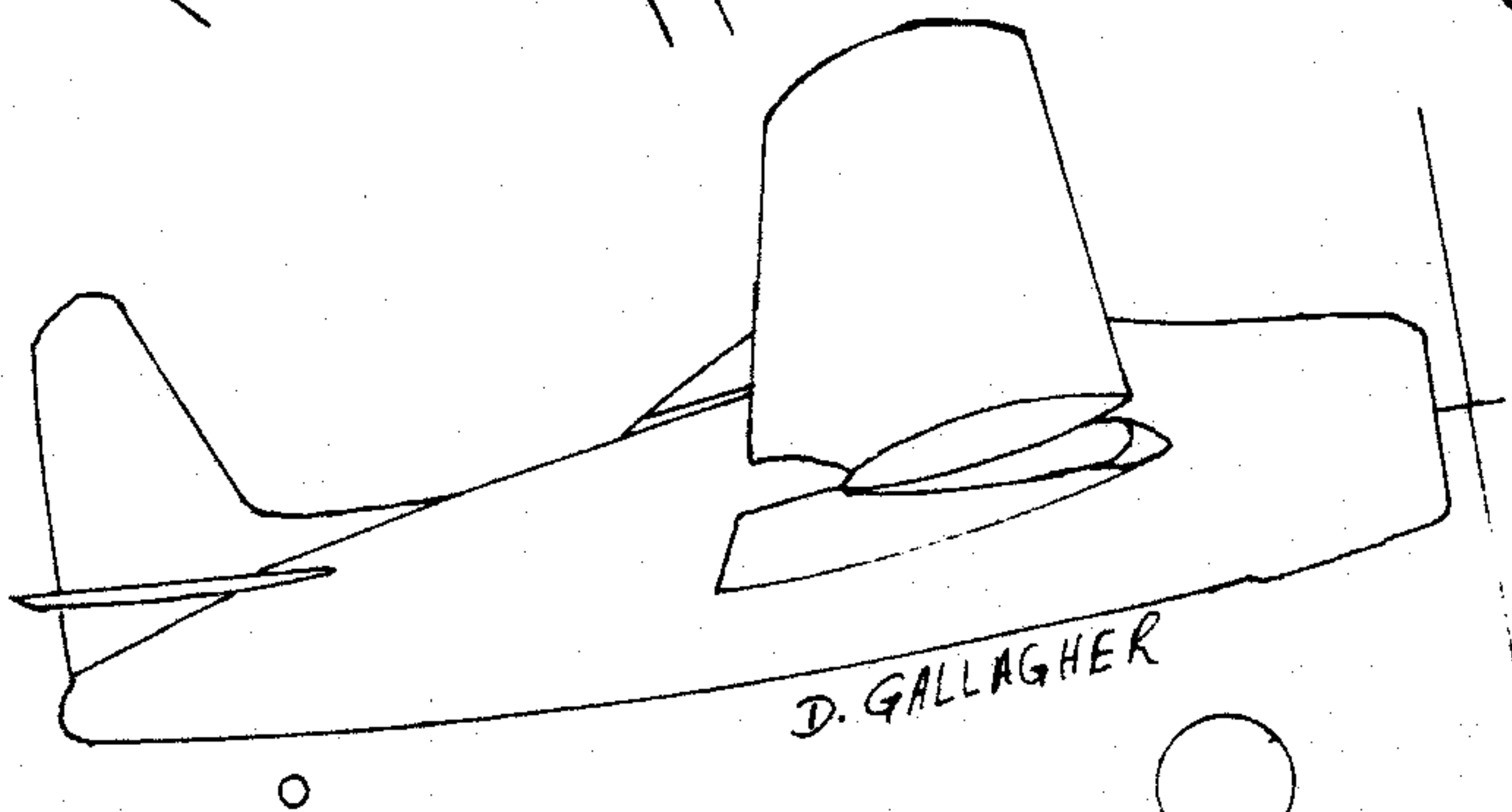
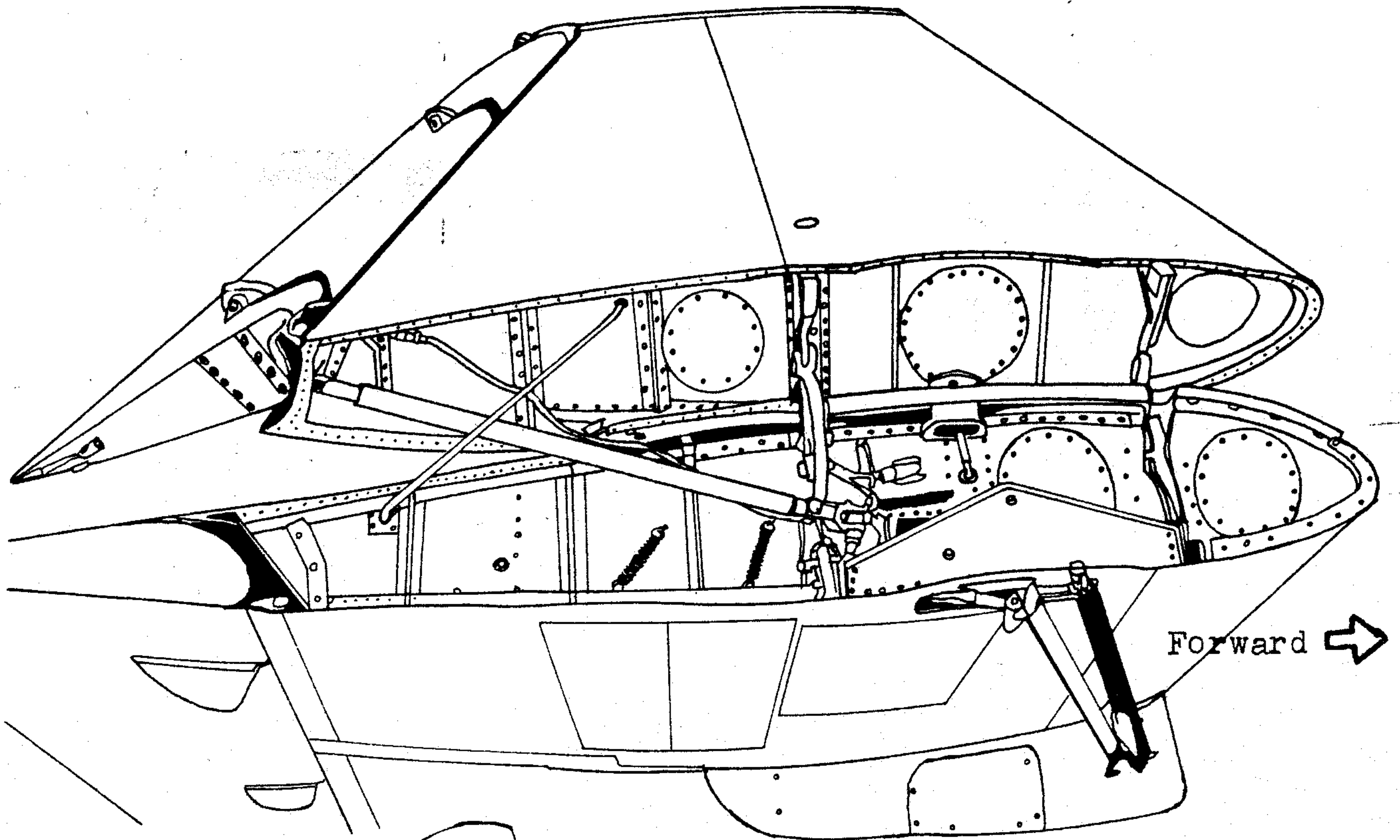
F4U CORSAIR



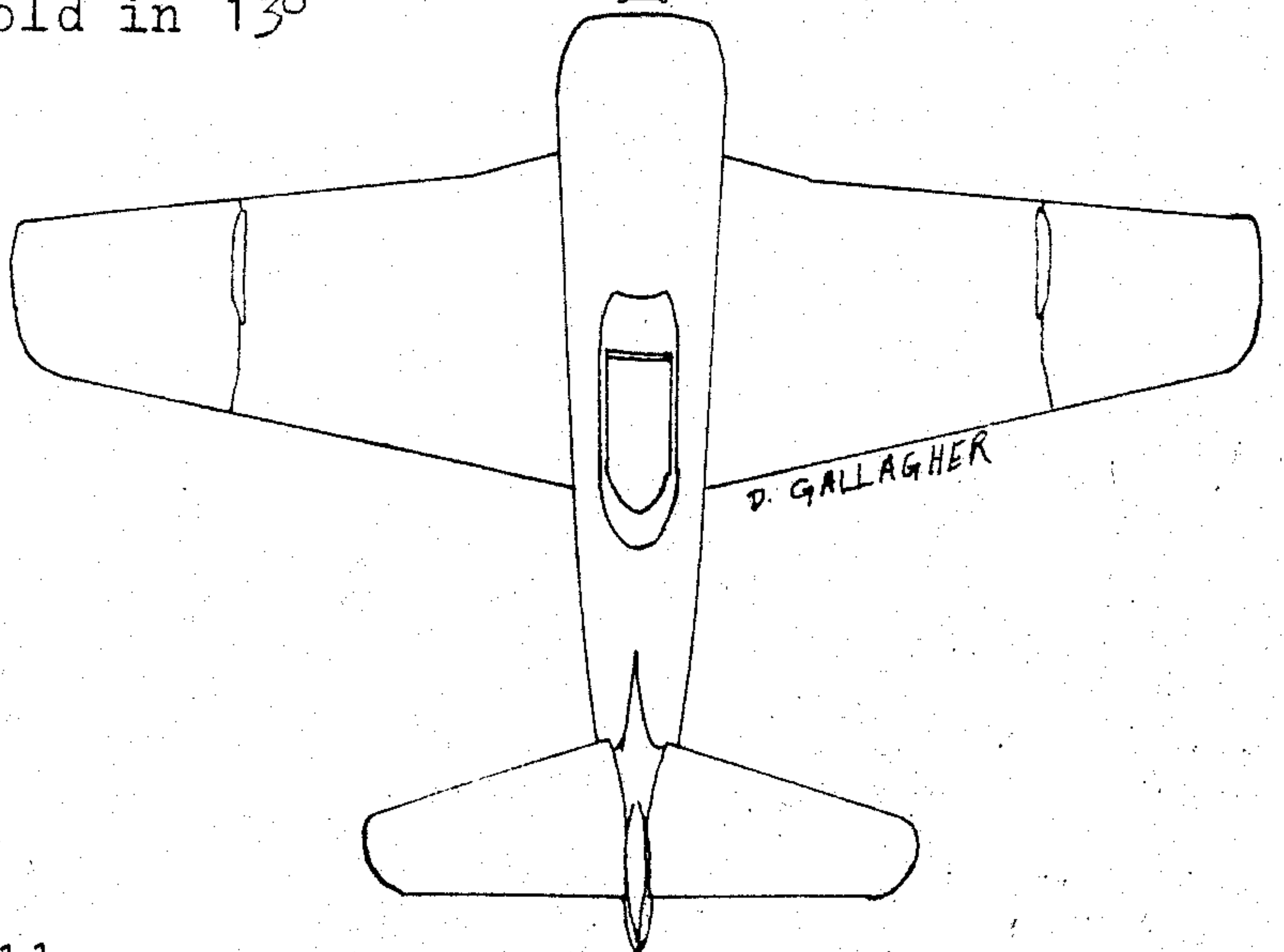
F7F TIGERCAT



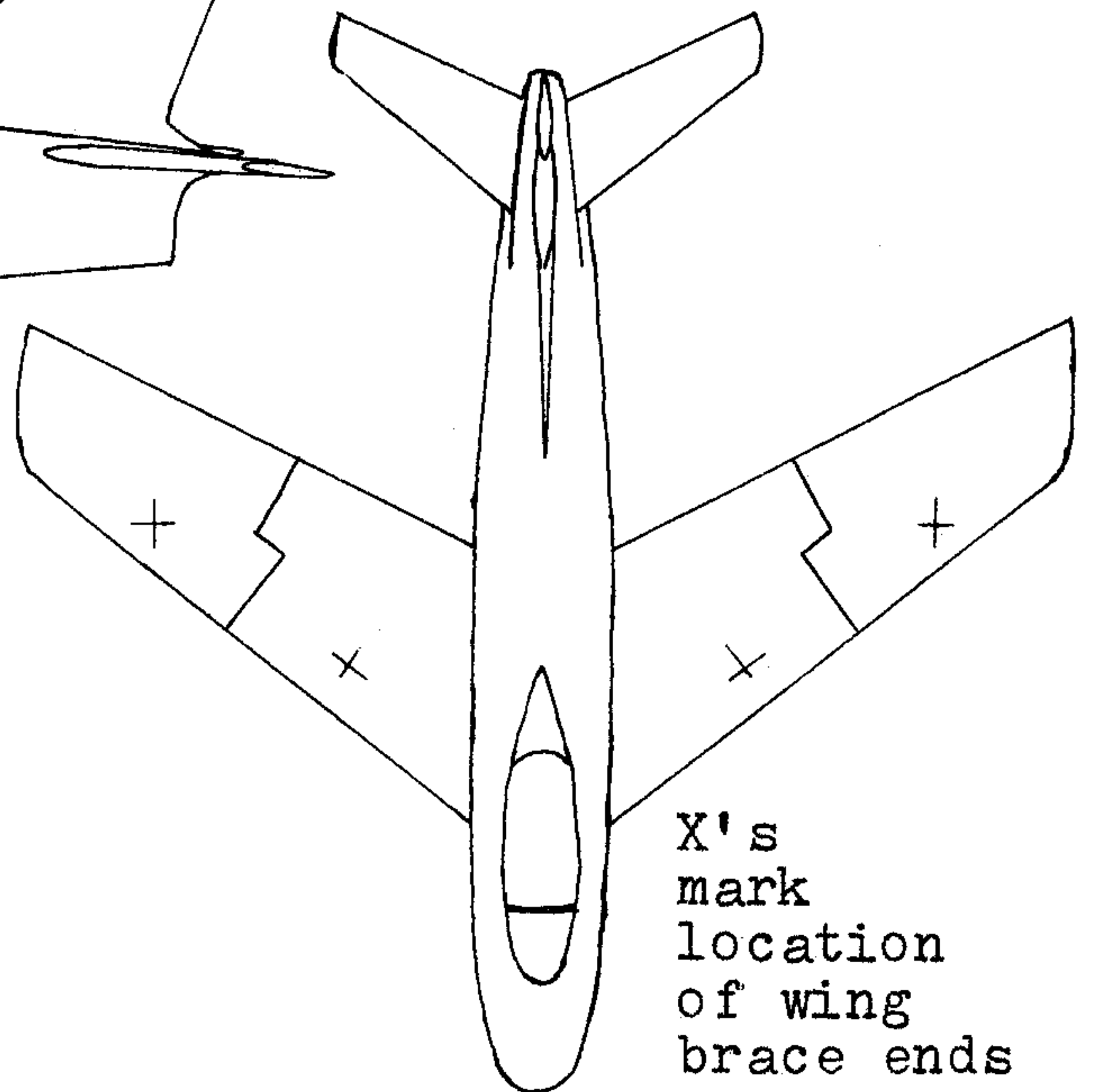
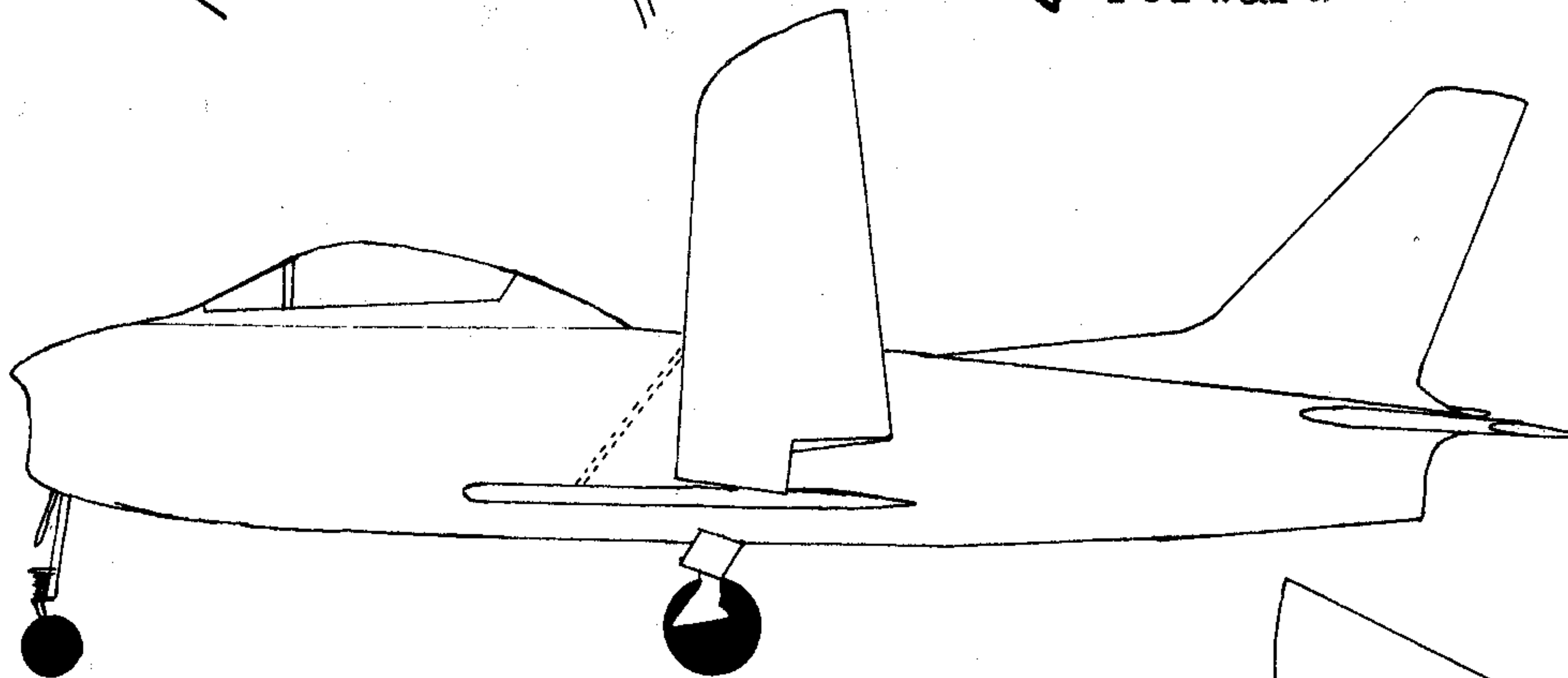
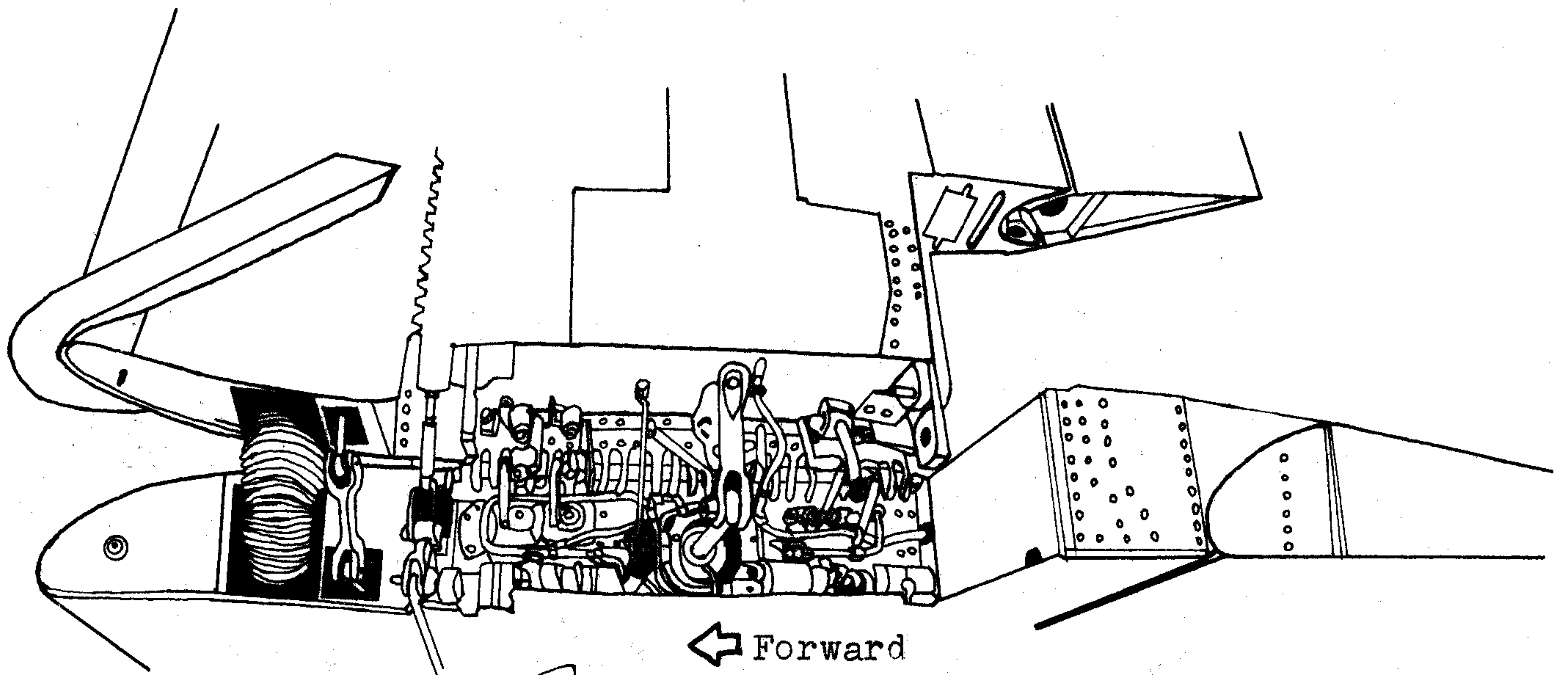
F8F-2 BEARCAT



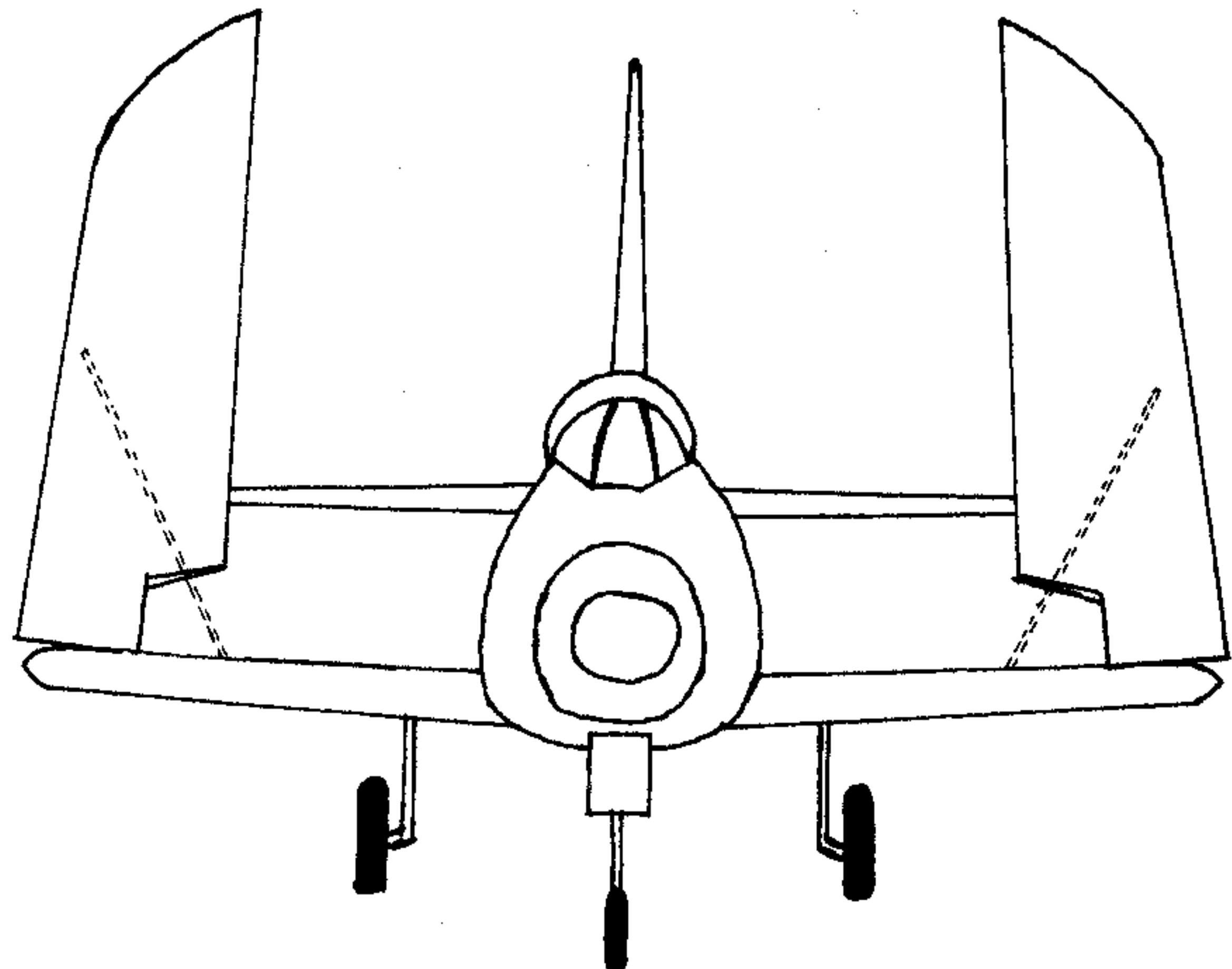
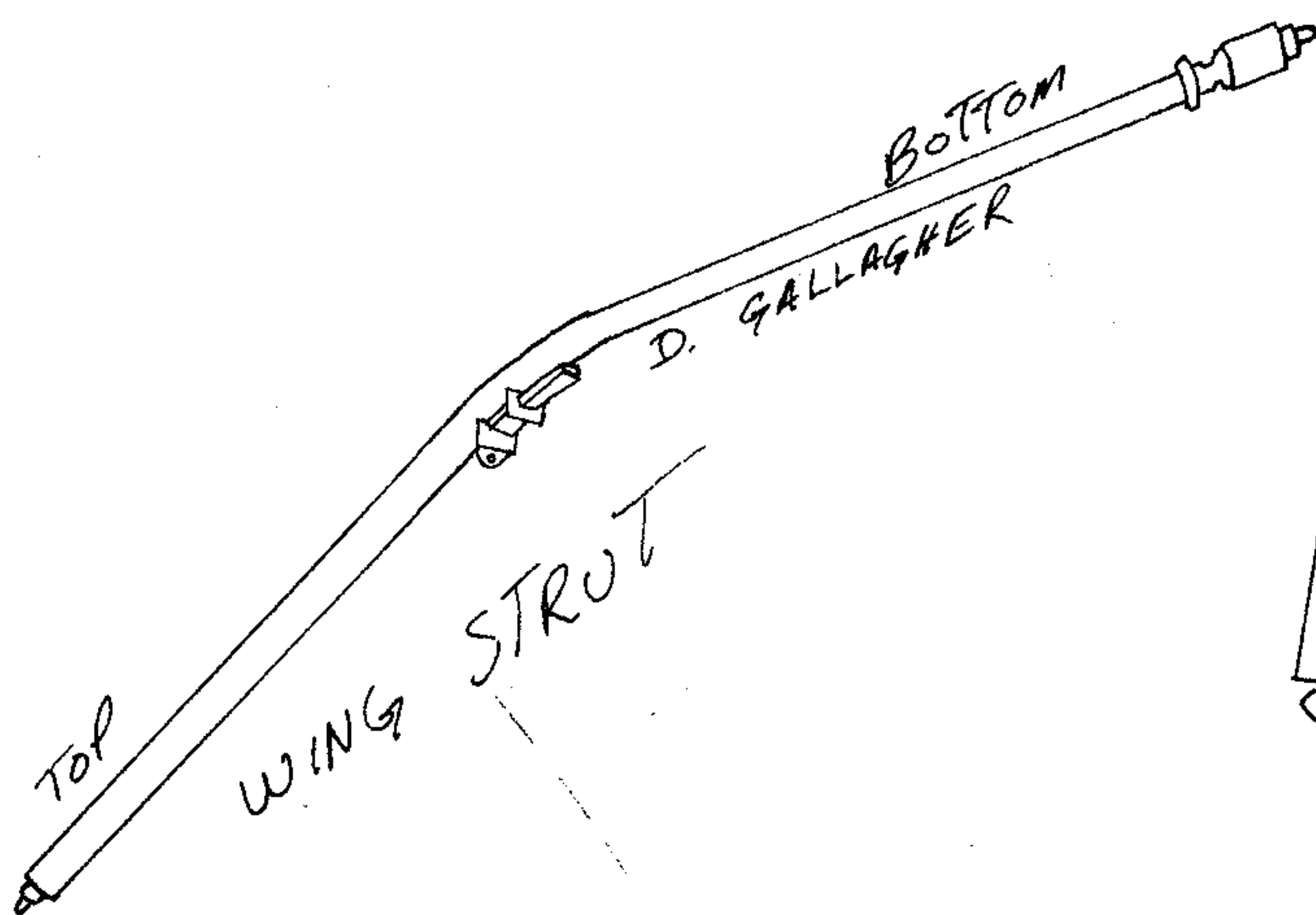
Note that
wingtips
fold in 13°



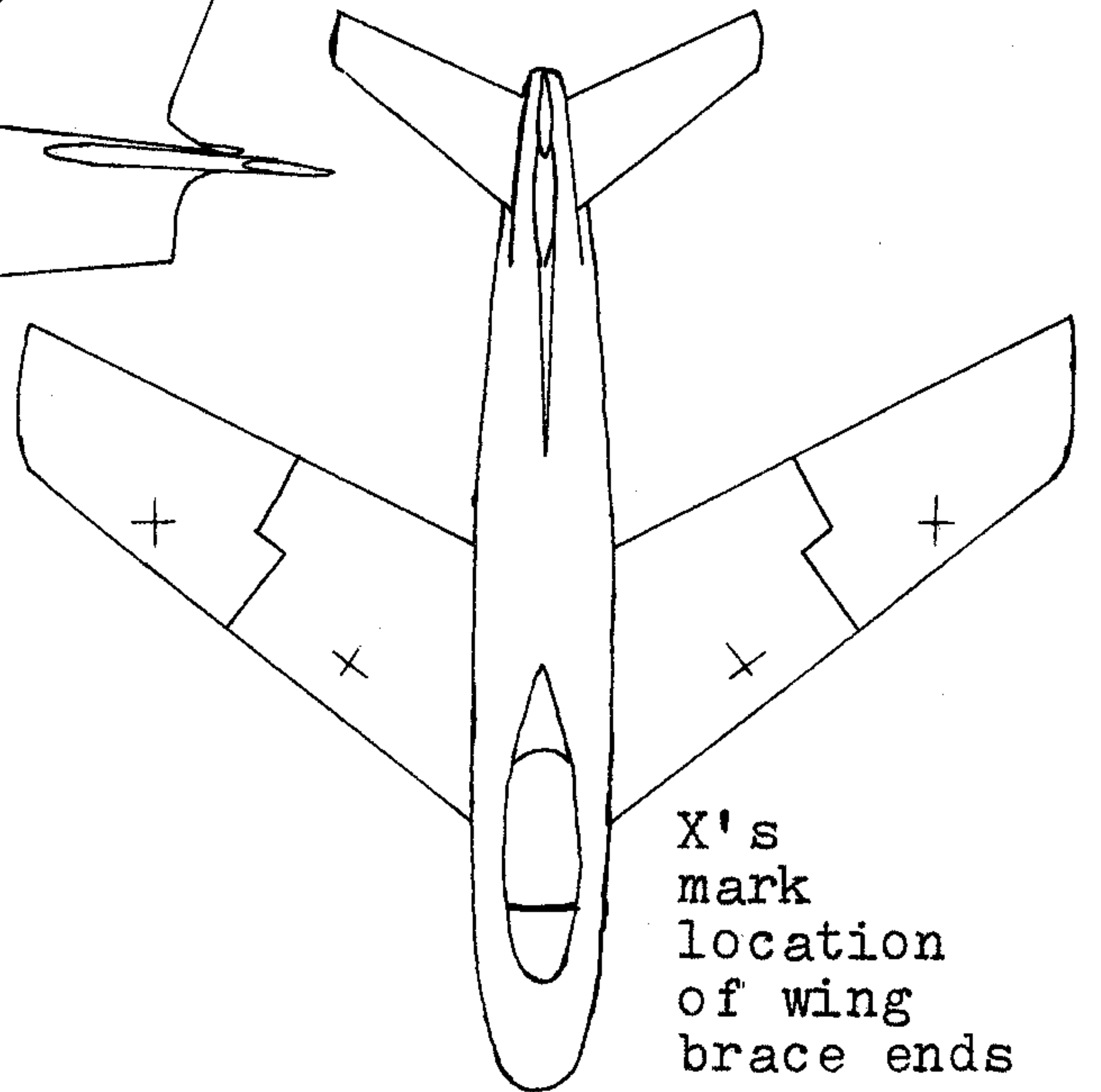
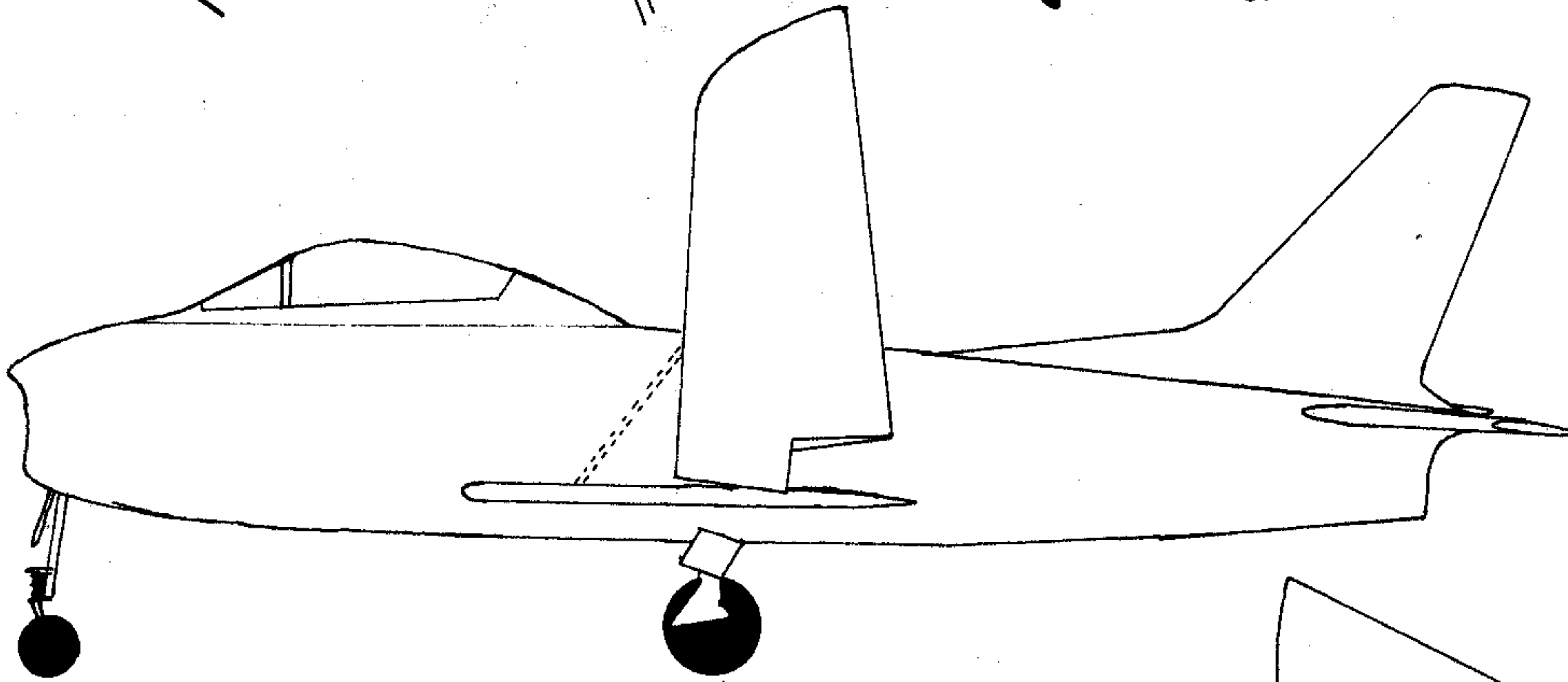
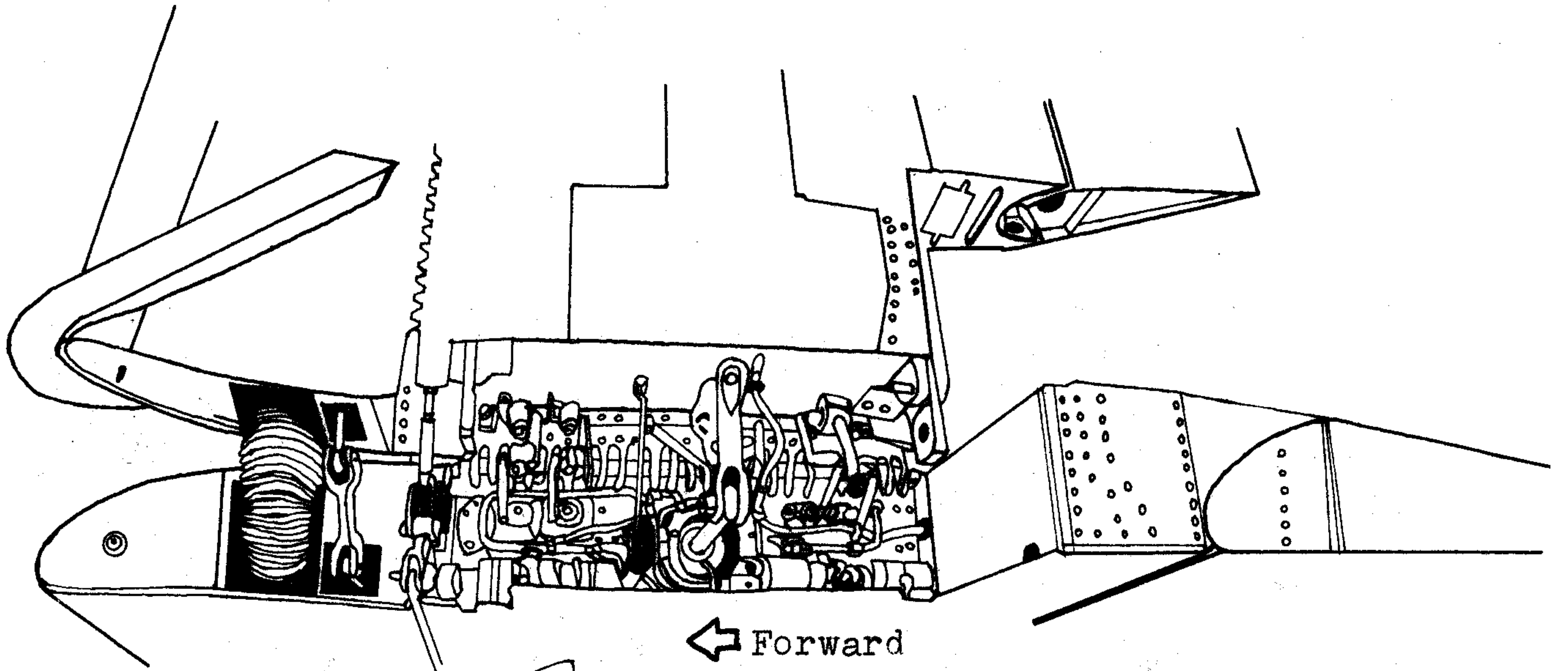
FJ FURY



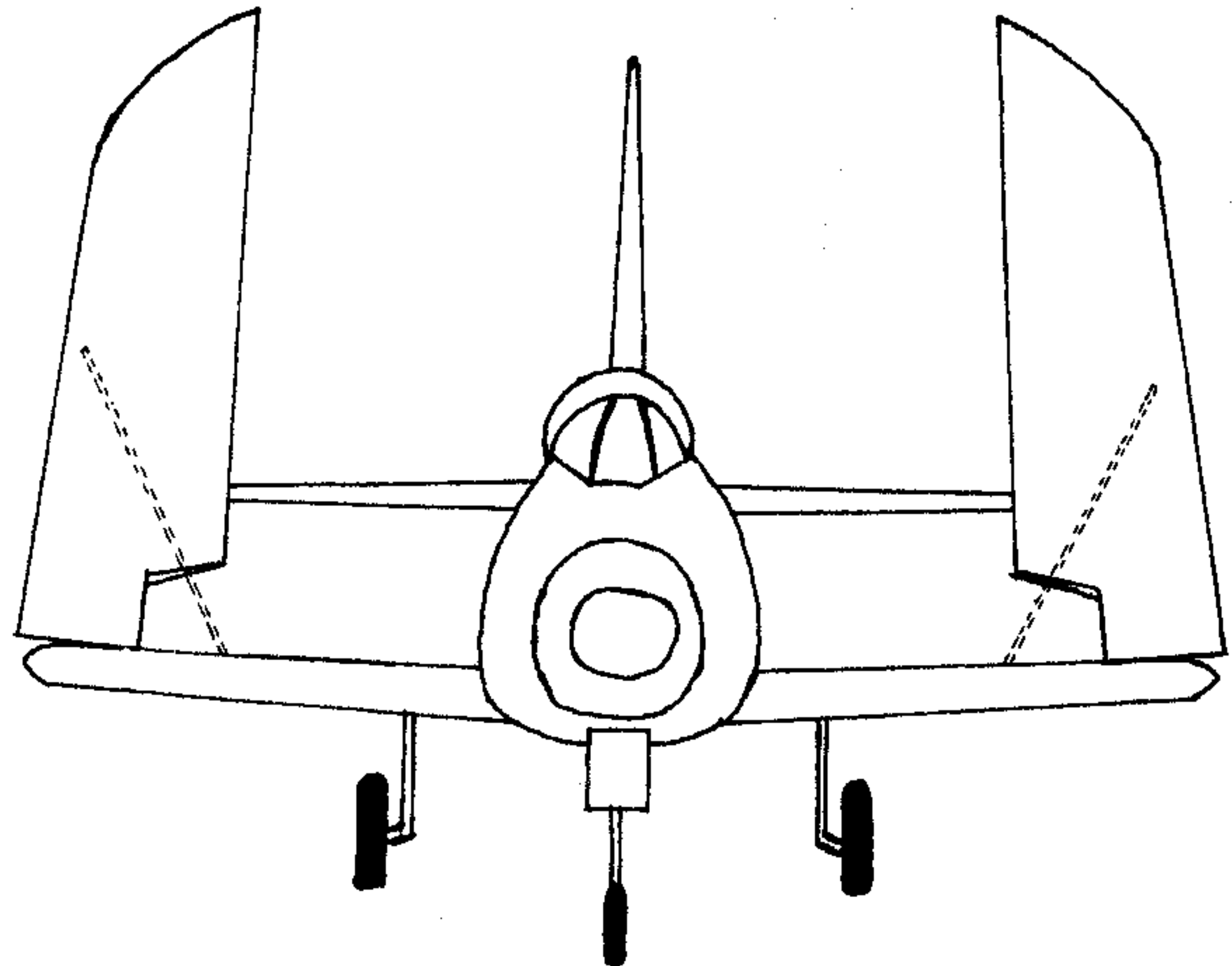
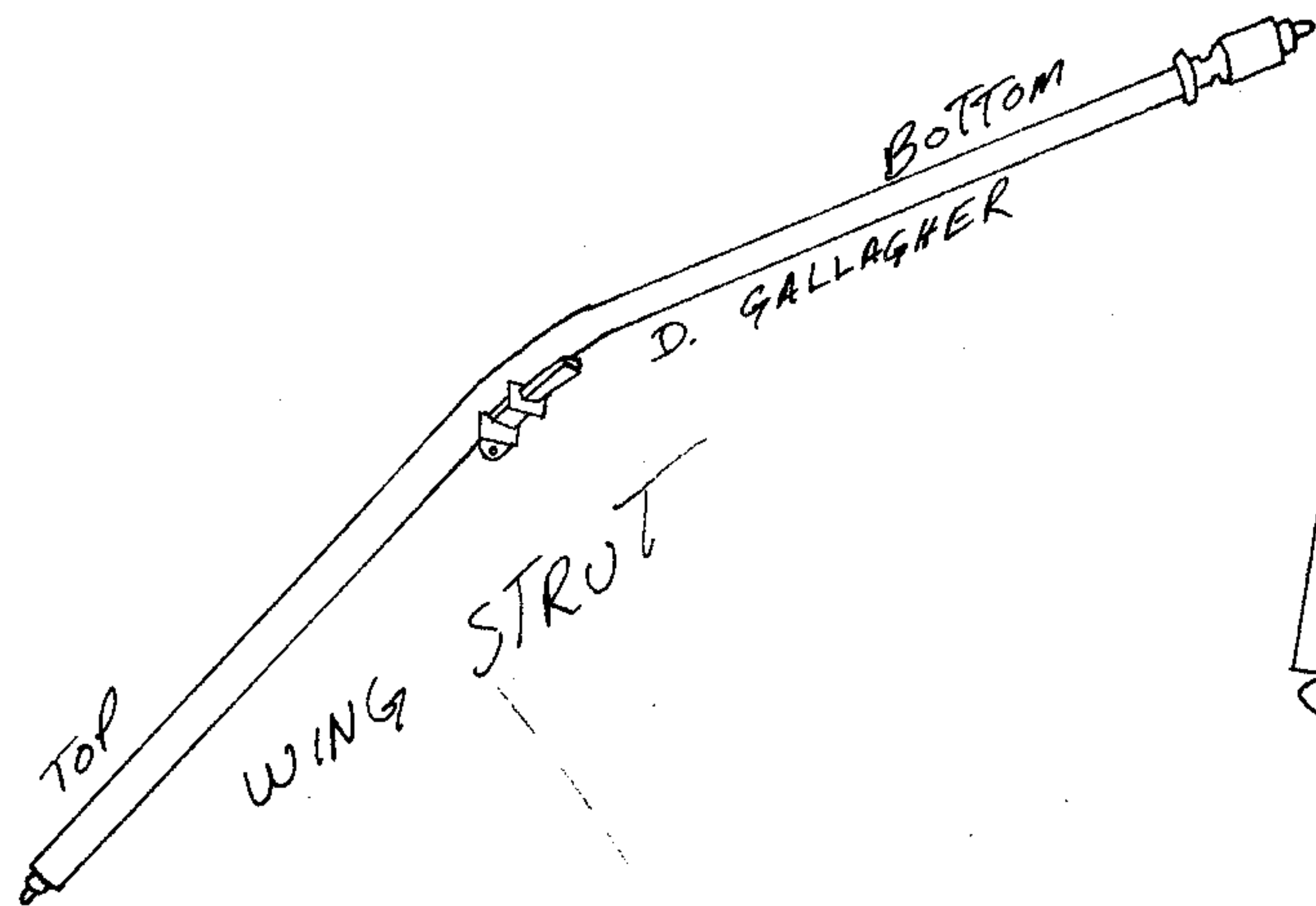
X's
mark
location
of wing
brace ends



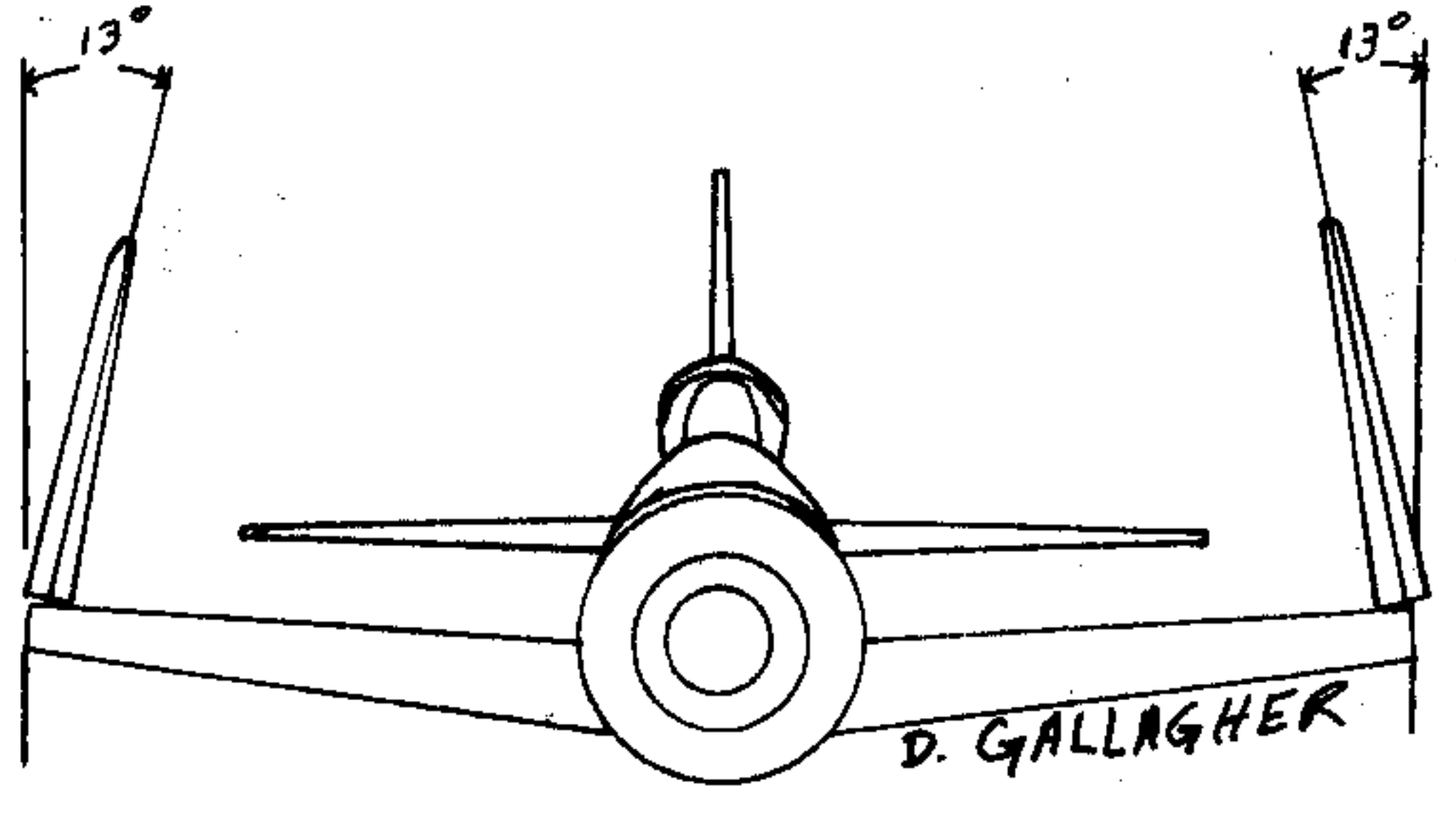
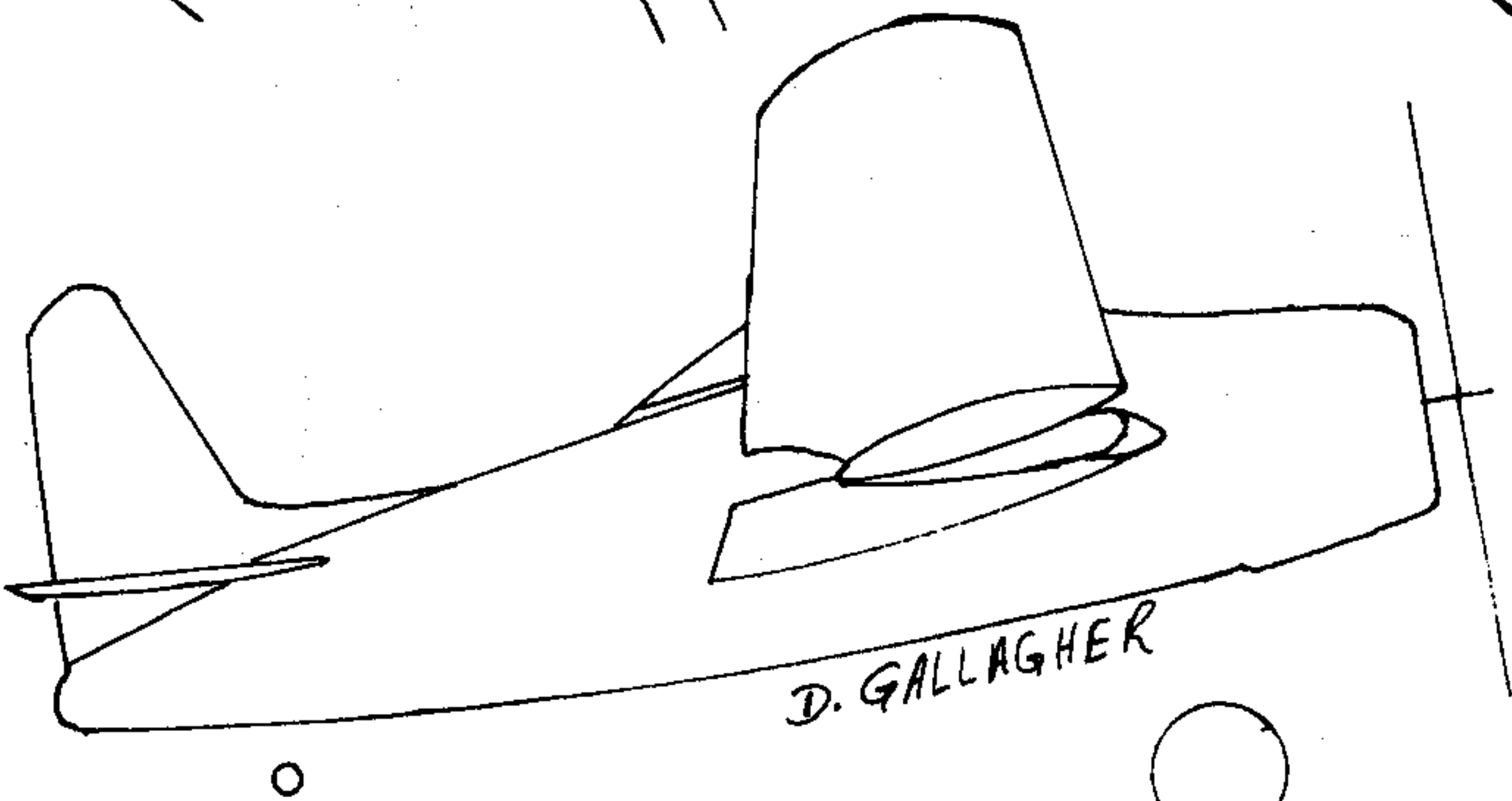
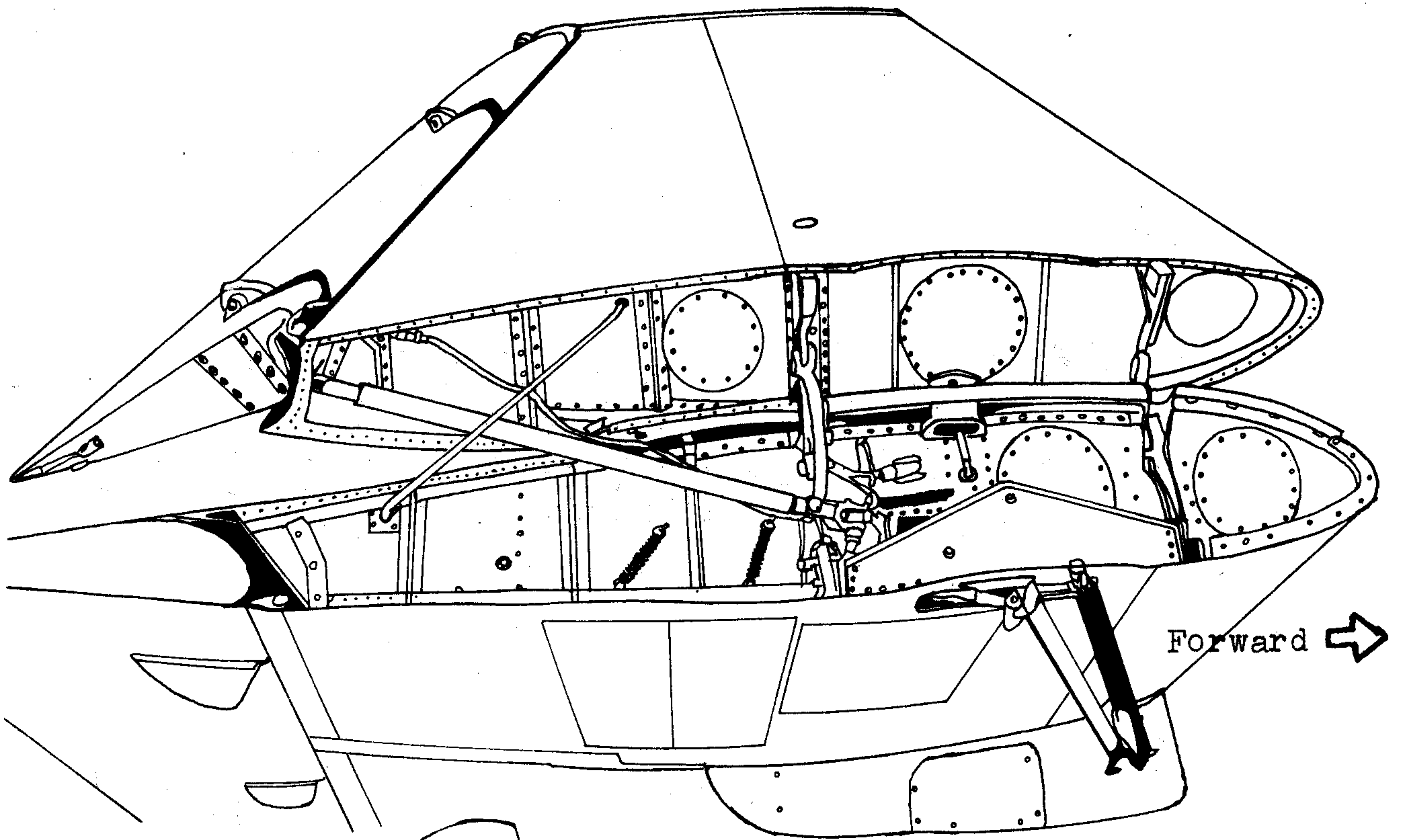
FJ FURY



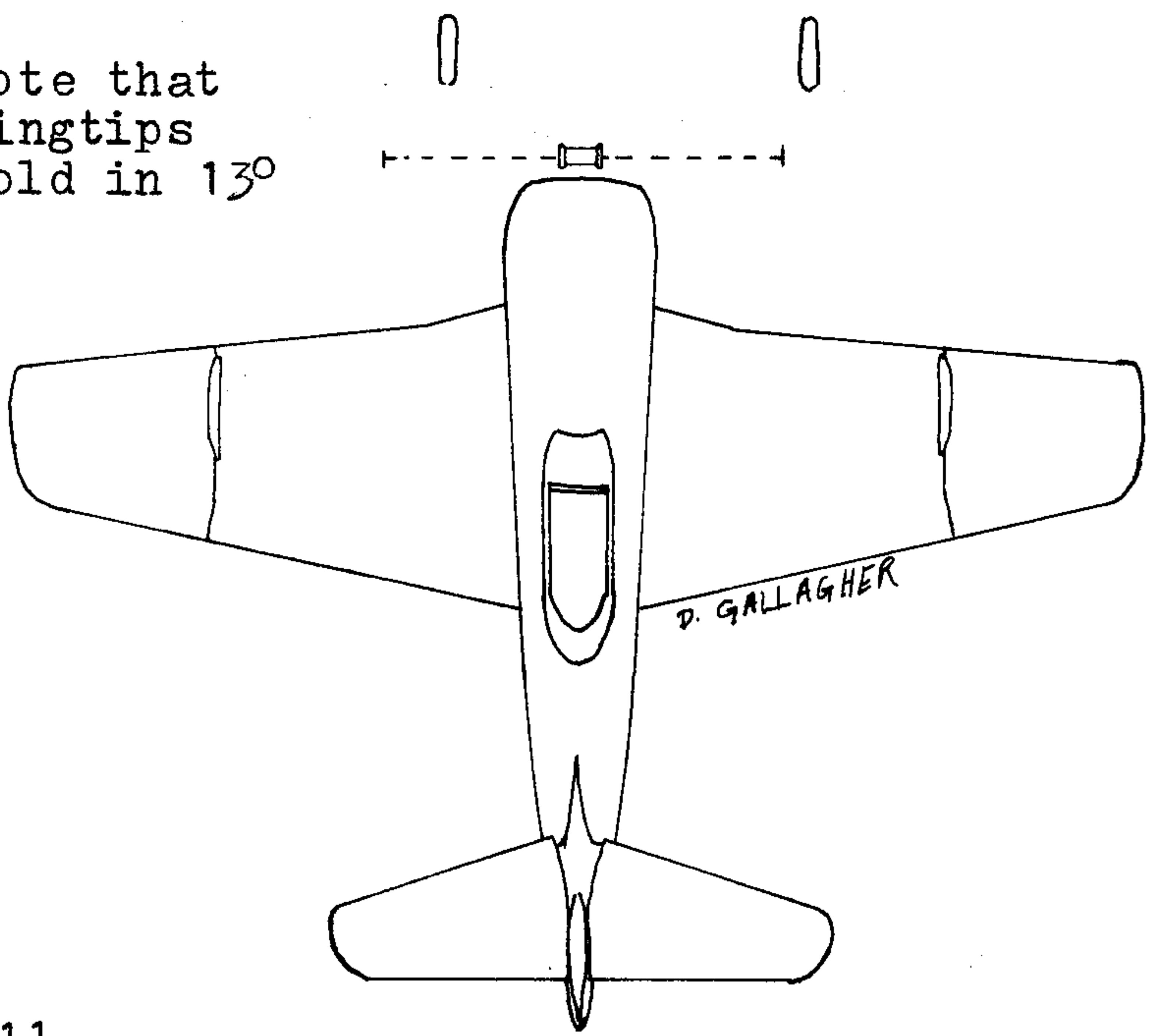
X's
mark
location
of wing
brace ends



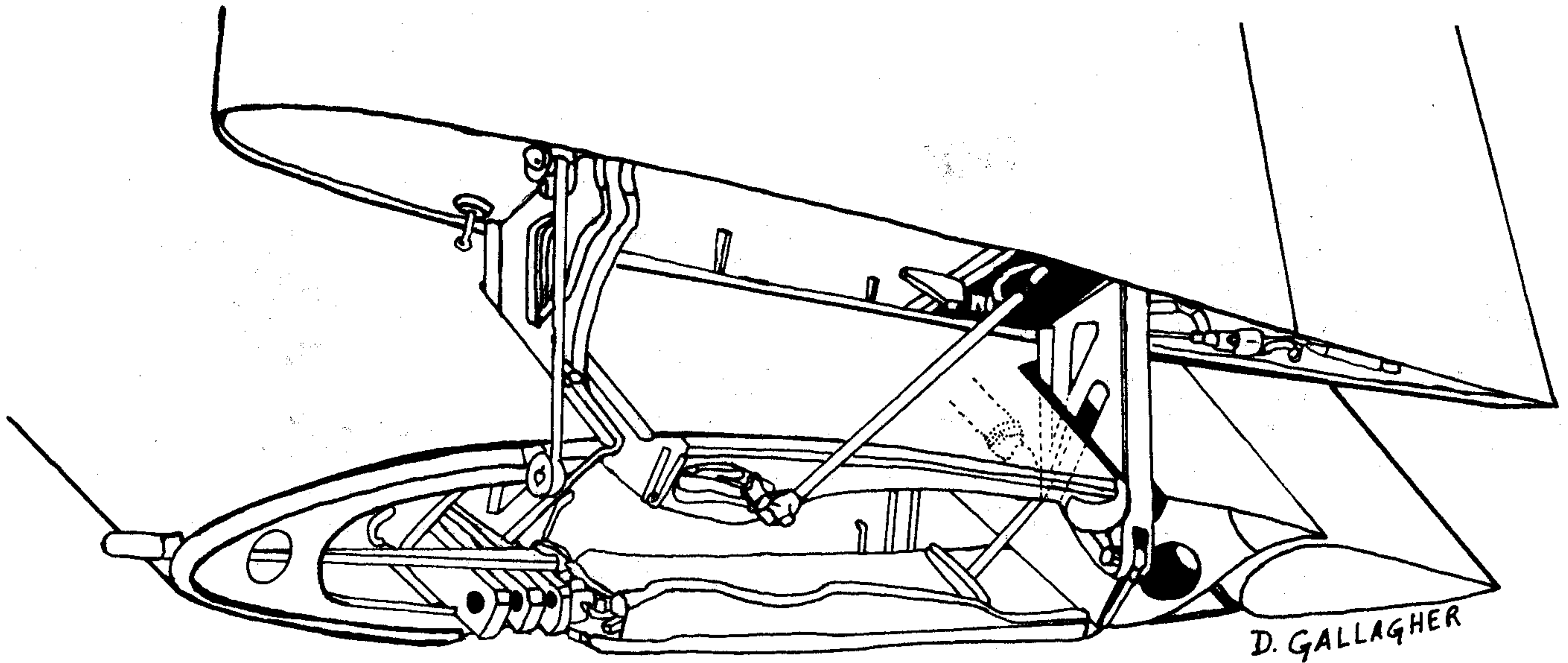
F8F-2 BEARCAT



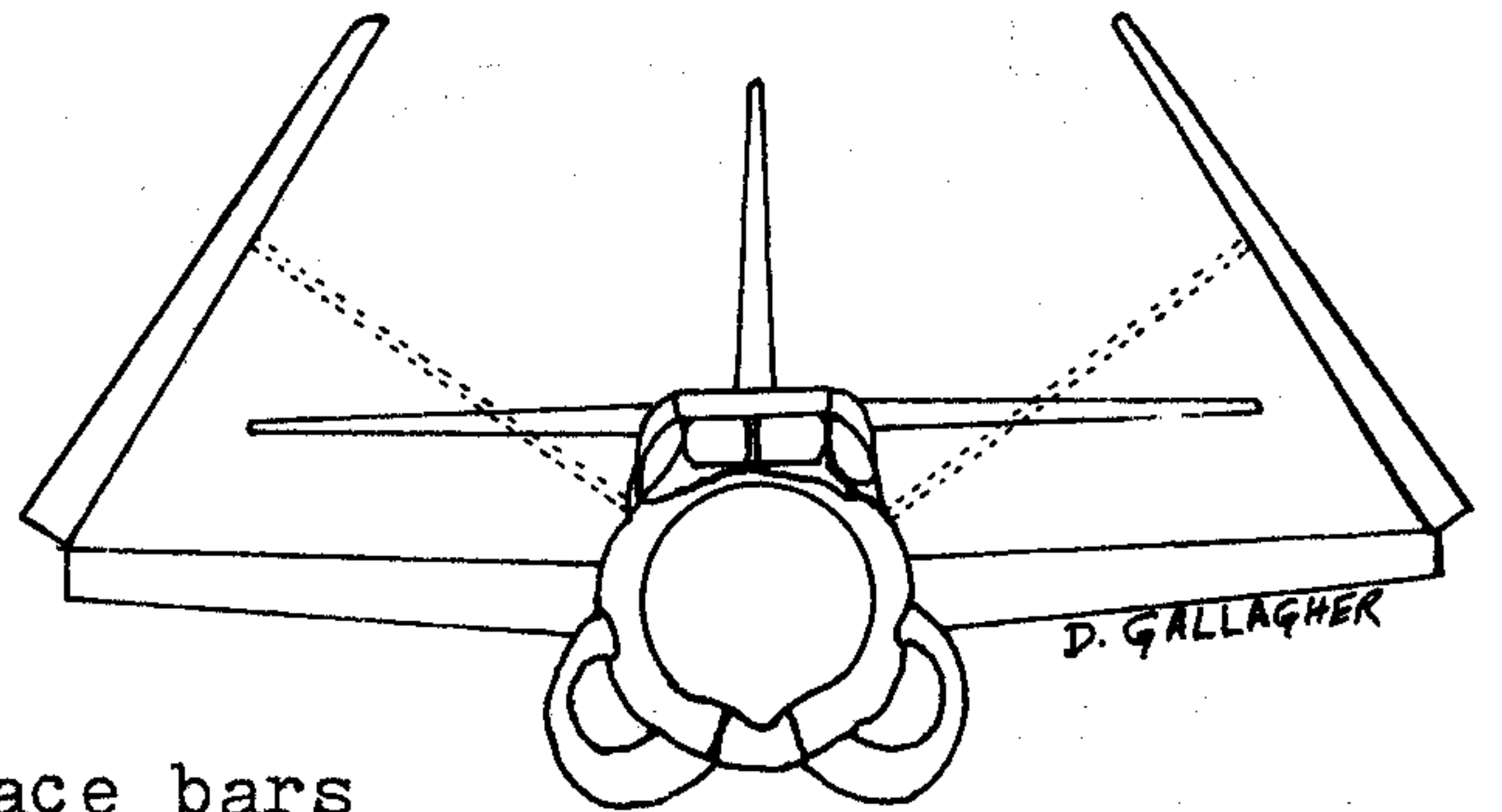
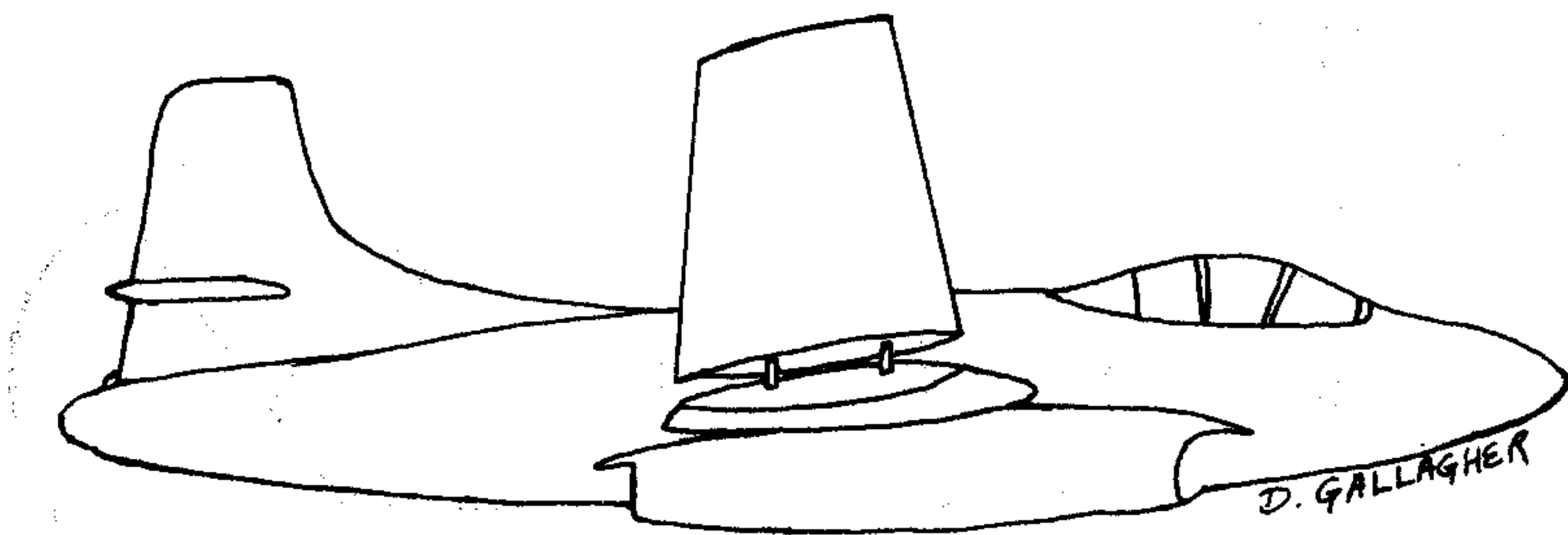
Note that
wingtips
fold in 13°



F-3D SKYKNIGHT



Forward

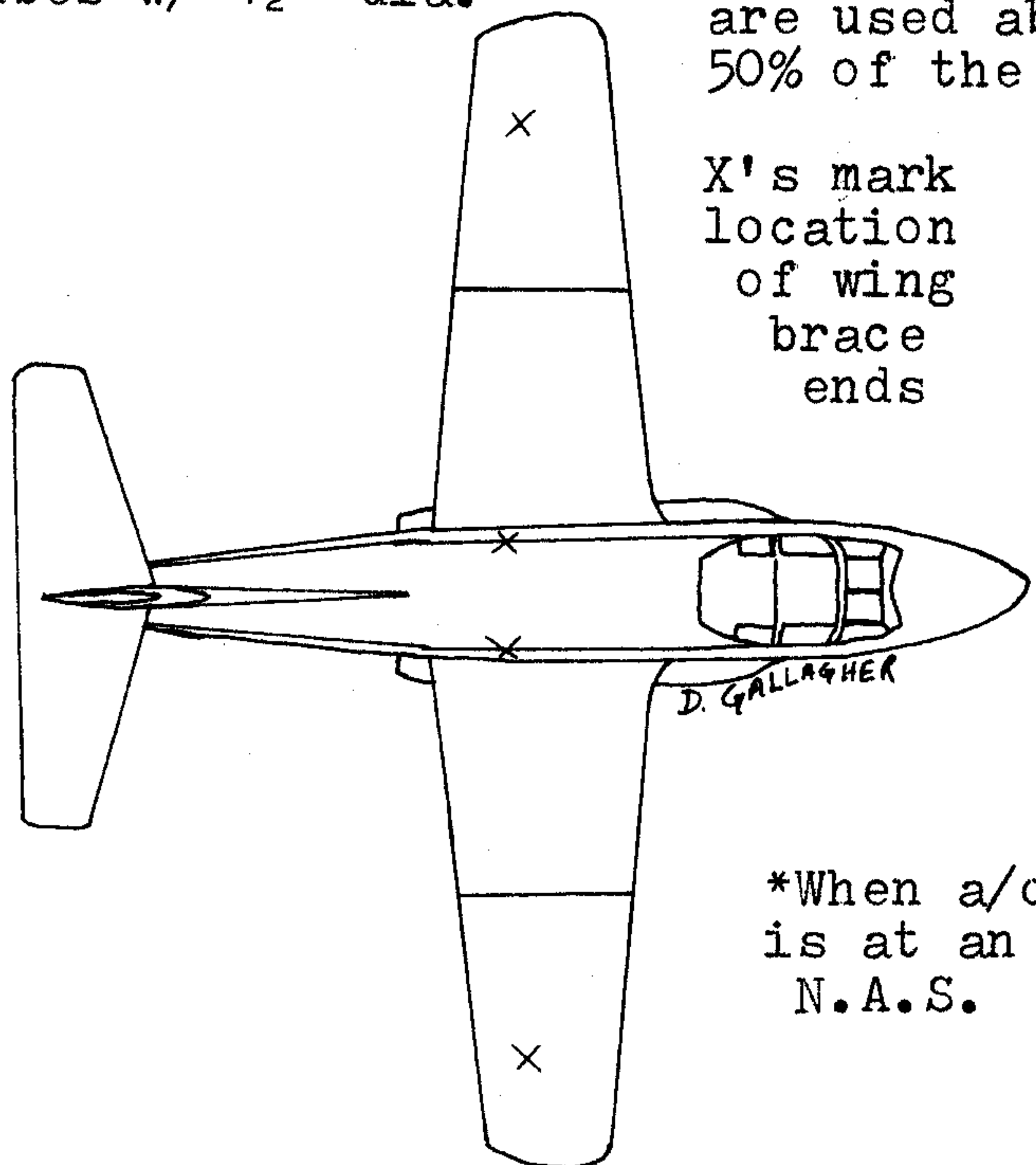


Wing brace bars
are simple straight
tubes w/ 1½" dia.

Wing braces
are used about
50% of the time*

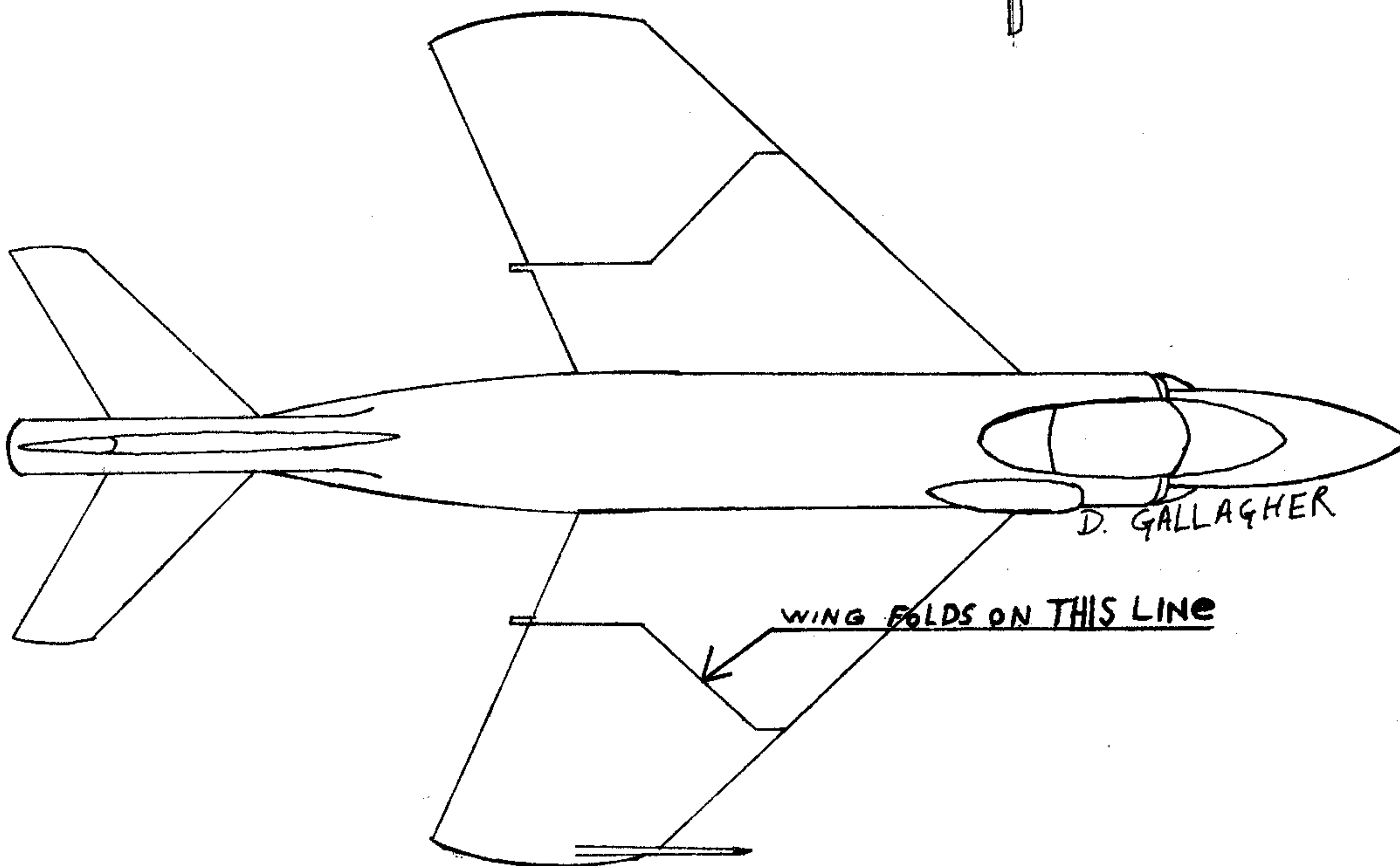
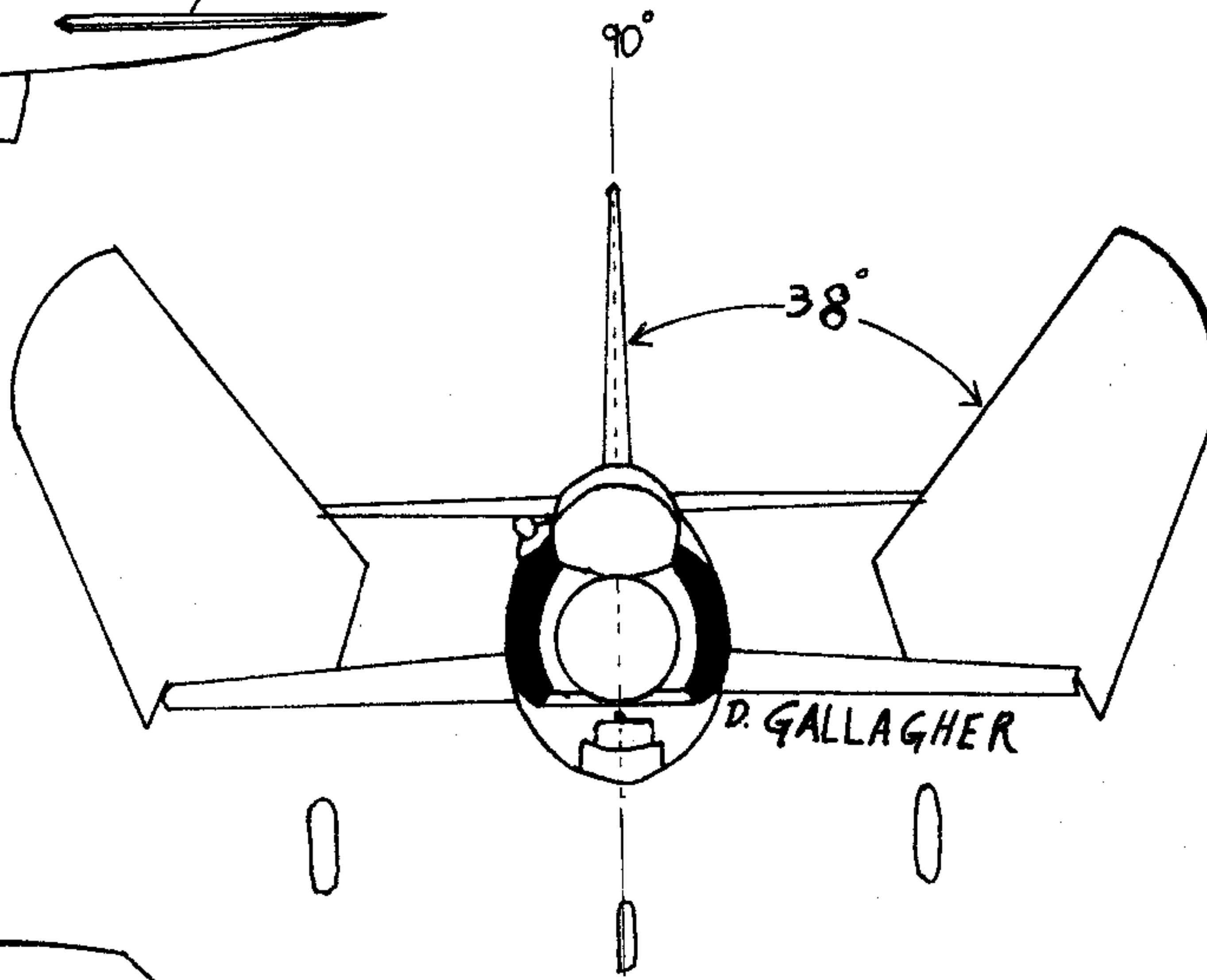
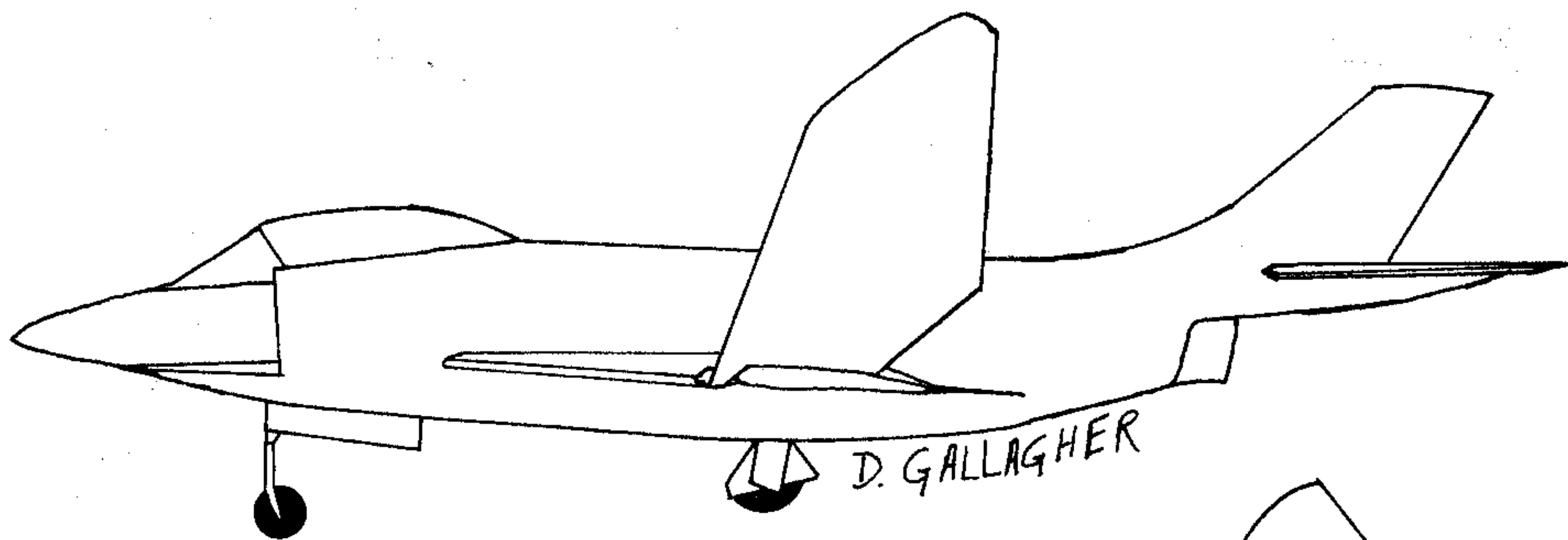
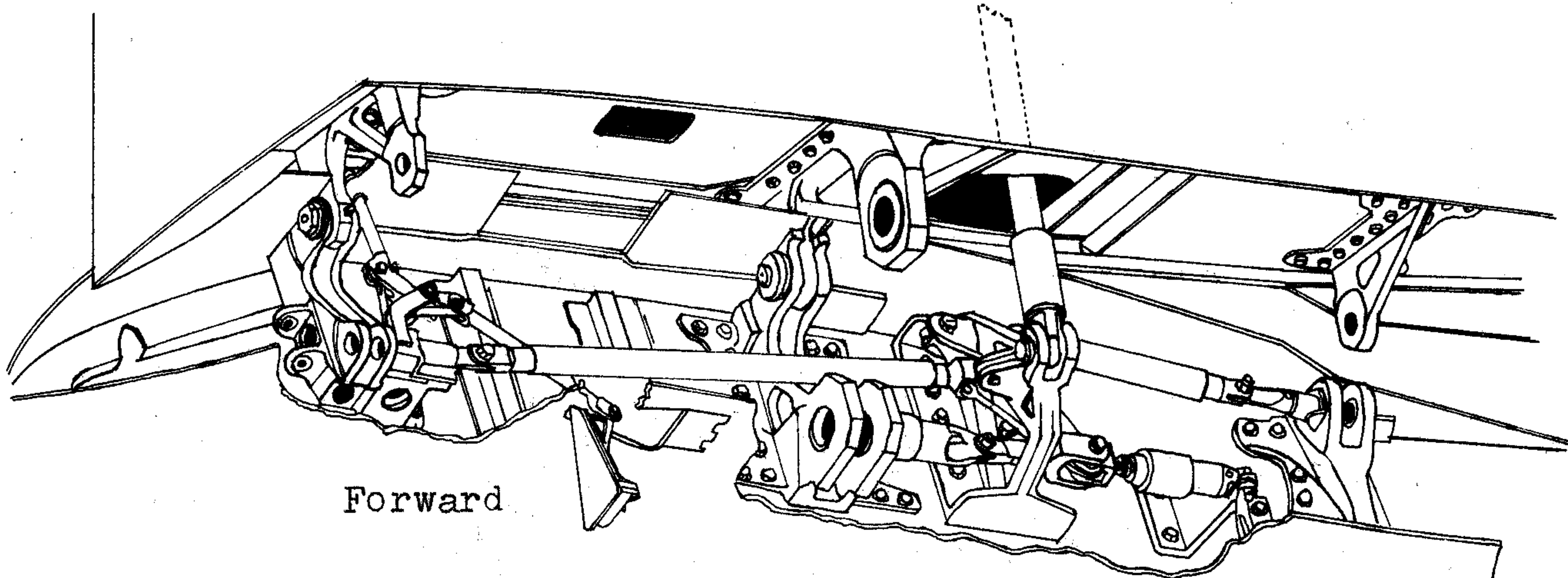
X's mark
location
of wing
brace
ends

wingspan: 50'0"
wingspan(folded): 26'10"
height: 16'1"
height(wings folded): 16'6"

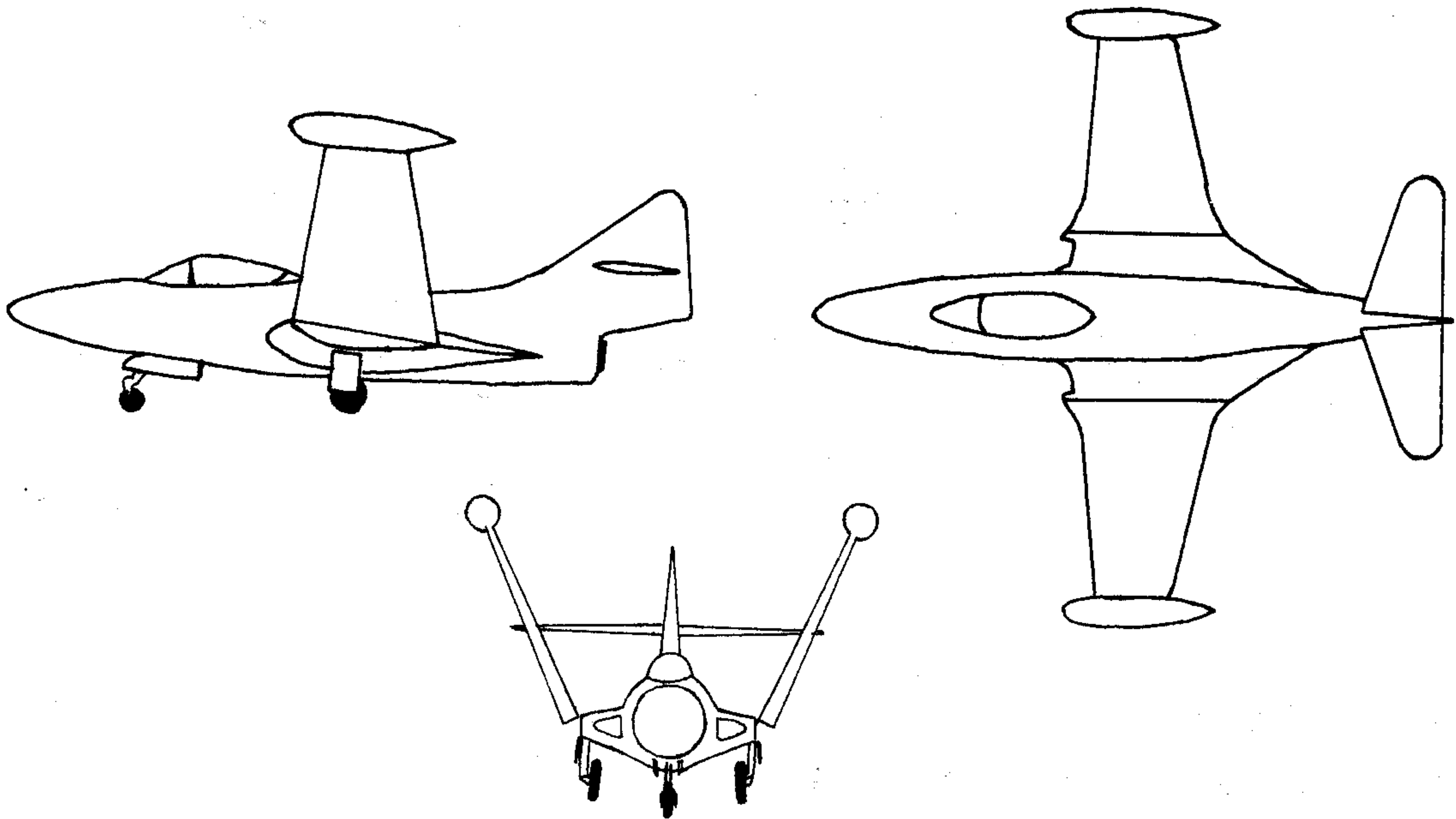
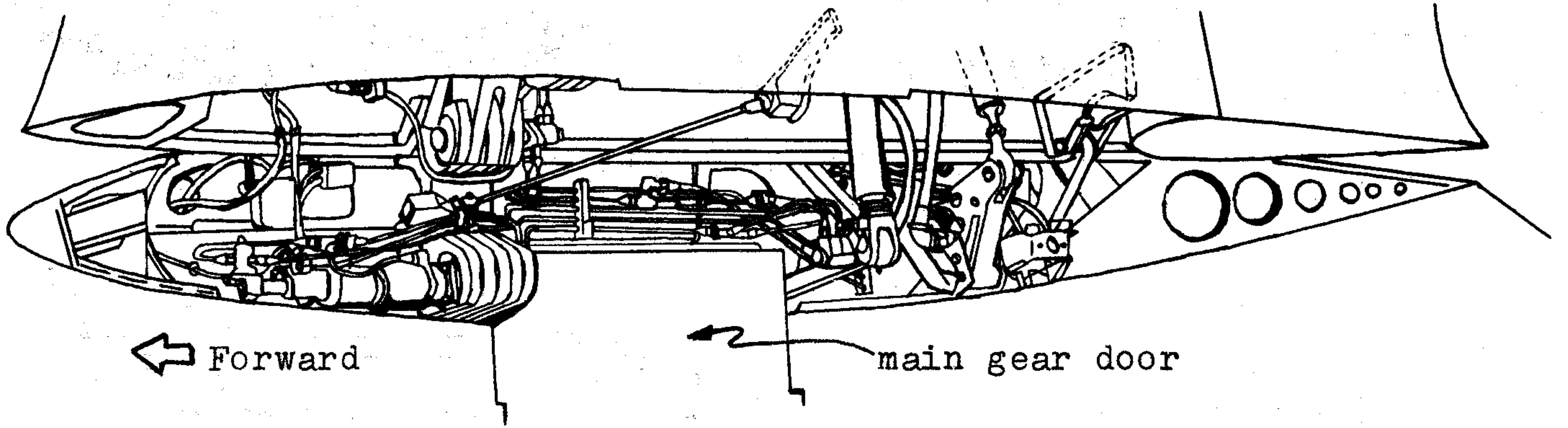


*When a/c
is at an
N.A.S.

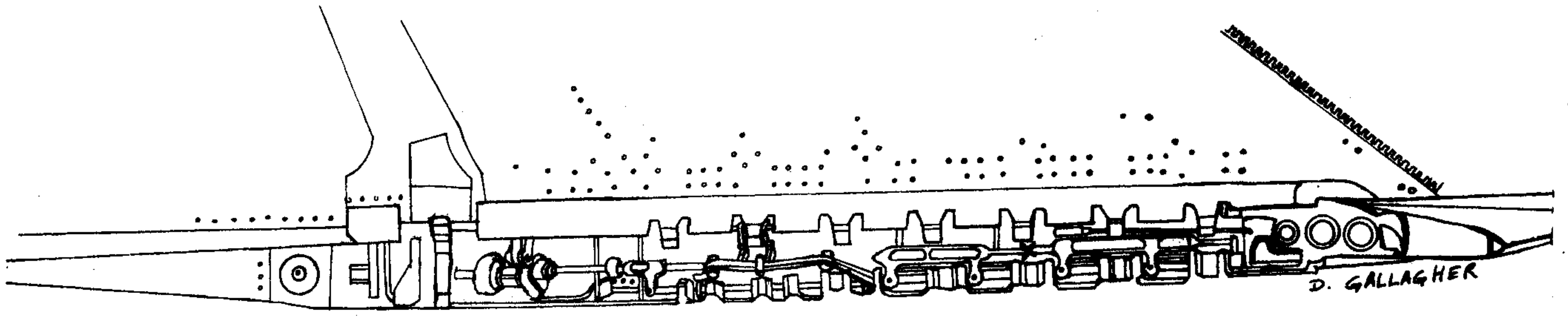
F-3H DEMON



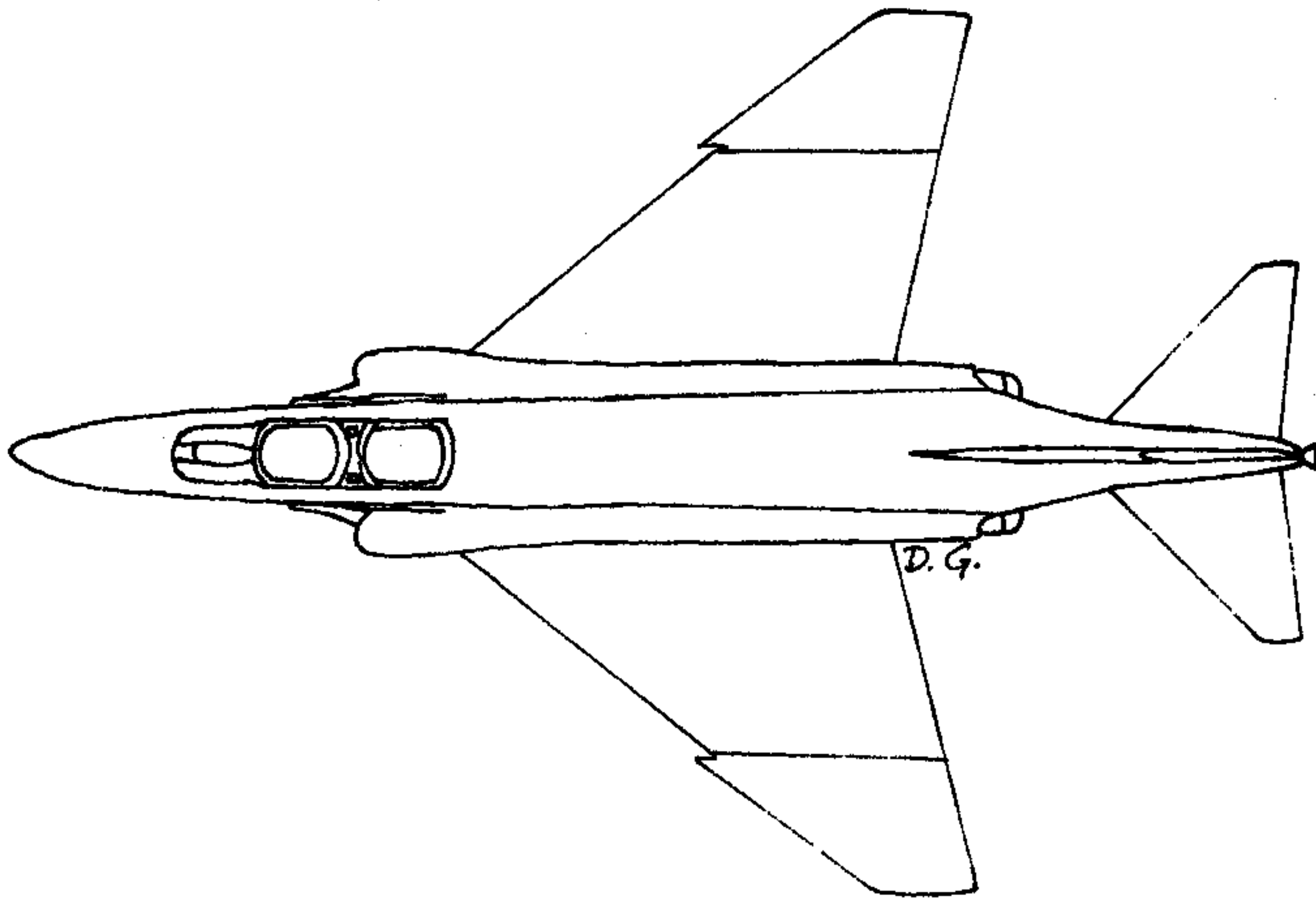
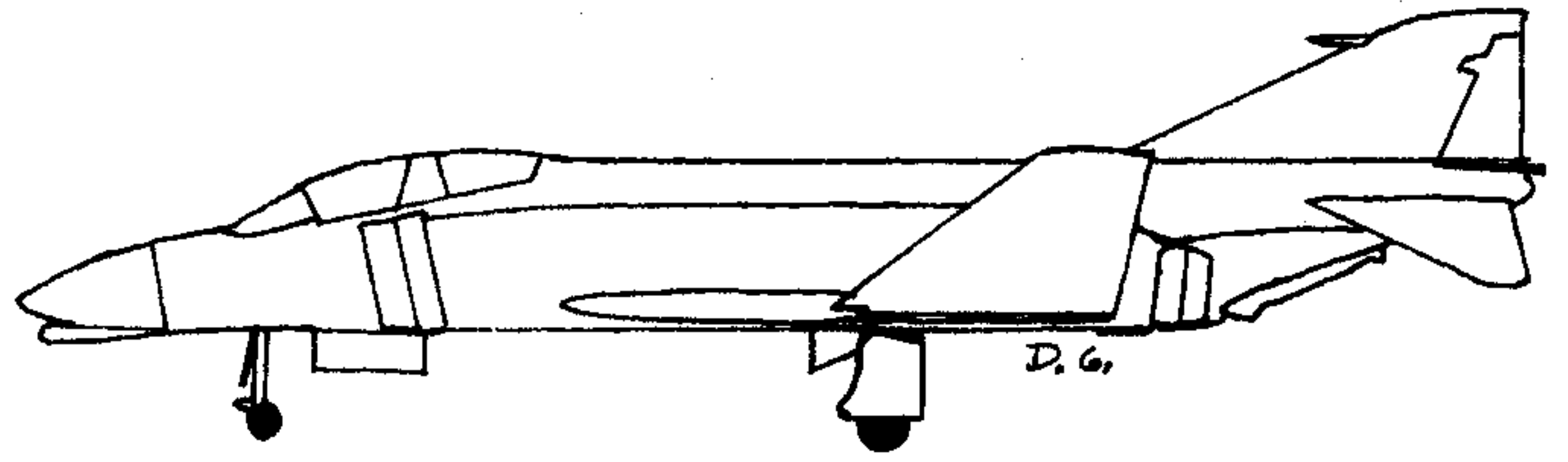
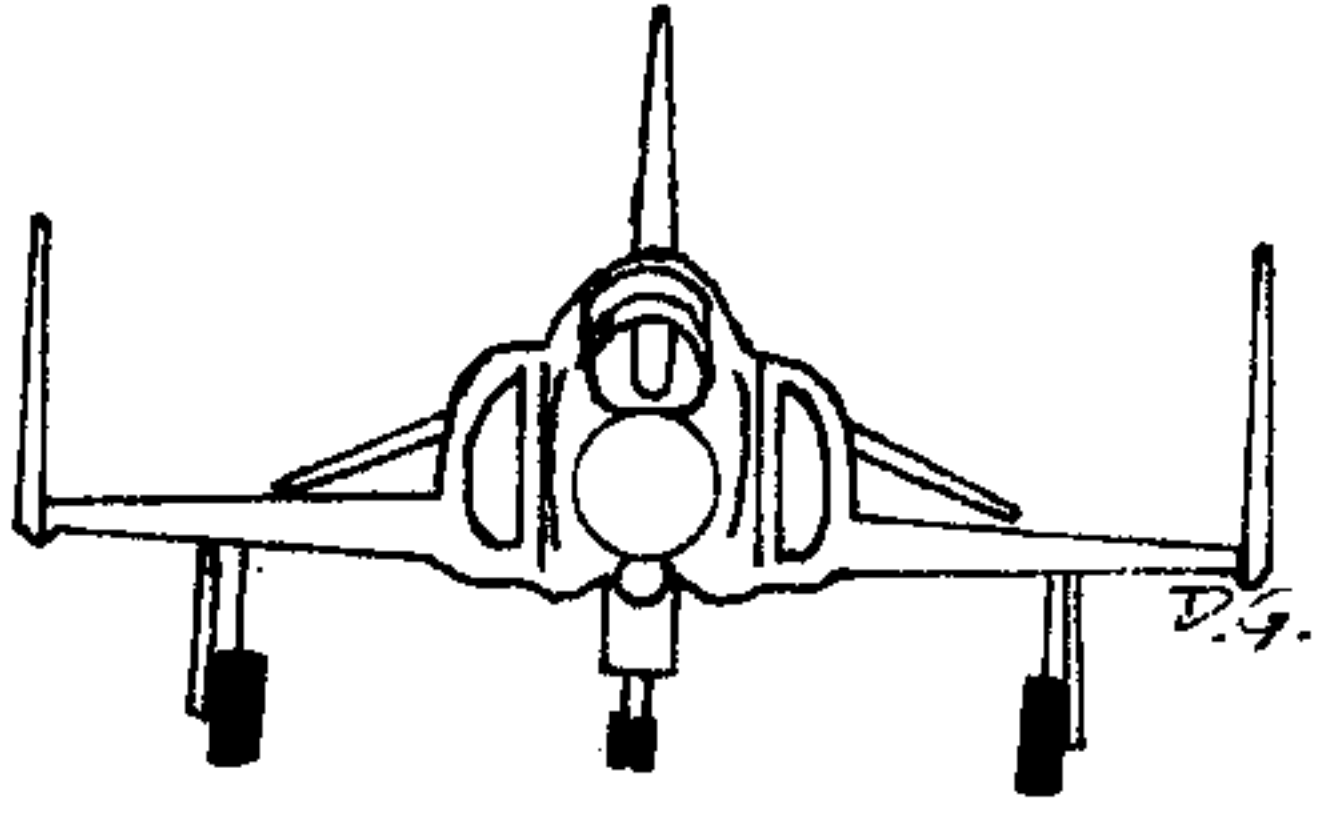
F-9 PANTHER



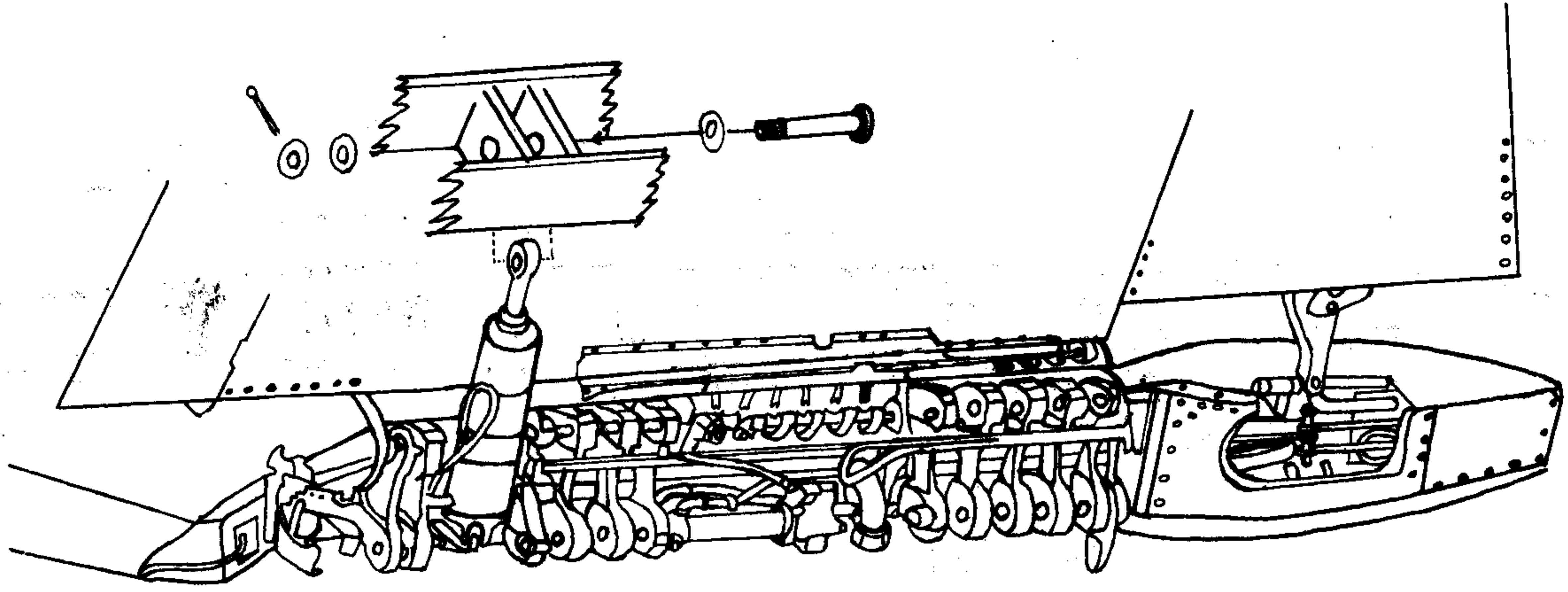
F-4 PHANTOM



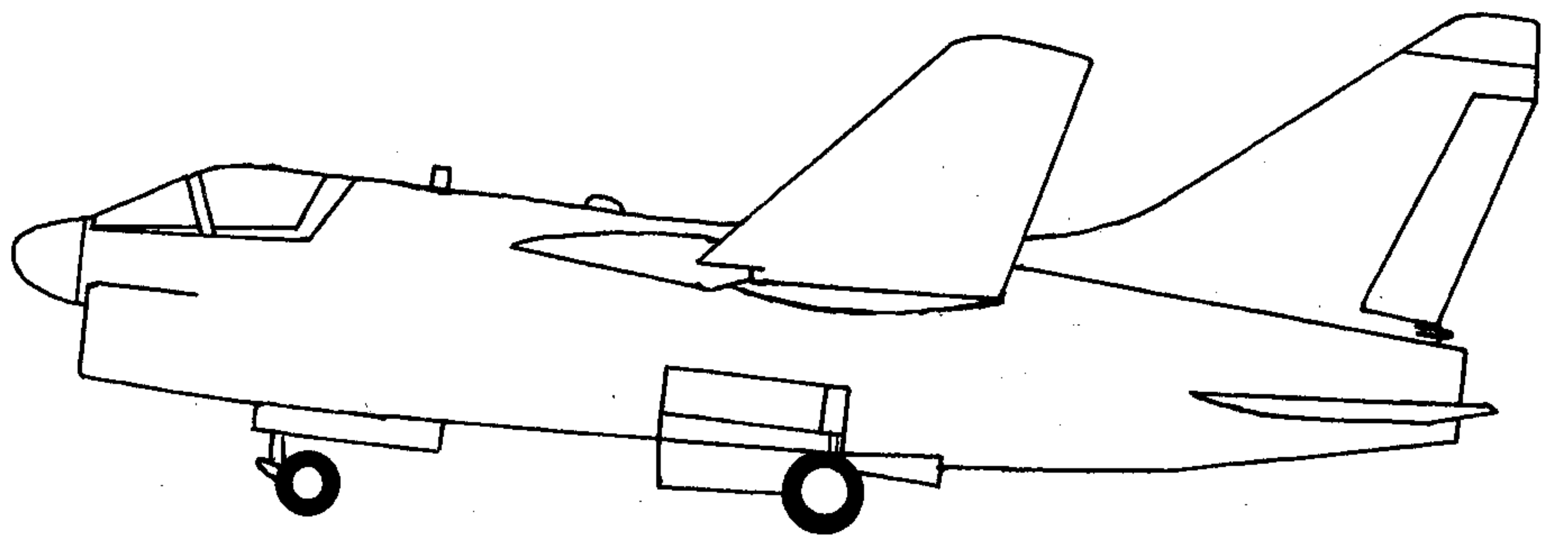
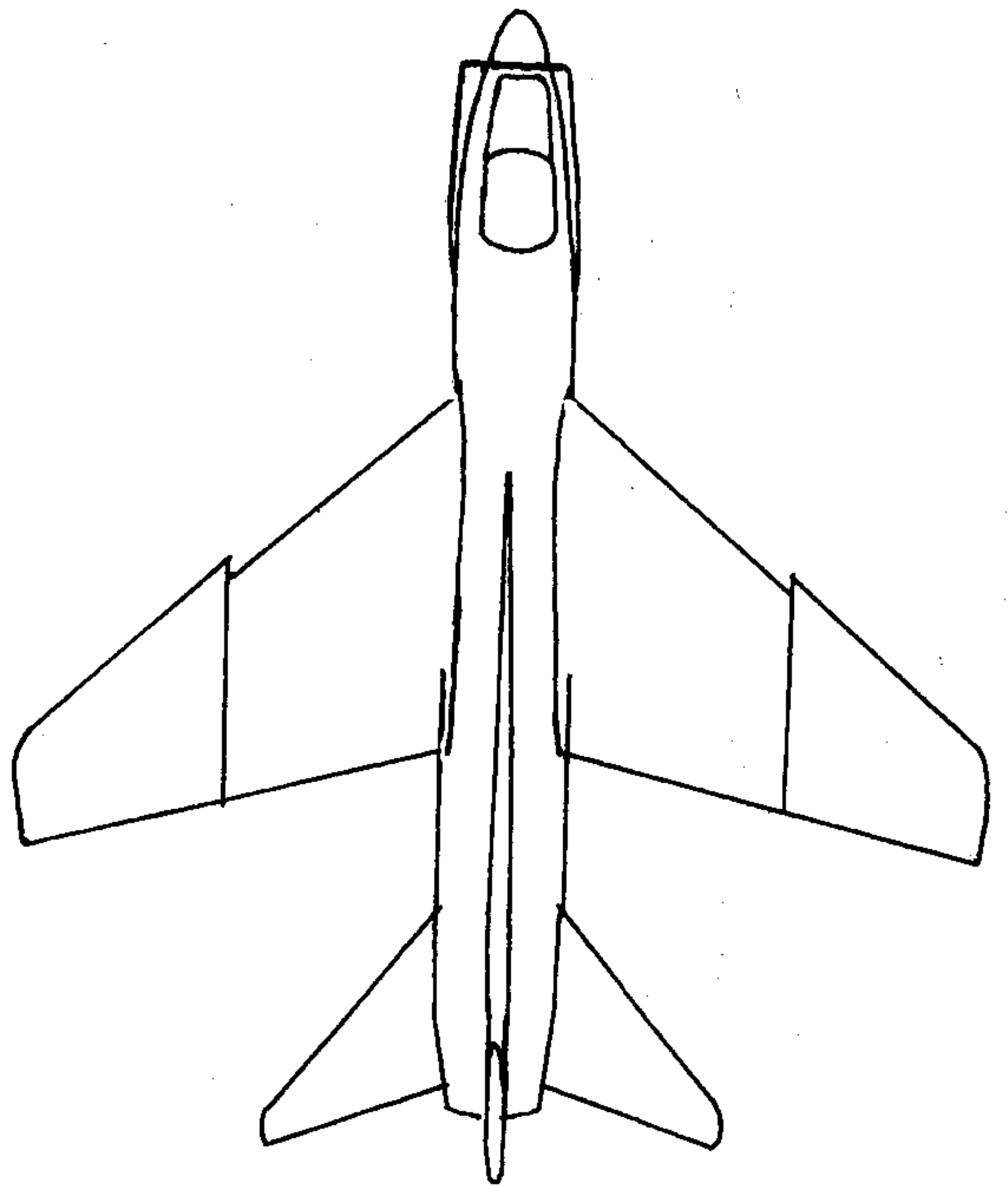
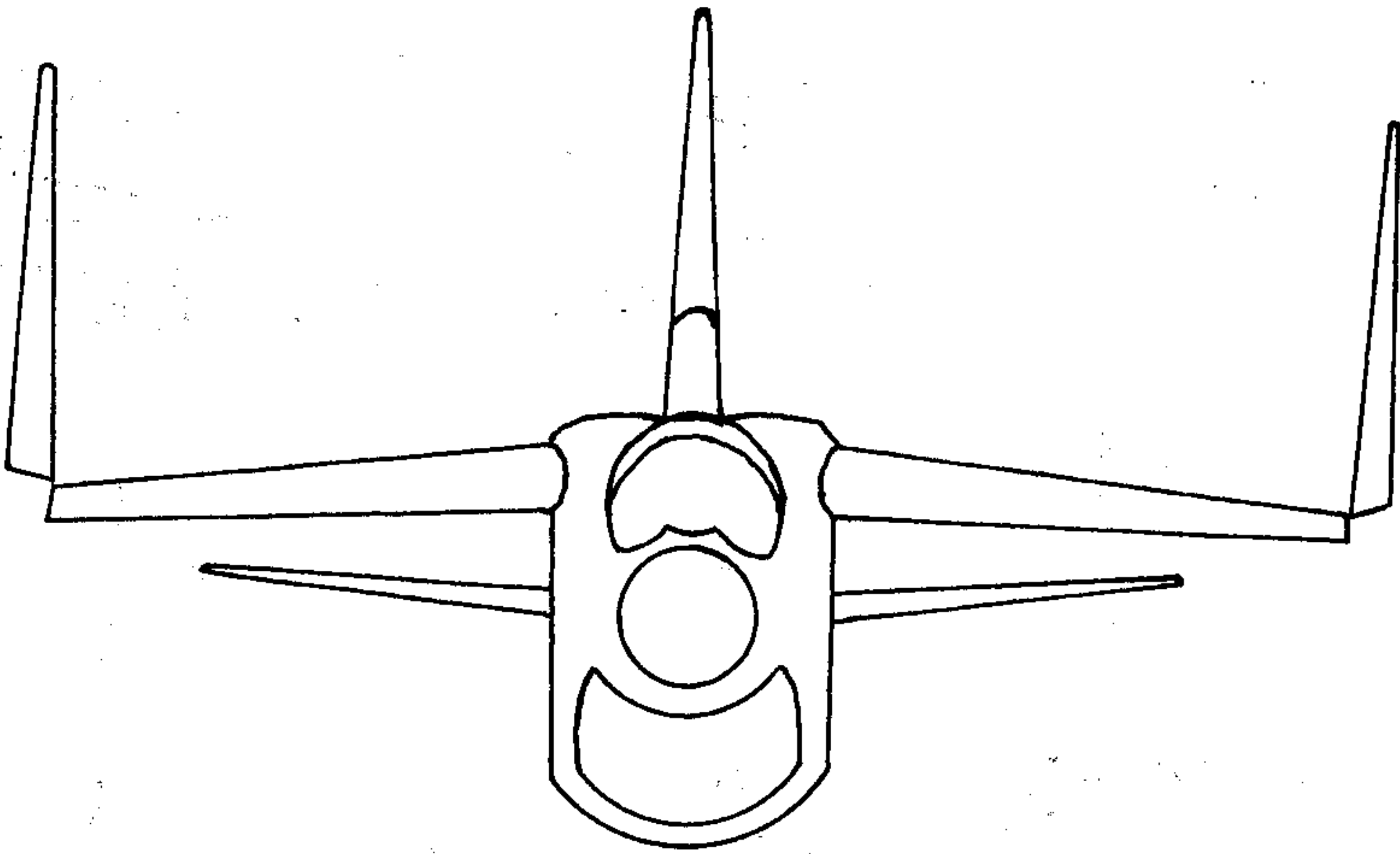
Forward →



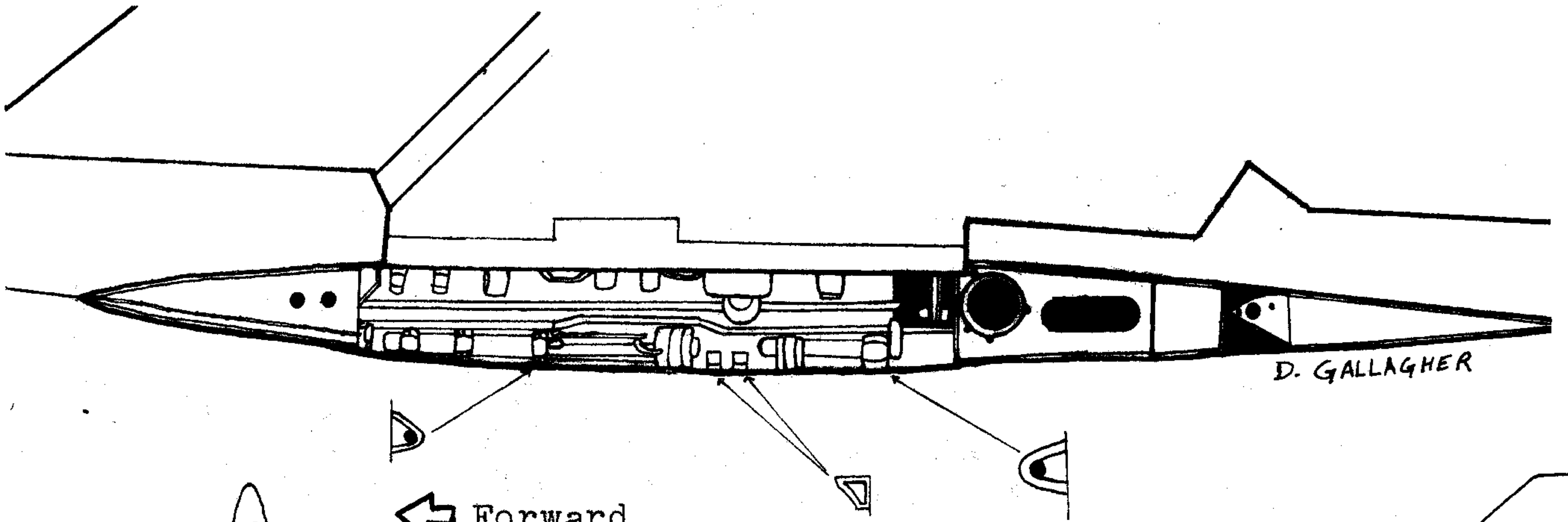
A-7 CORSAIR II



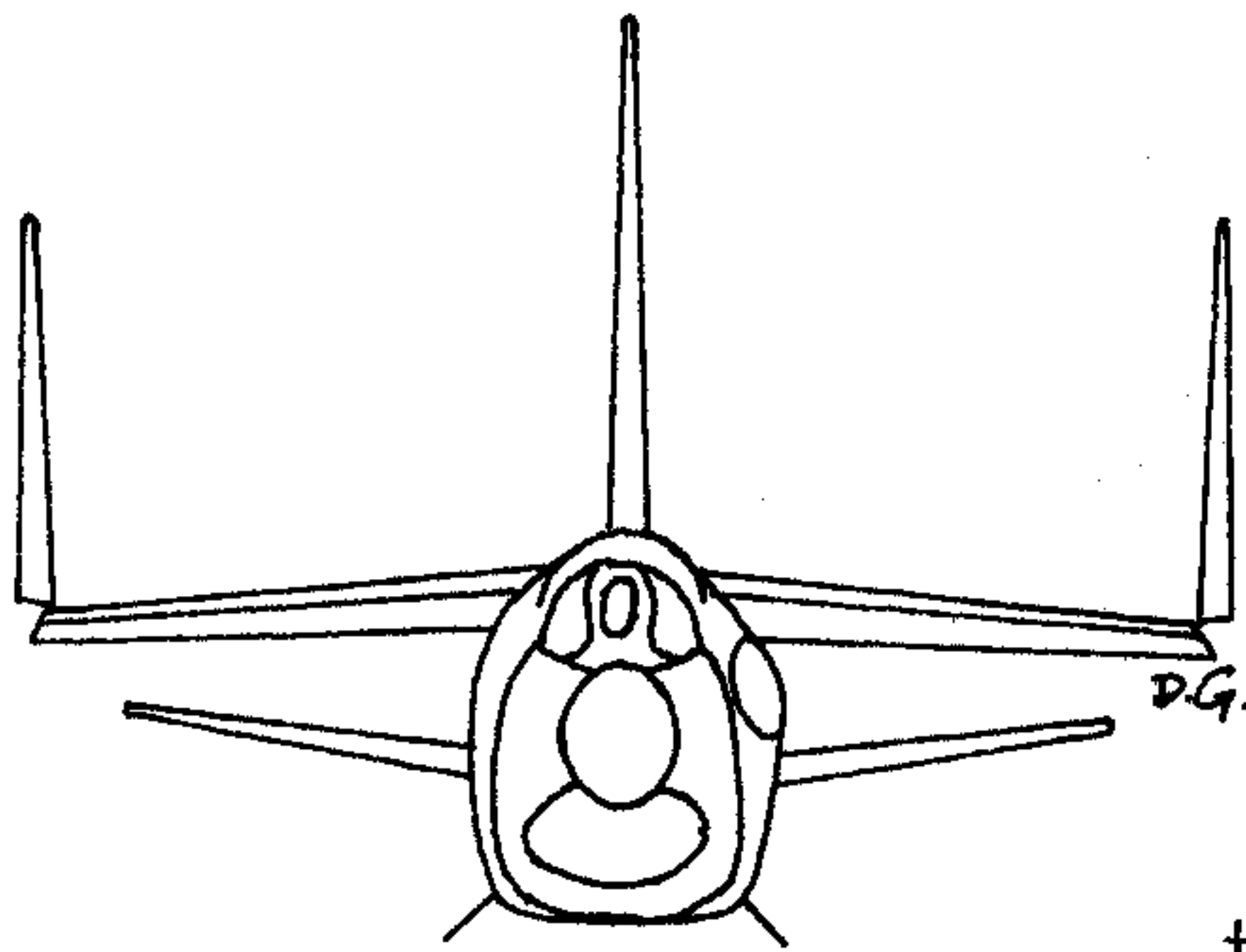
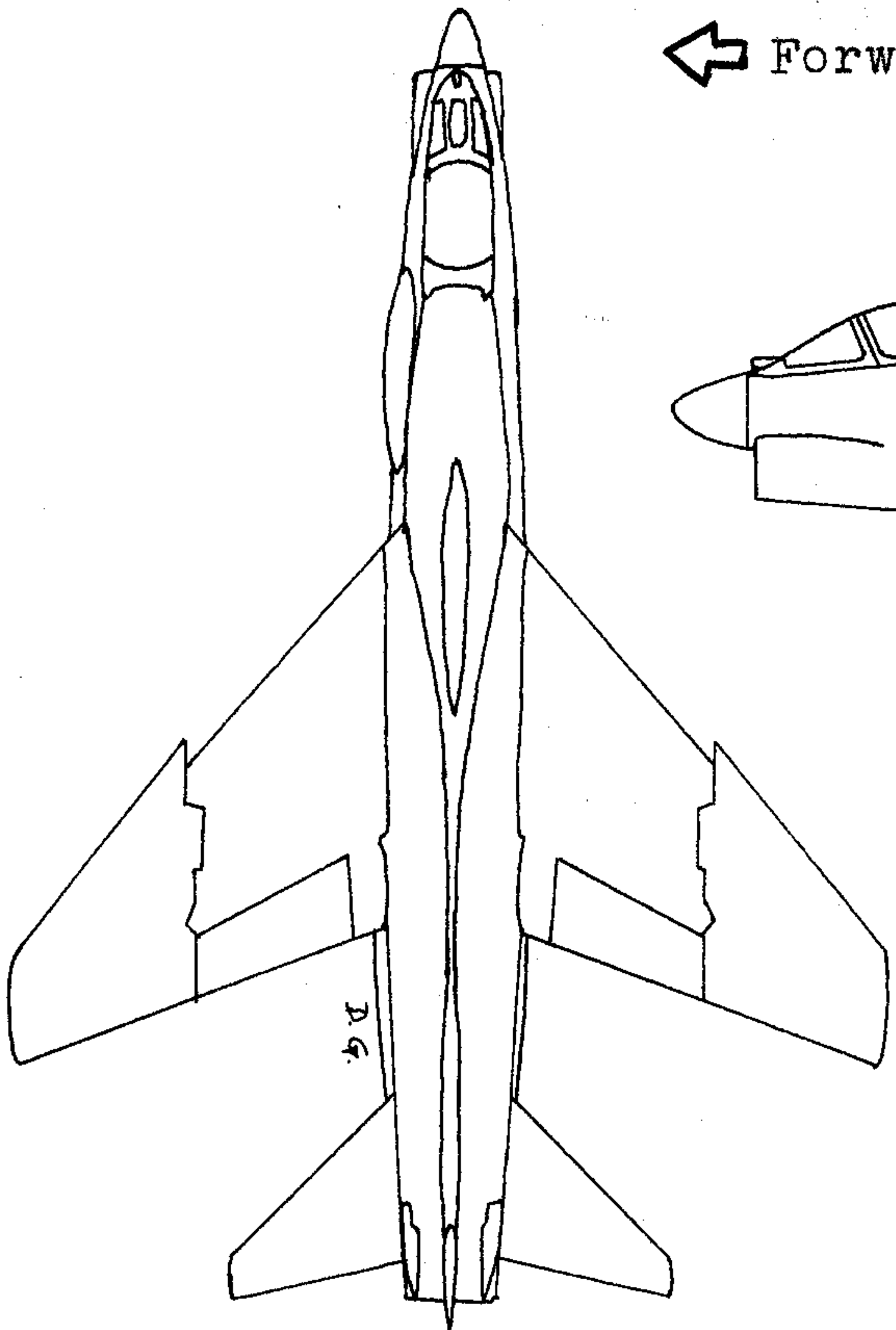
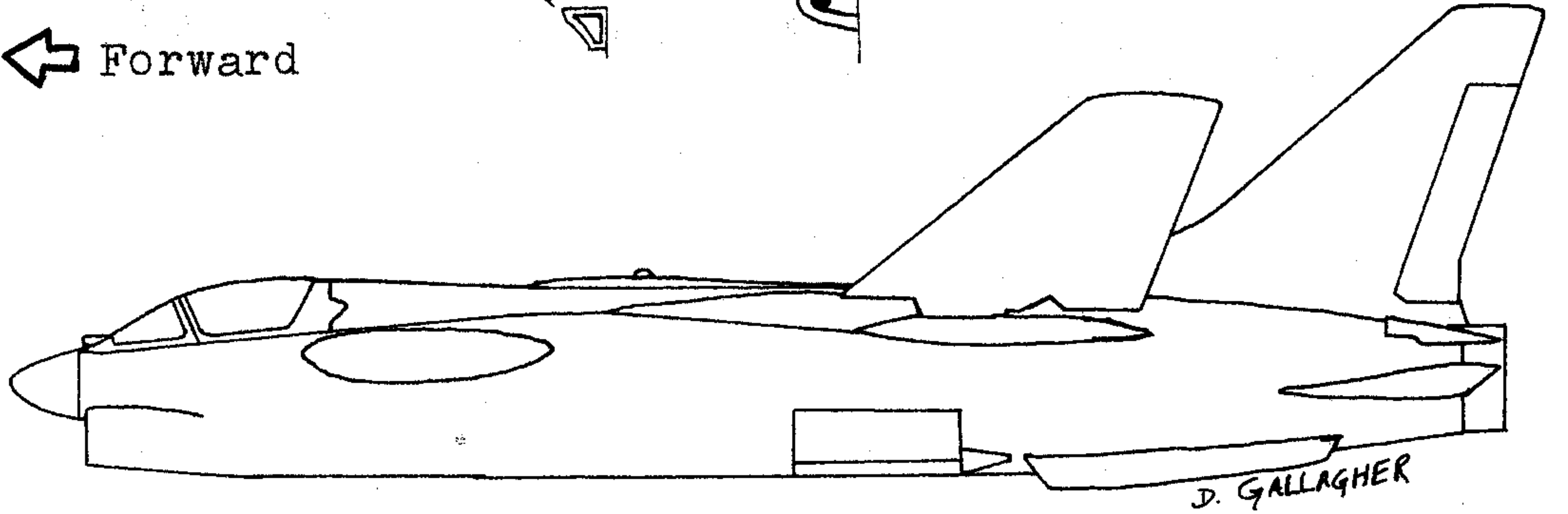
← Forward



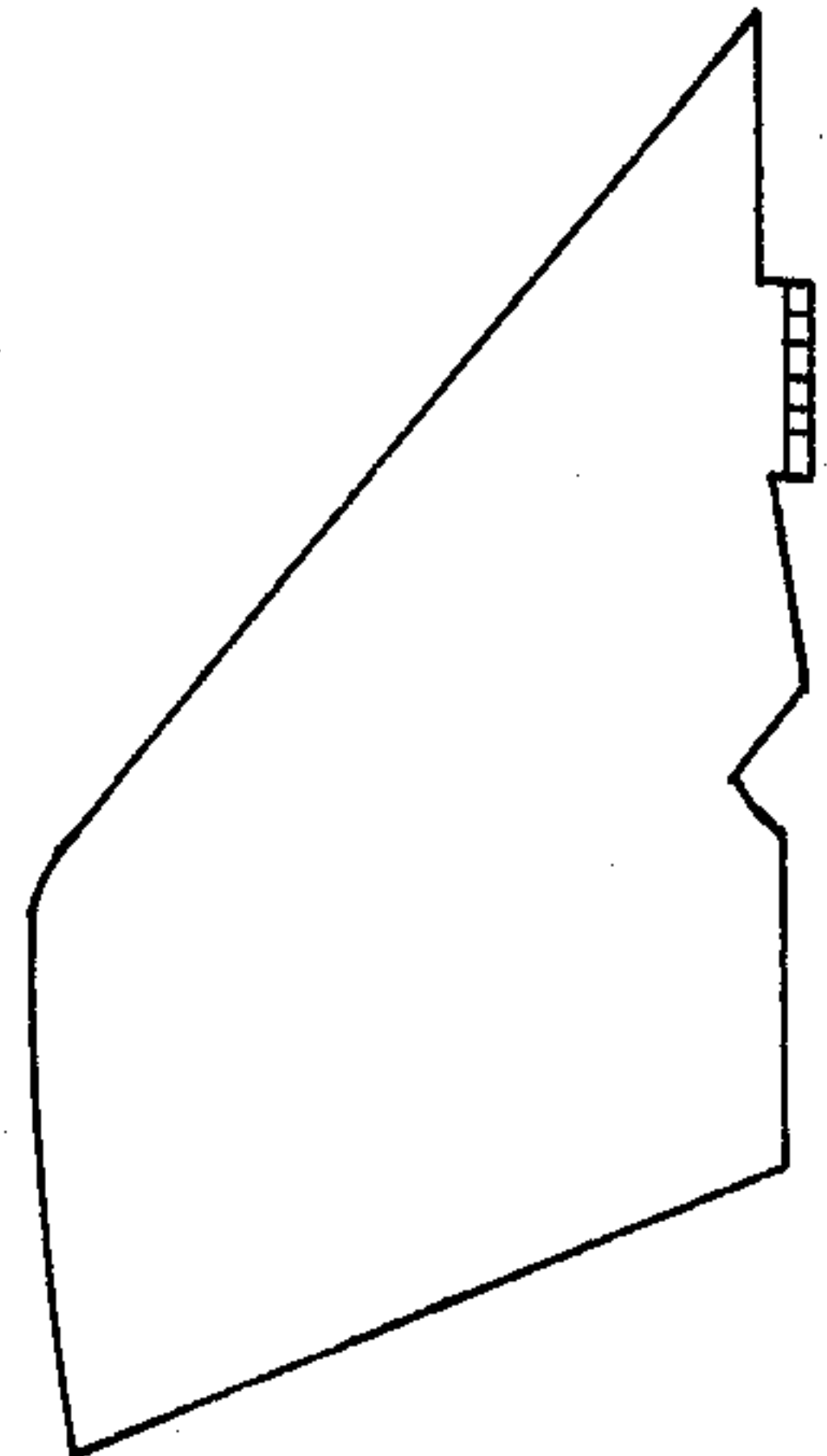
F-8 CRUSADER



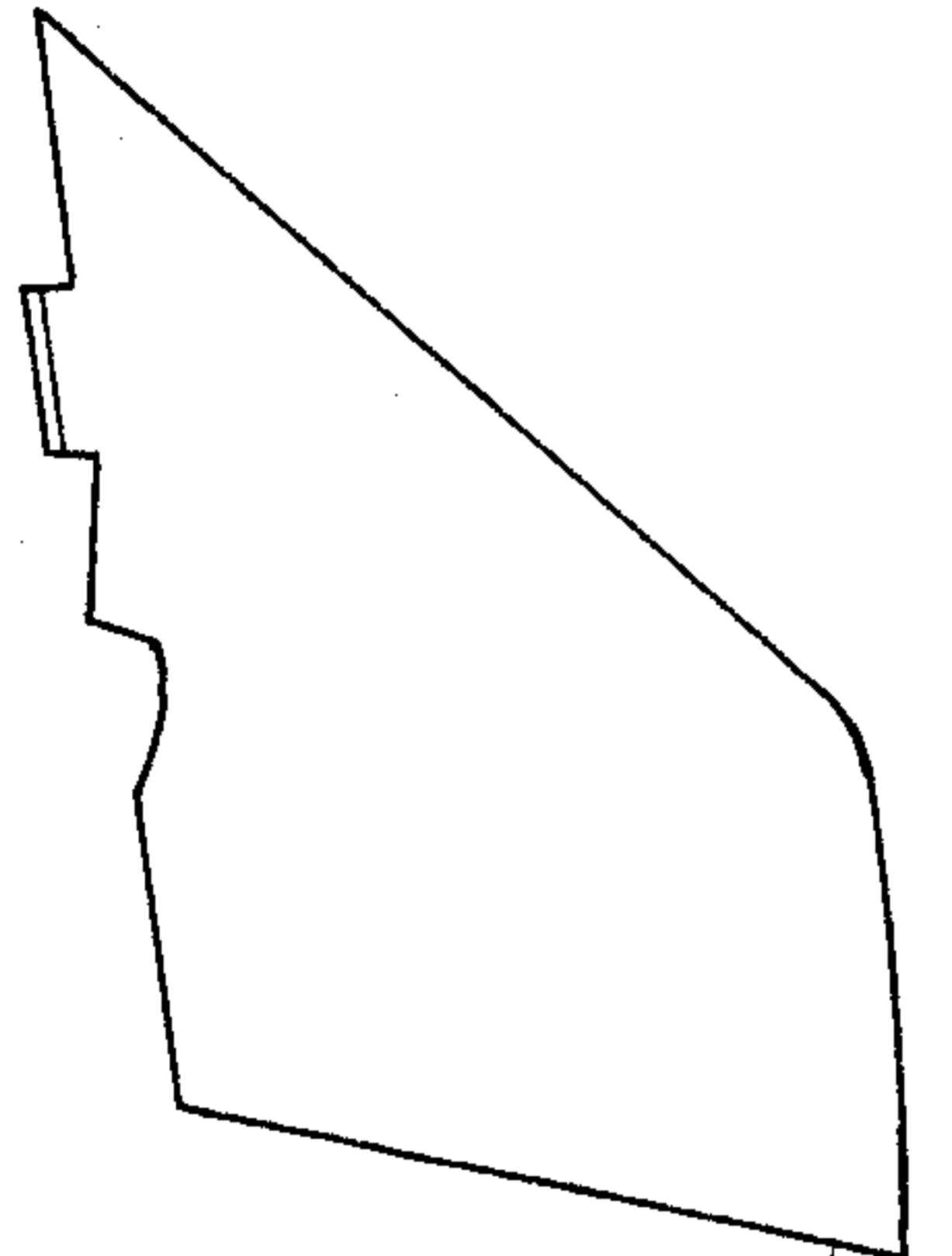
← Forward



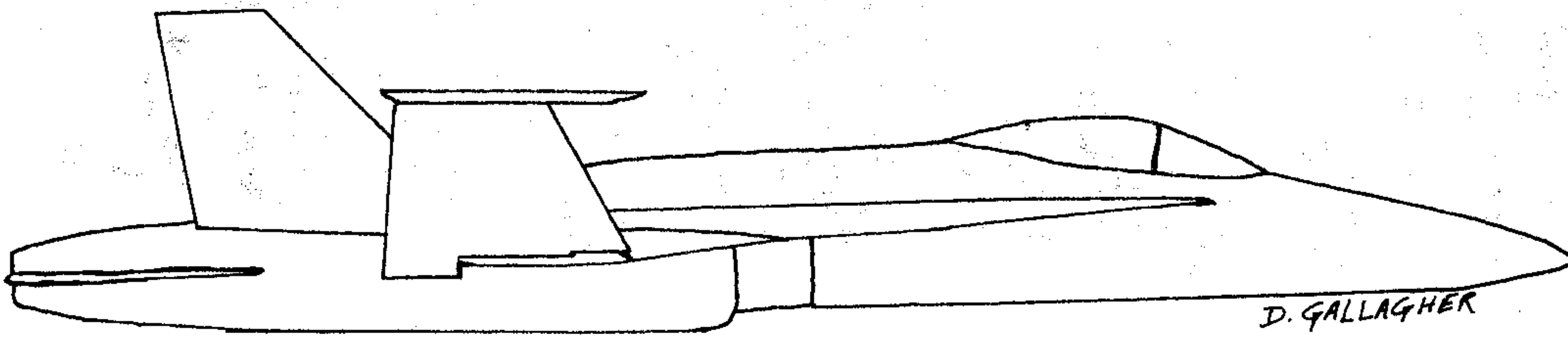
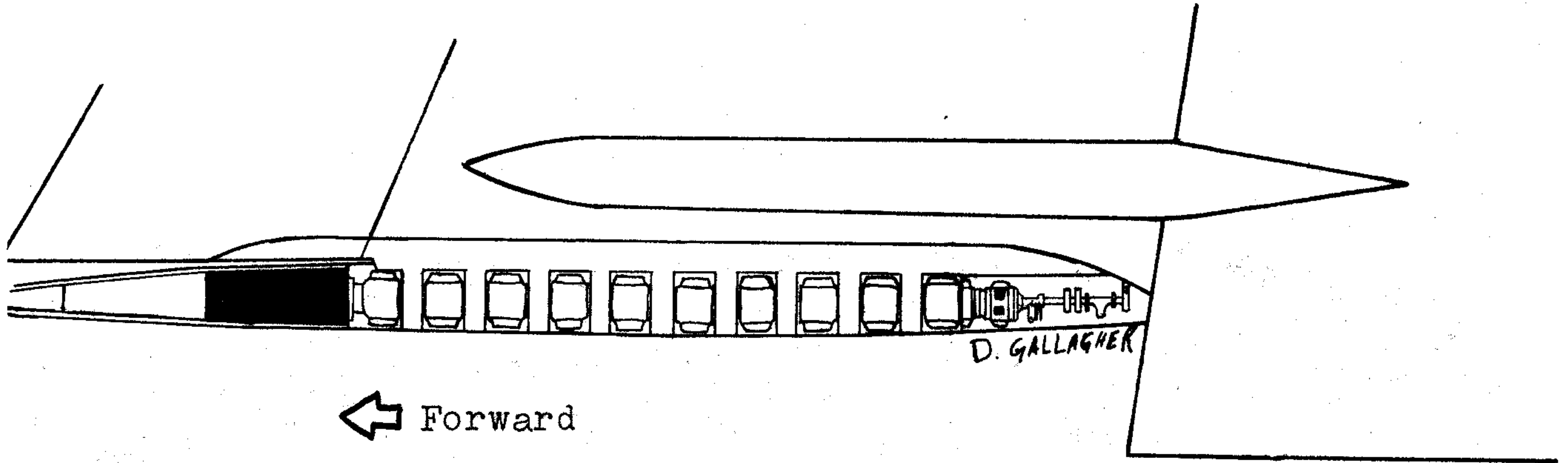
top
view of
outer wing
and fold.



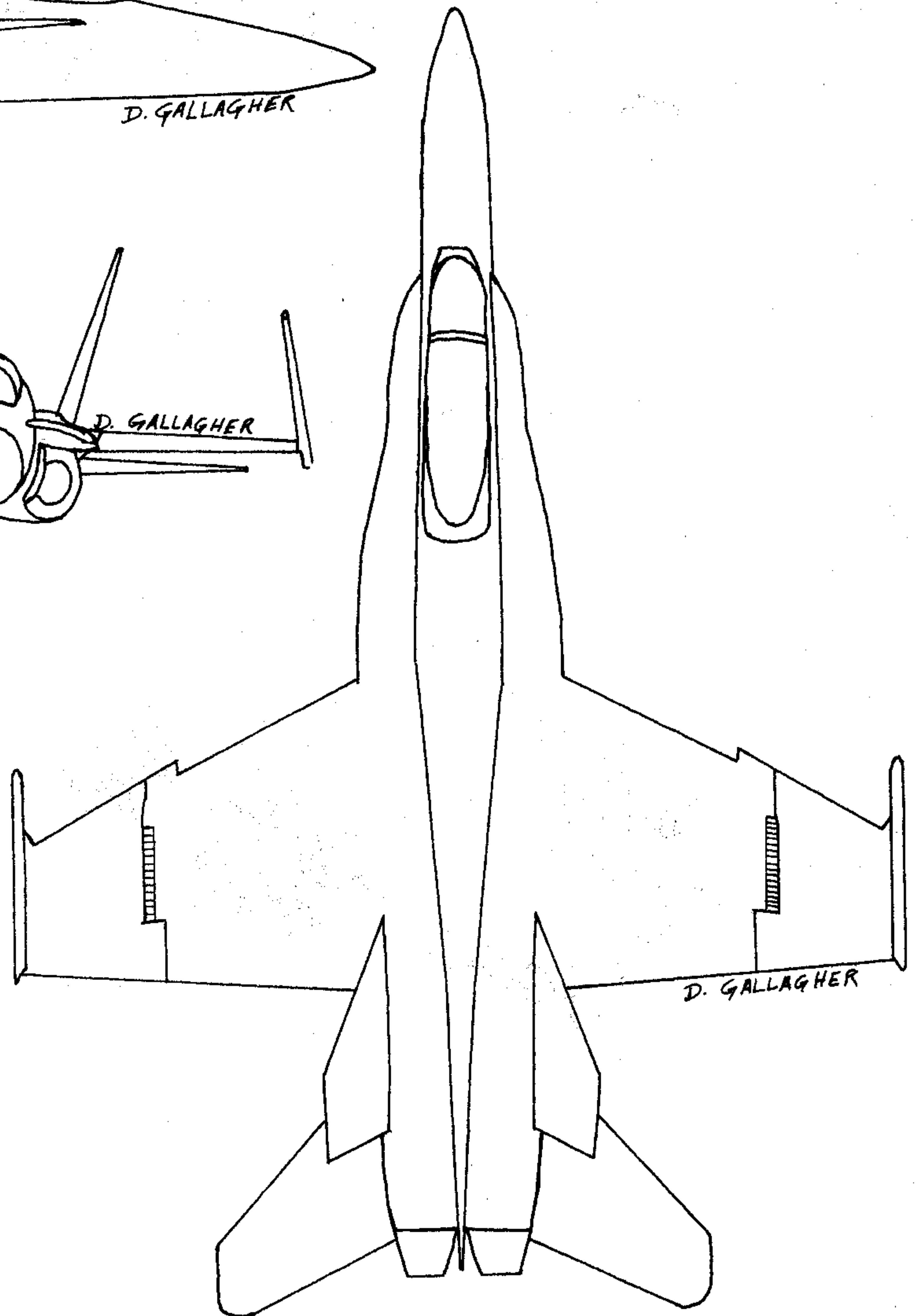
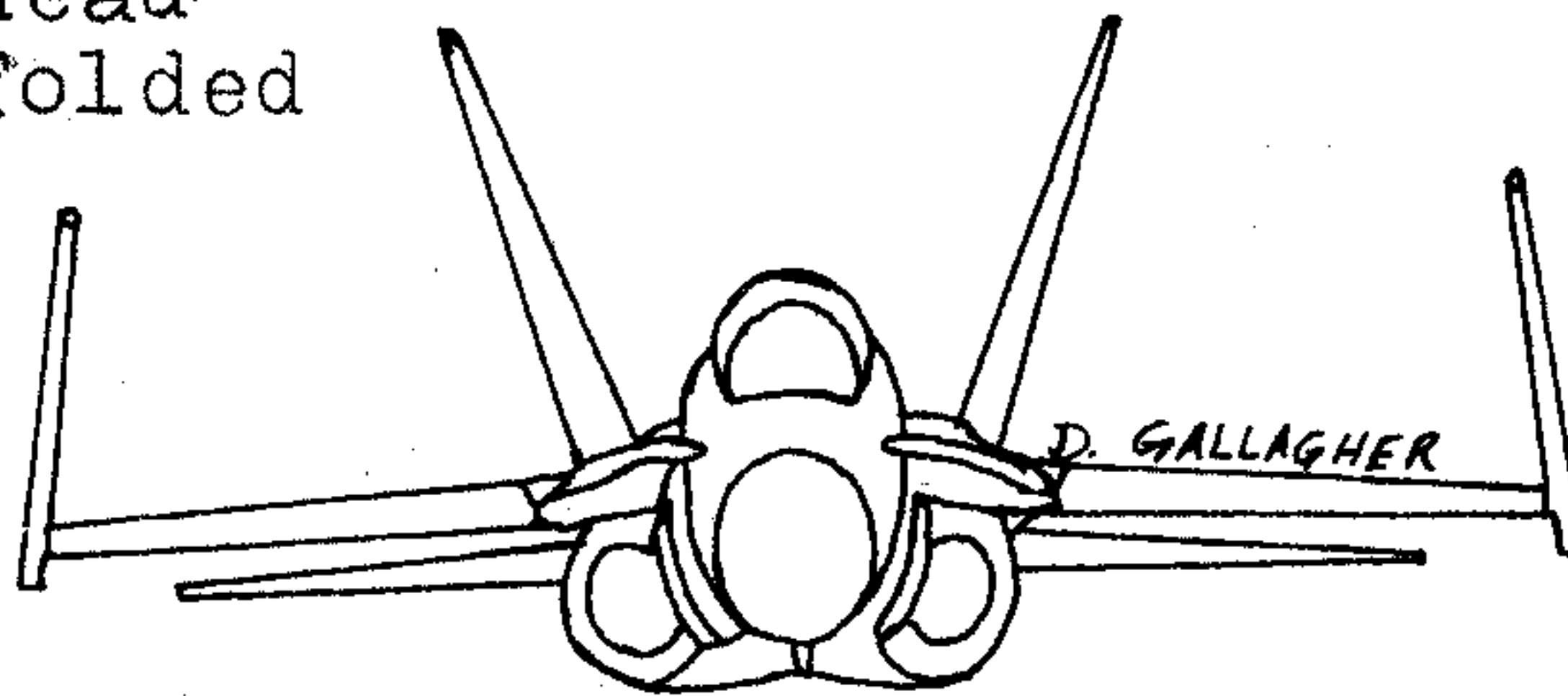
Bottom
view of
outer wing
and fold



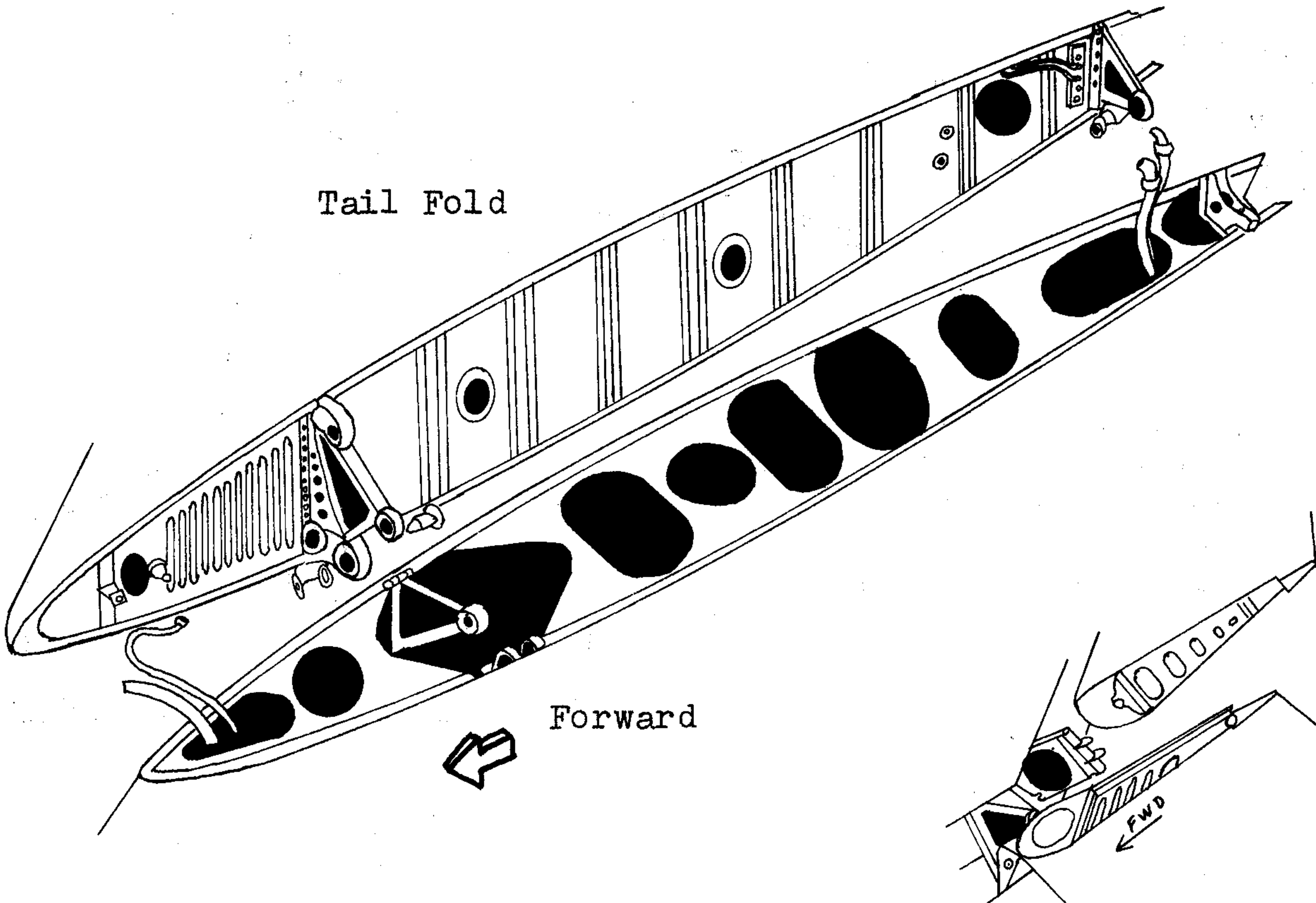
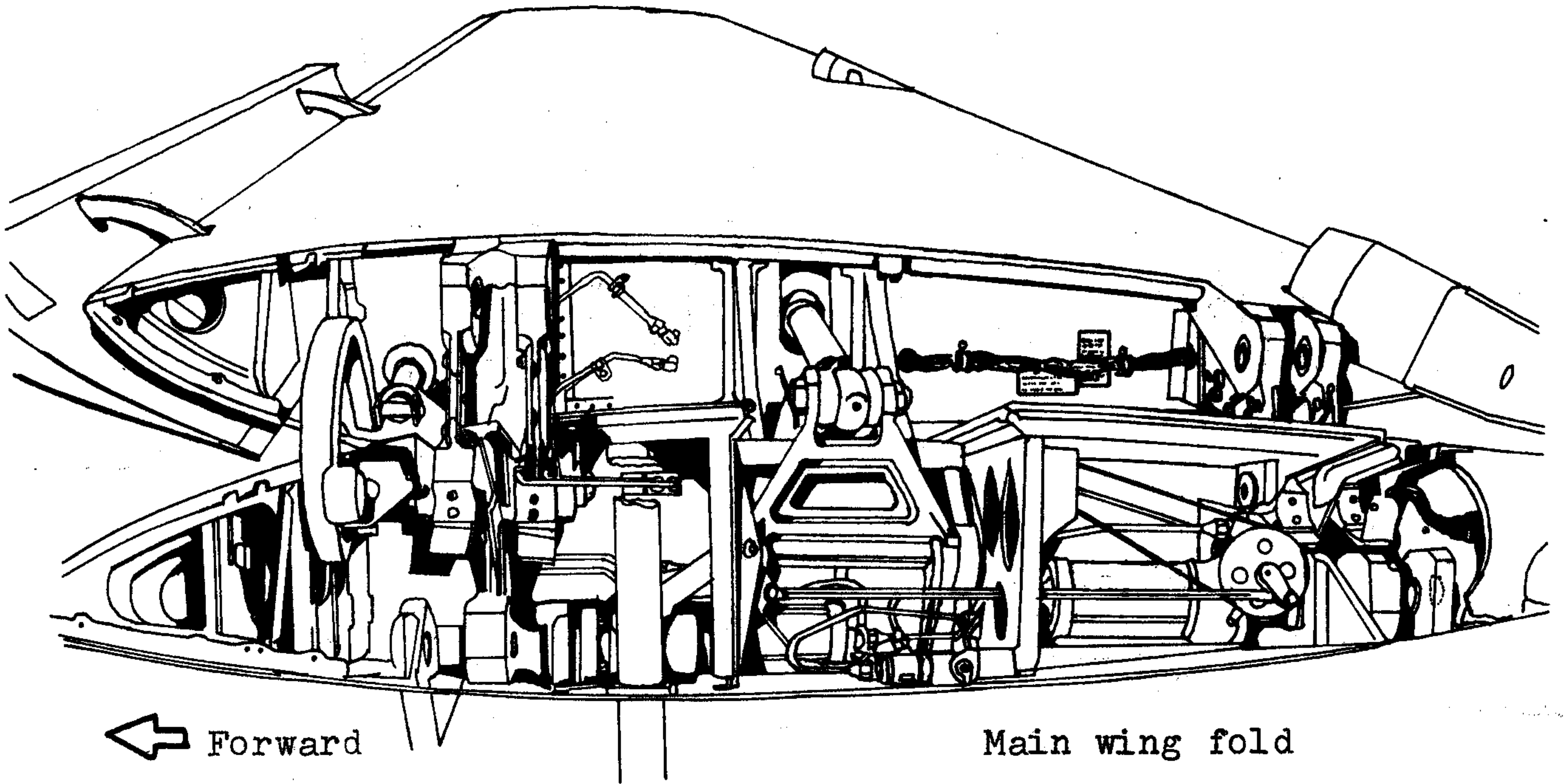
F-18 HORNET



Note that in the head-on view that the folded wings angle inwards at -10° or 100° from the 90° vertical

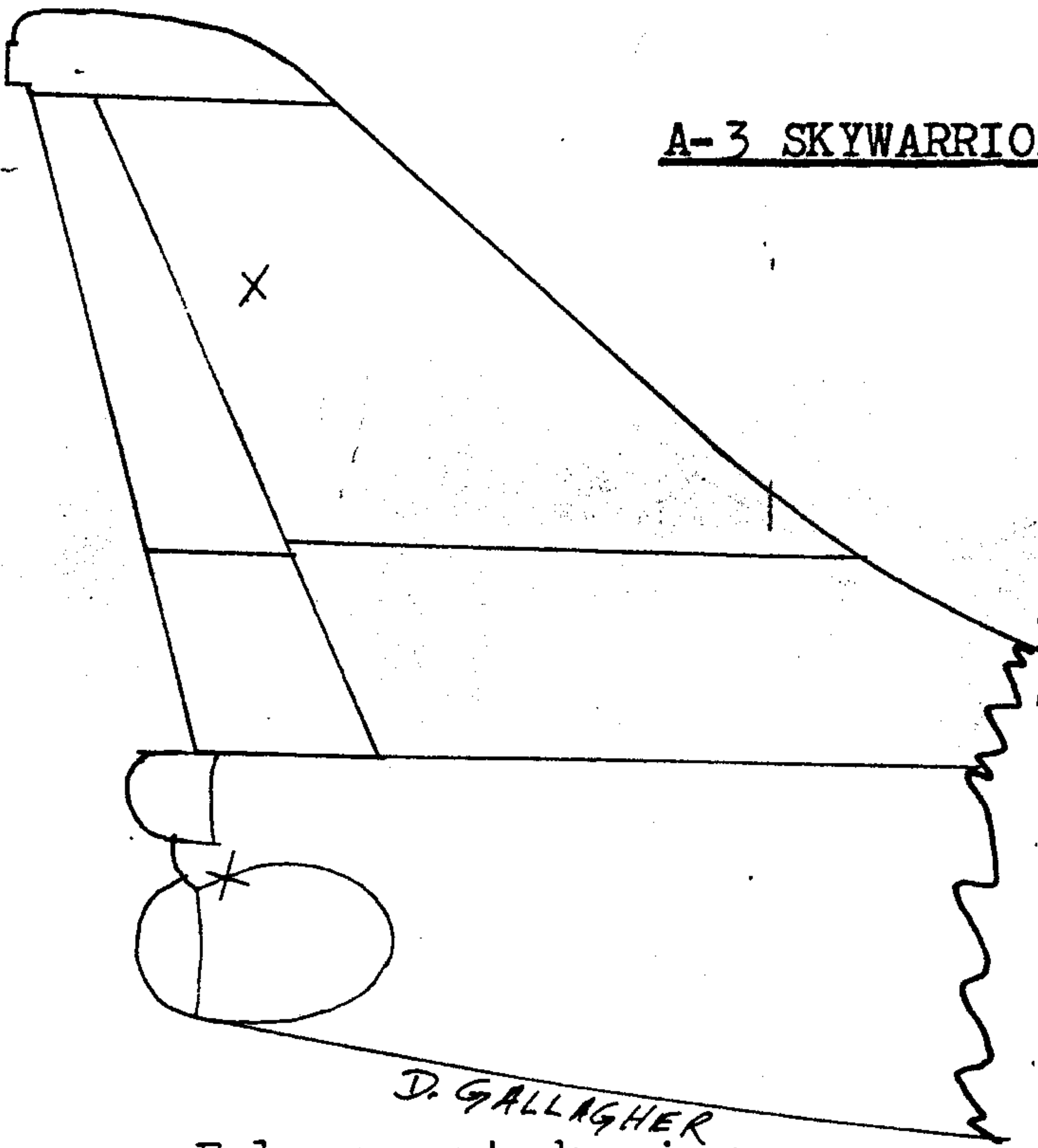


A-3 SKYWARRIOR



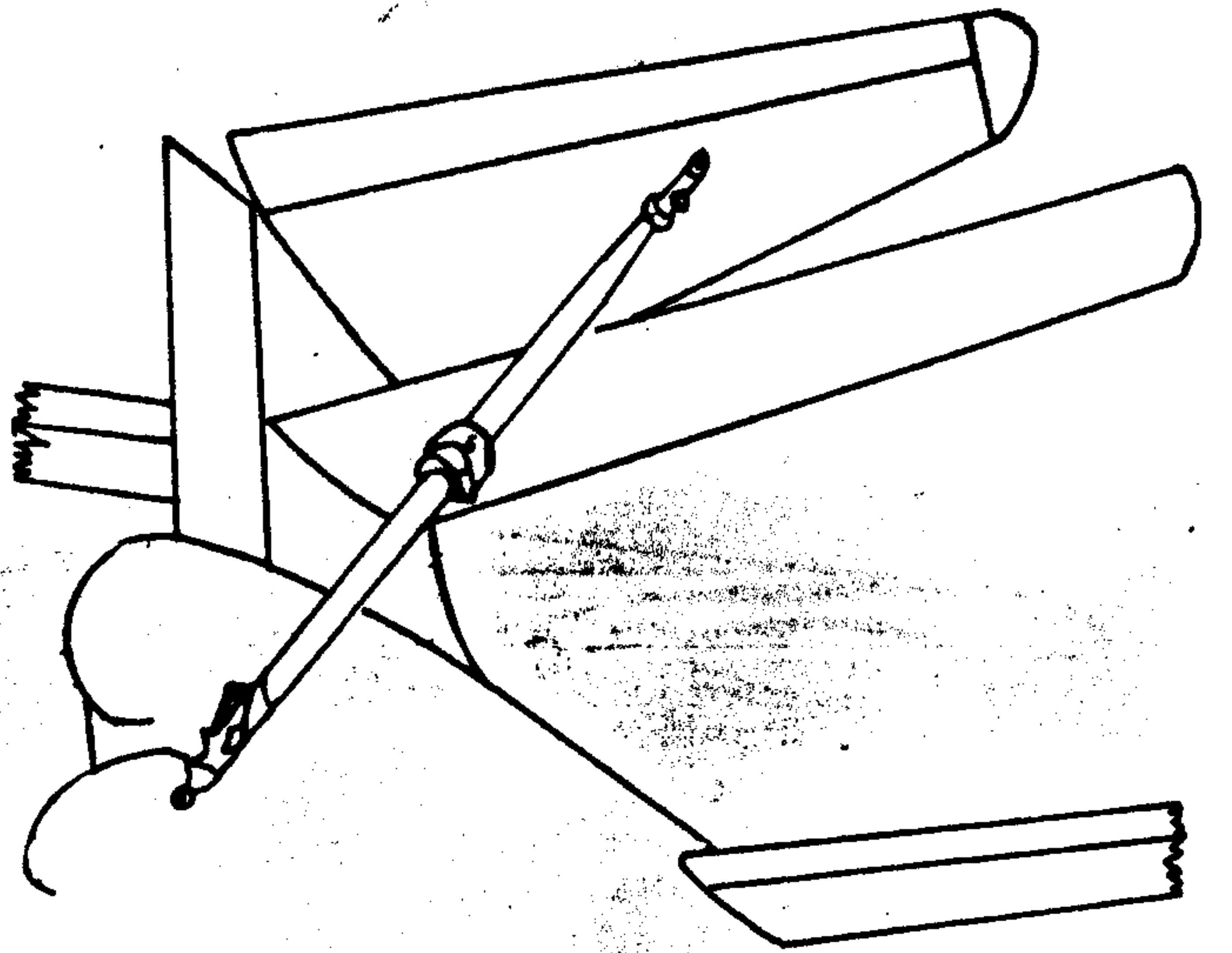
Small detail drawing above is to show detailing of rudder fold on tail

A-3 SKYWARRIOR



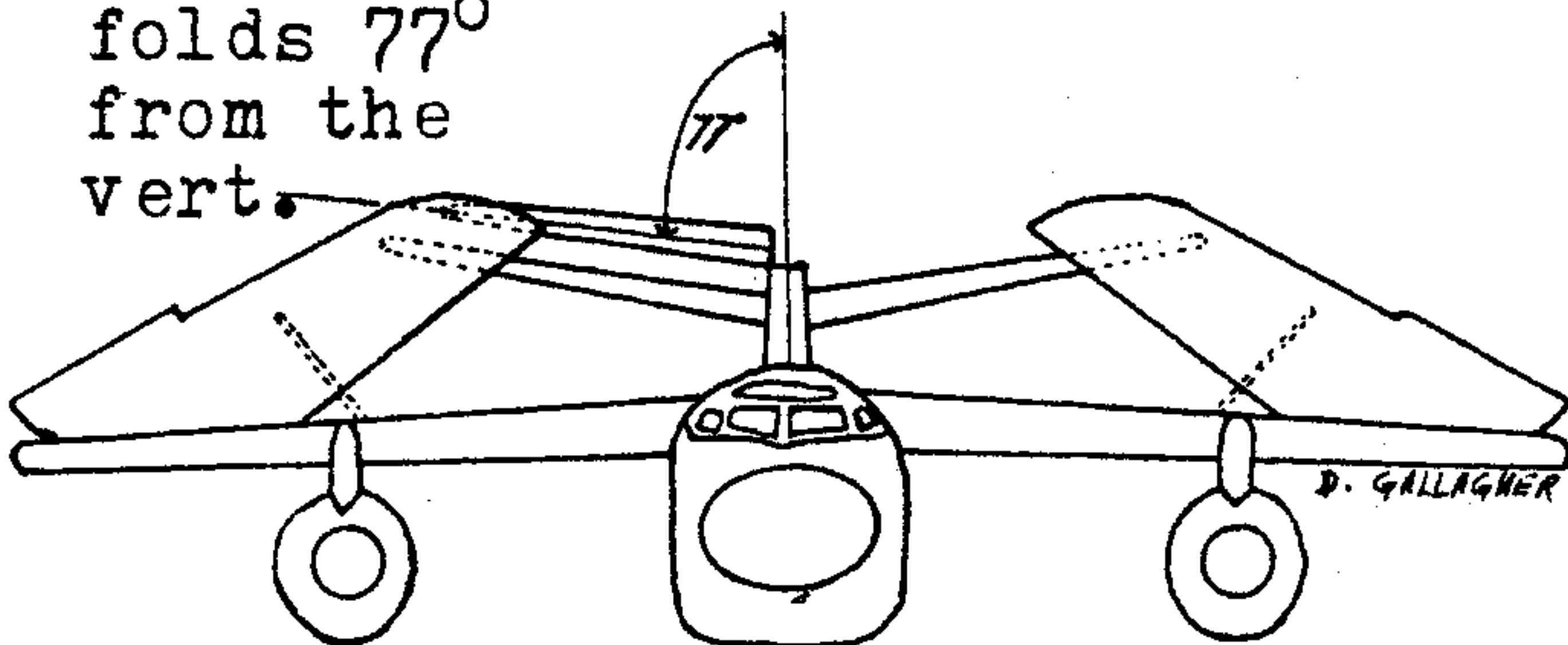
D. GALLAGHER

Enlargement drawing of tail showing locating points for tail brace. The X's mark location of brace ends.

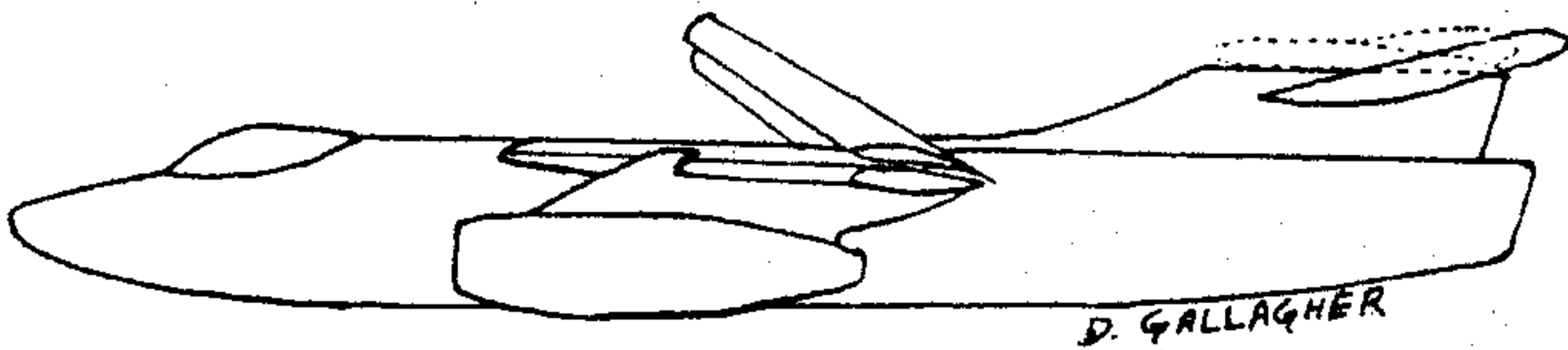


Detail drawing of tail area showing installment of tail brace. Note that brace was only used about 5% of the time.

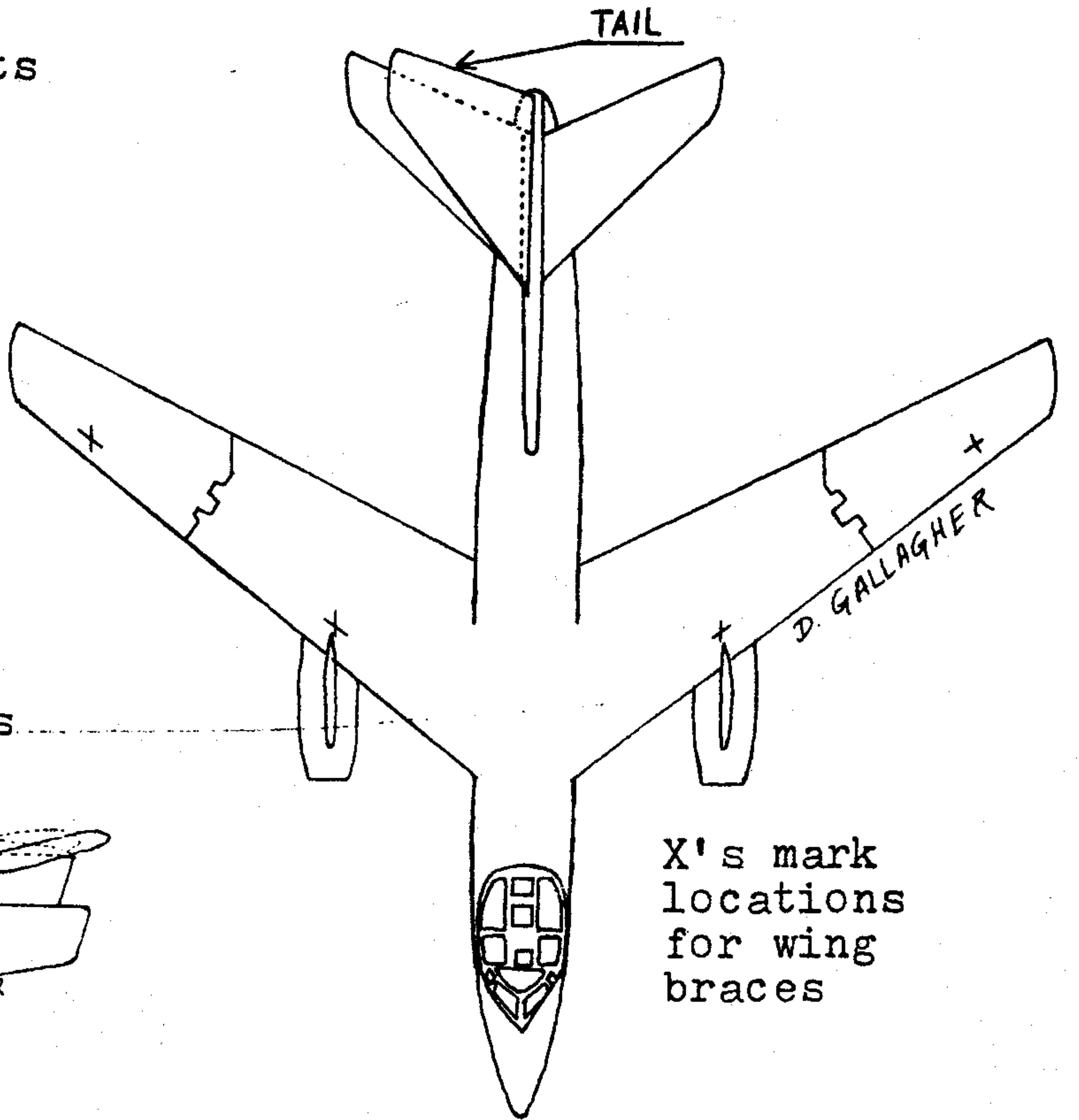
Note that tail folds 77° from the vert.



Wing braces shown as dashed lines



D. GALLAGHER

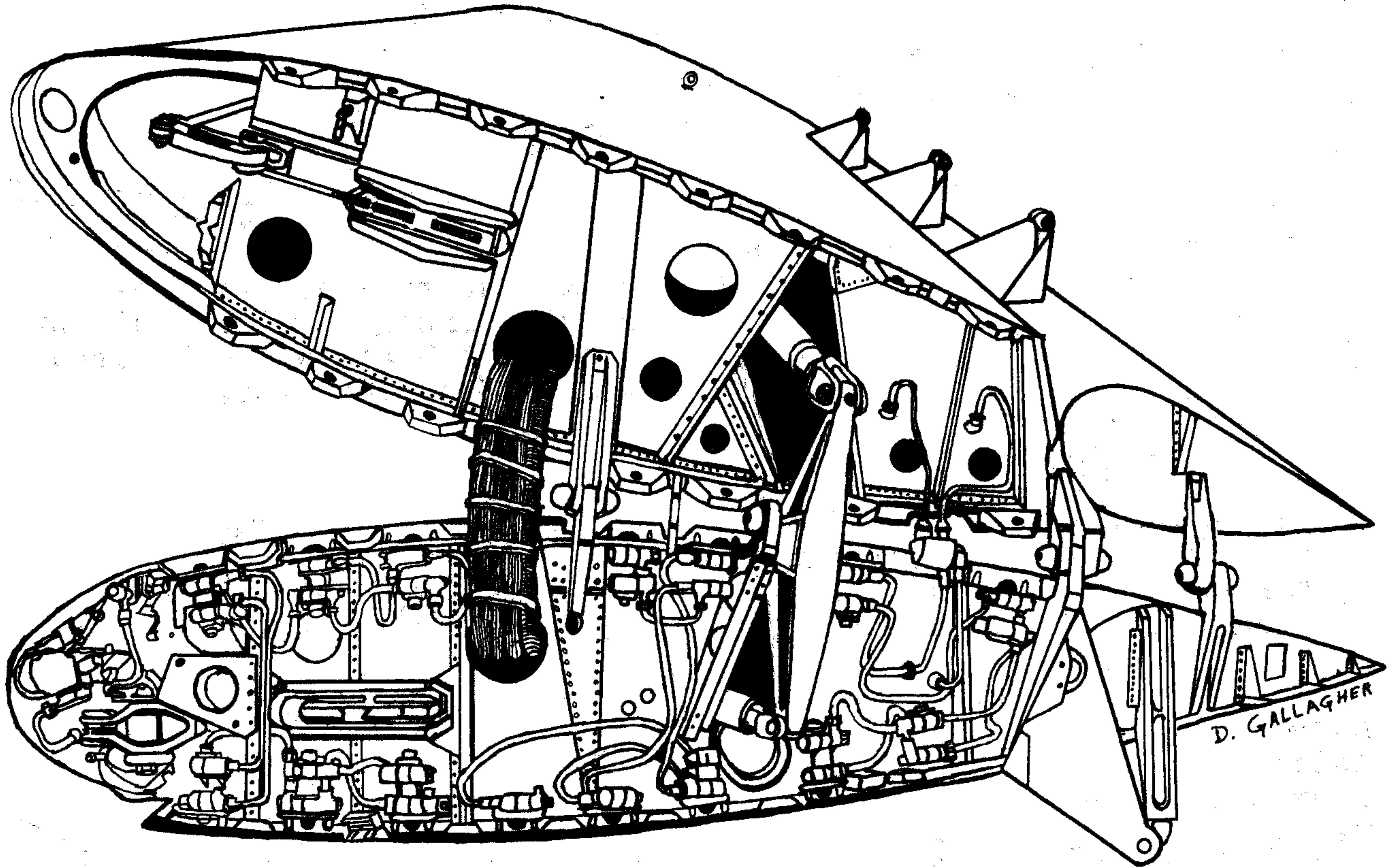


X's mark locations for wing braces

D. GALLAGHER

S-2 TRACKER and C-1 COD *

E-1B TRACER**

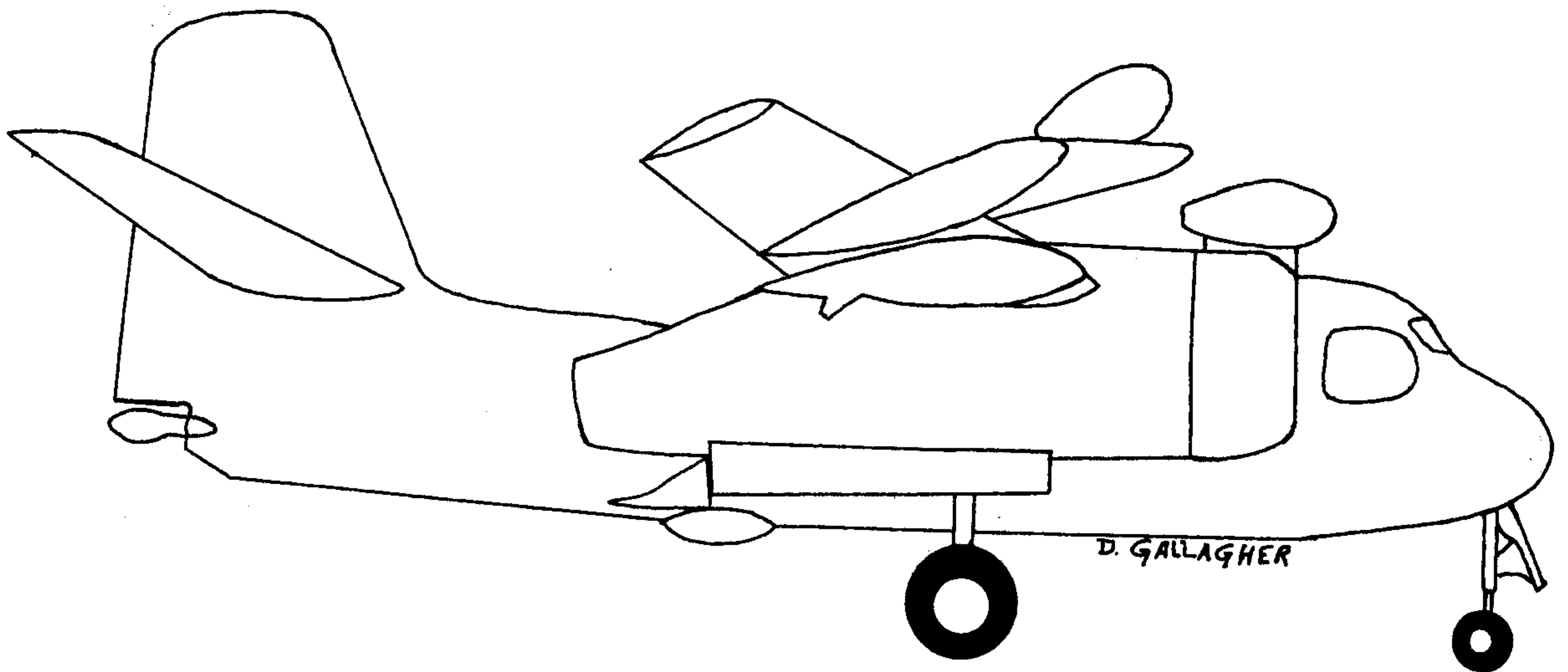
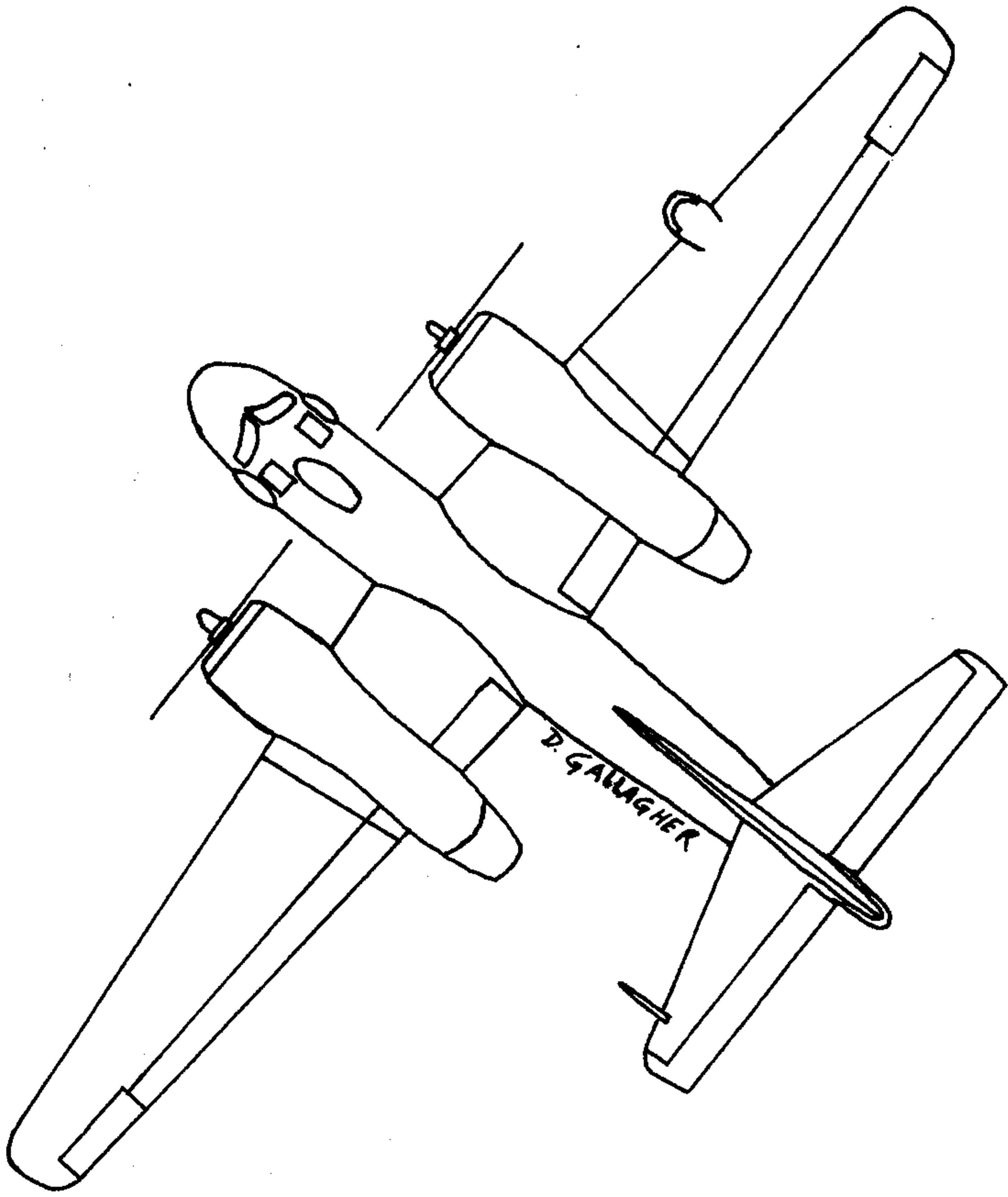
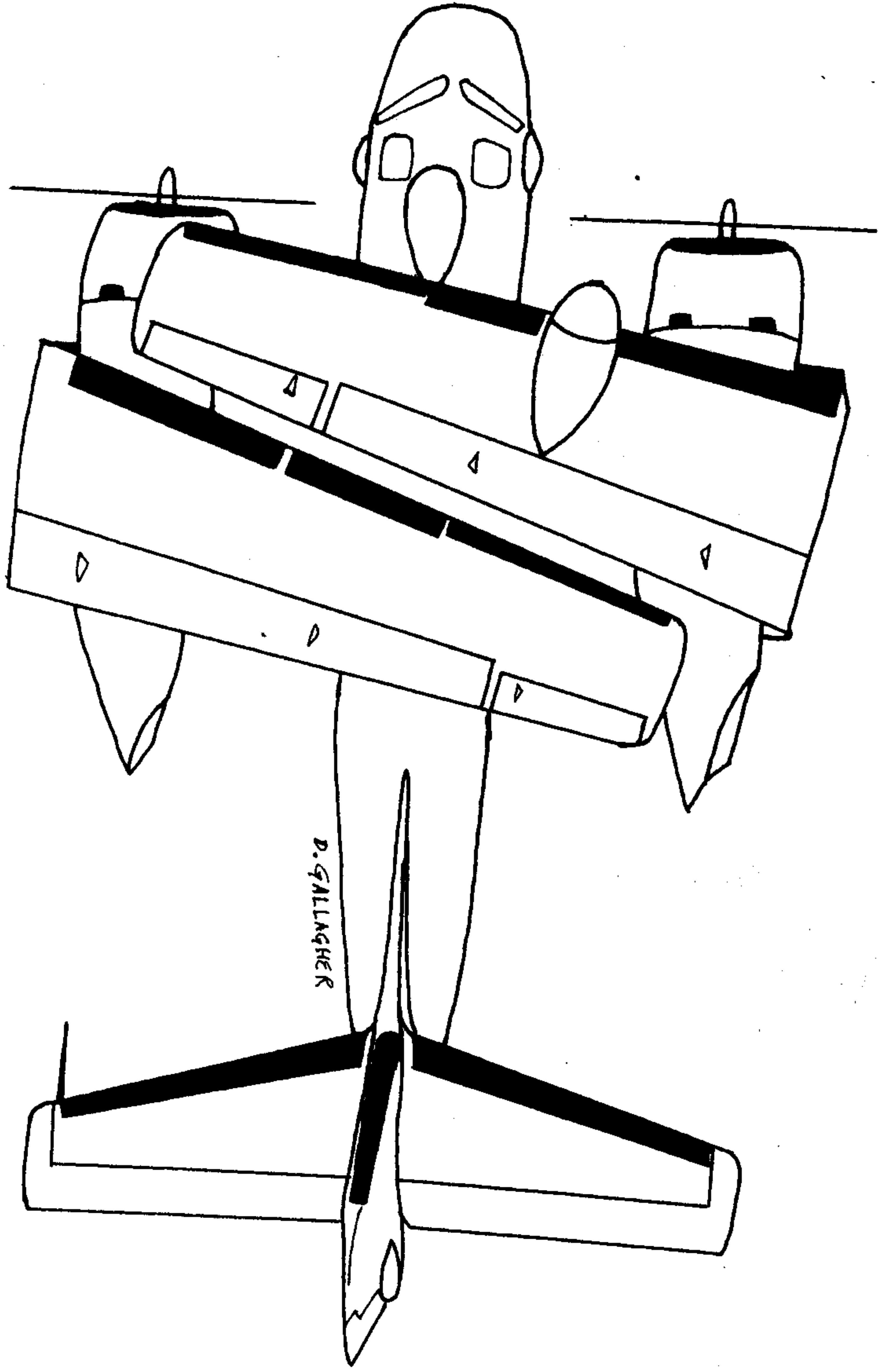
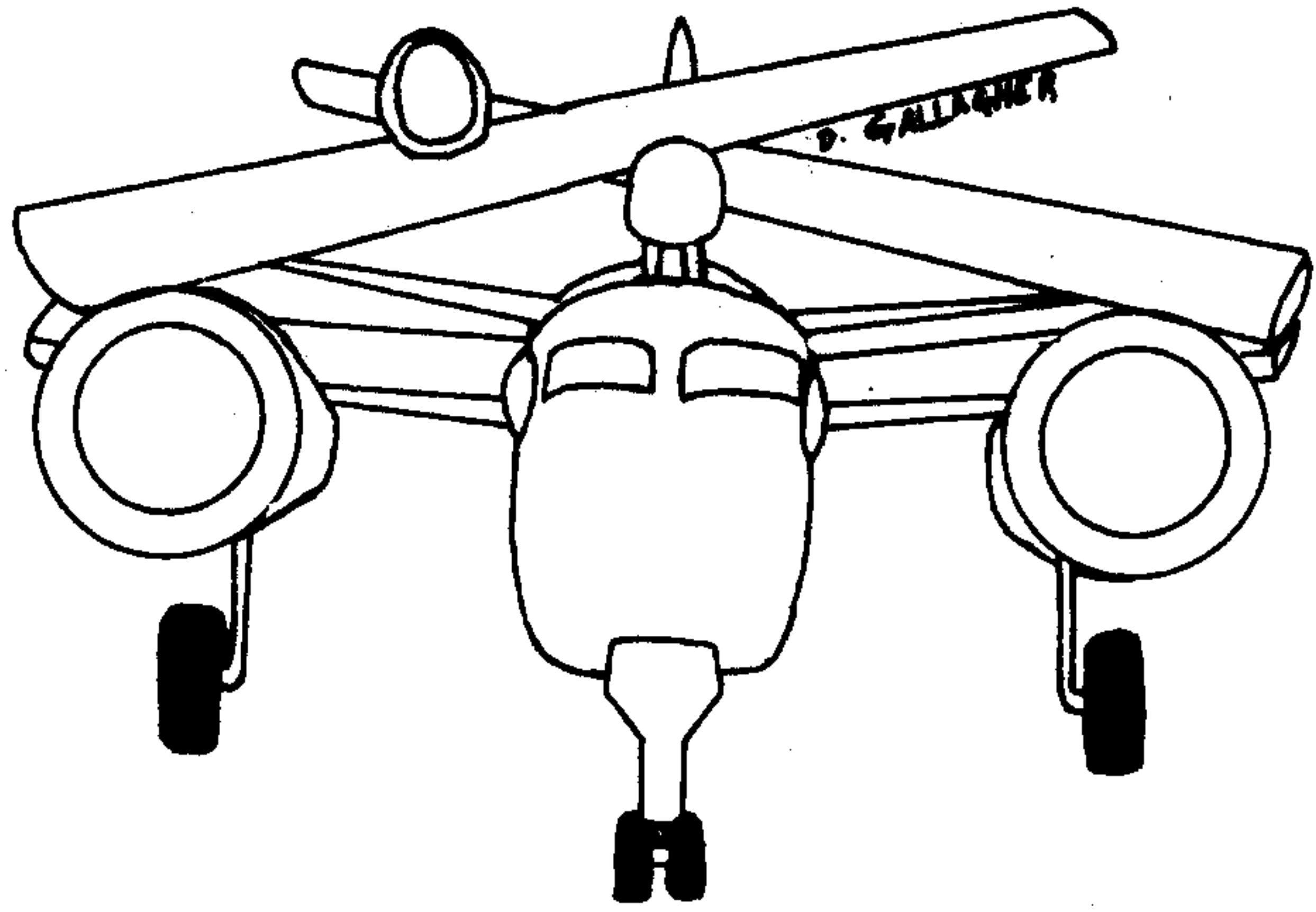


← Forward

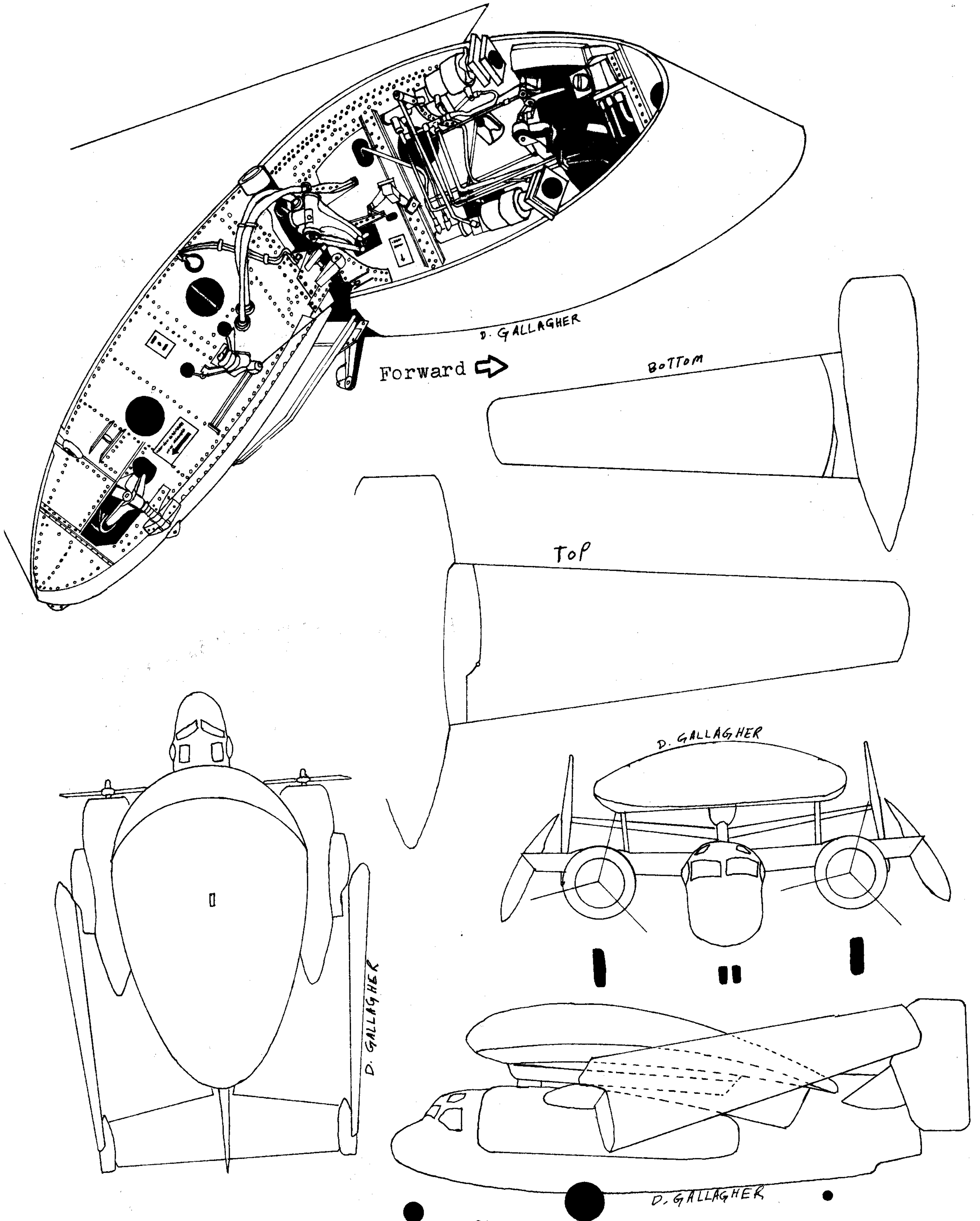
This wing fold for
S-2/C-1 only

*Carrier Onboard Delivery

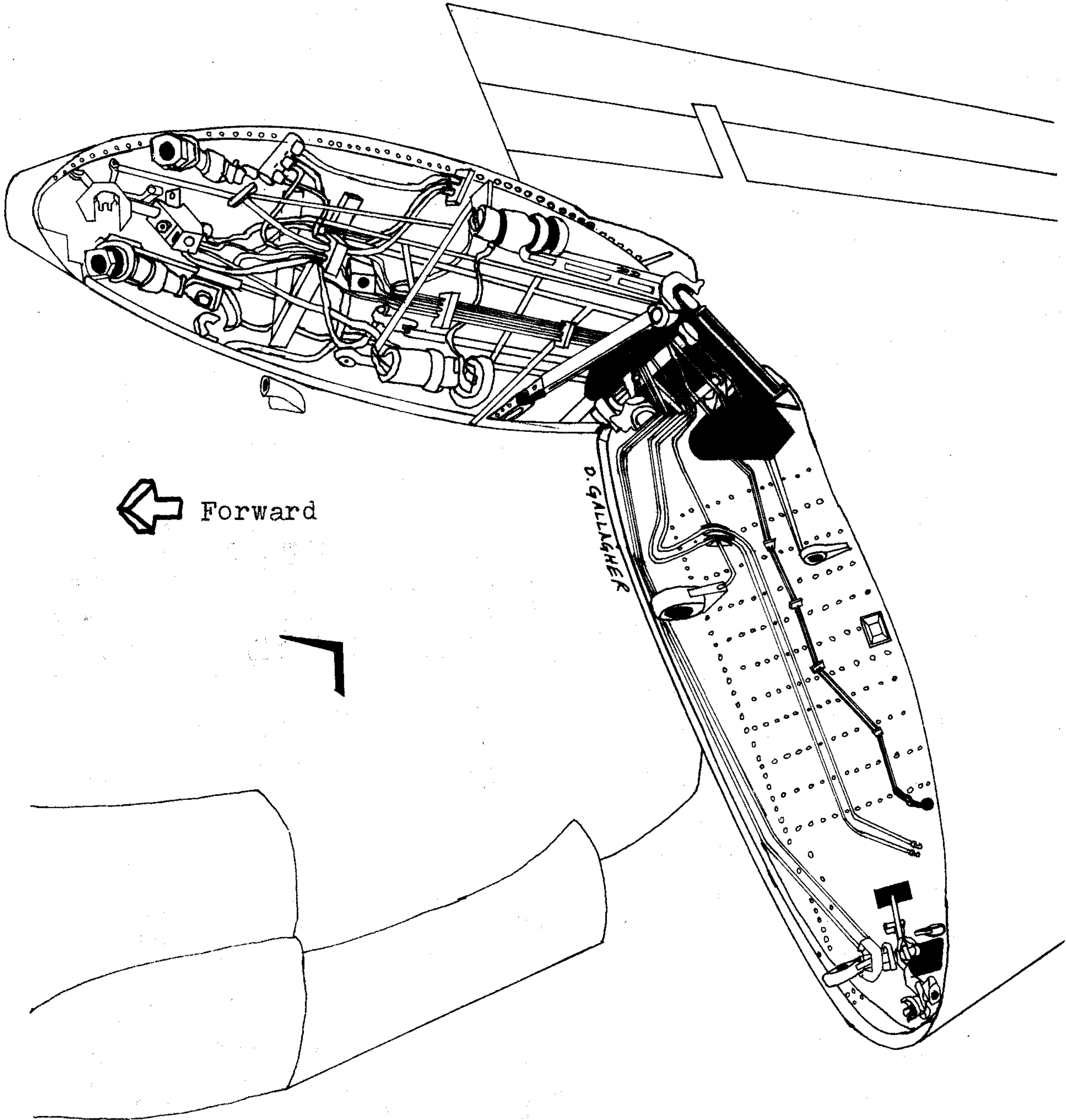
**A.K.A. "Willie Fudd",
radar version

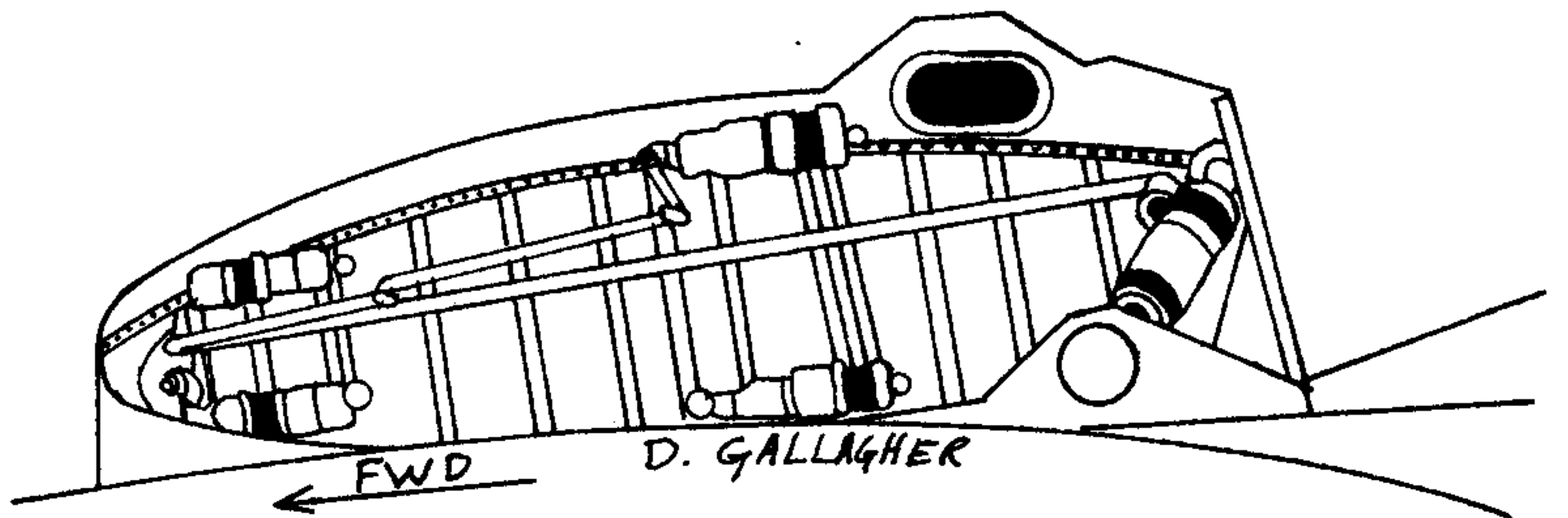
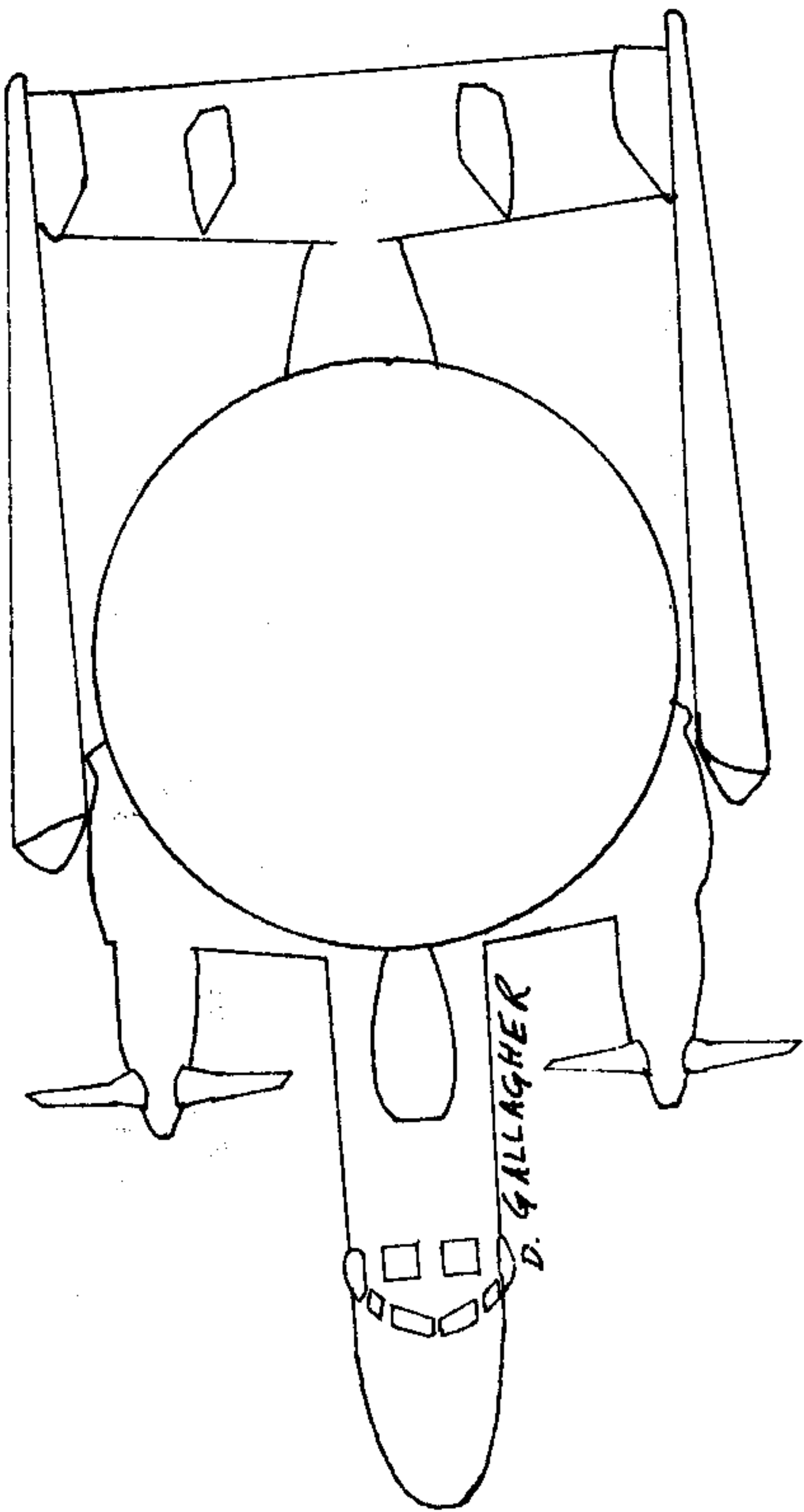
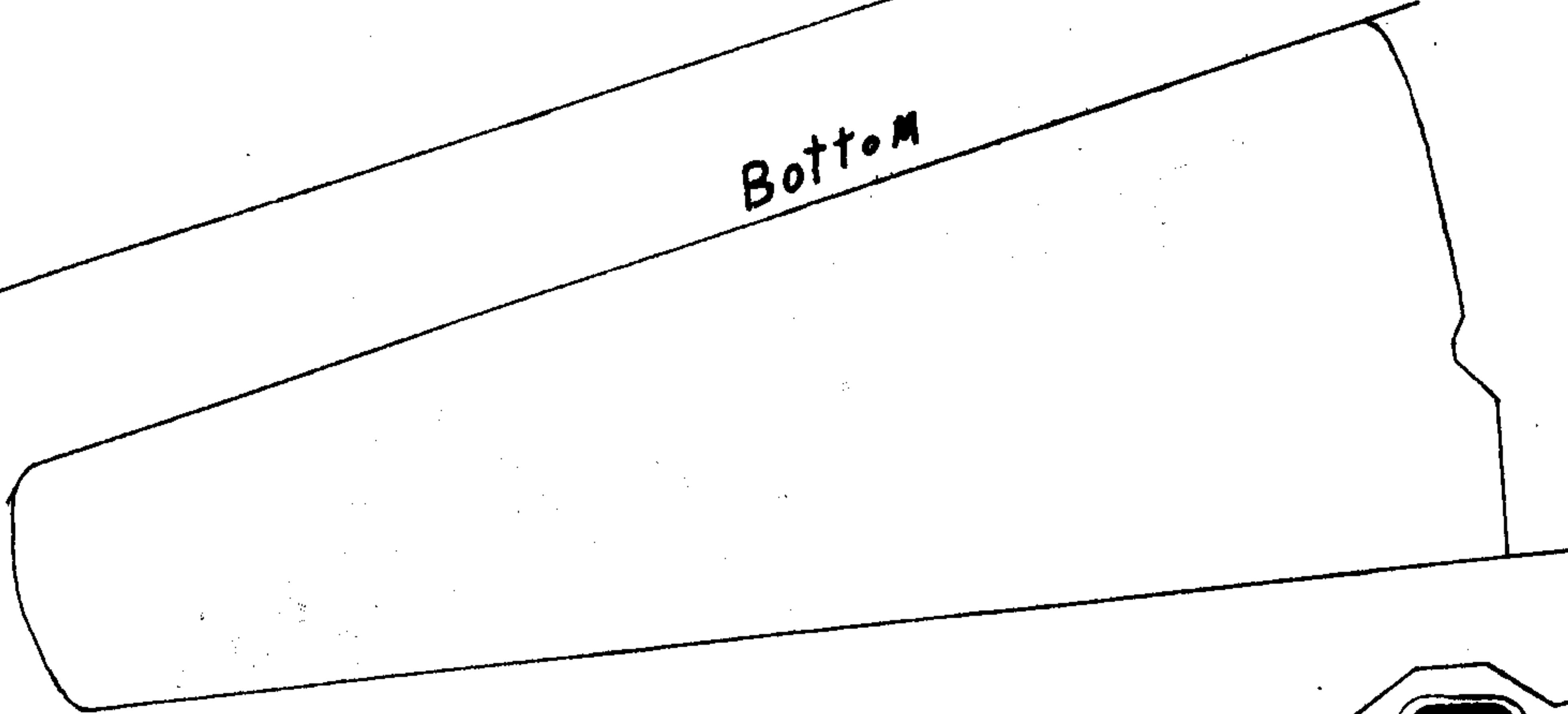
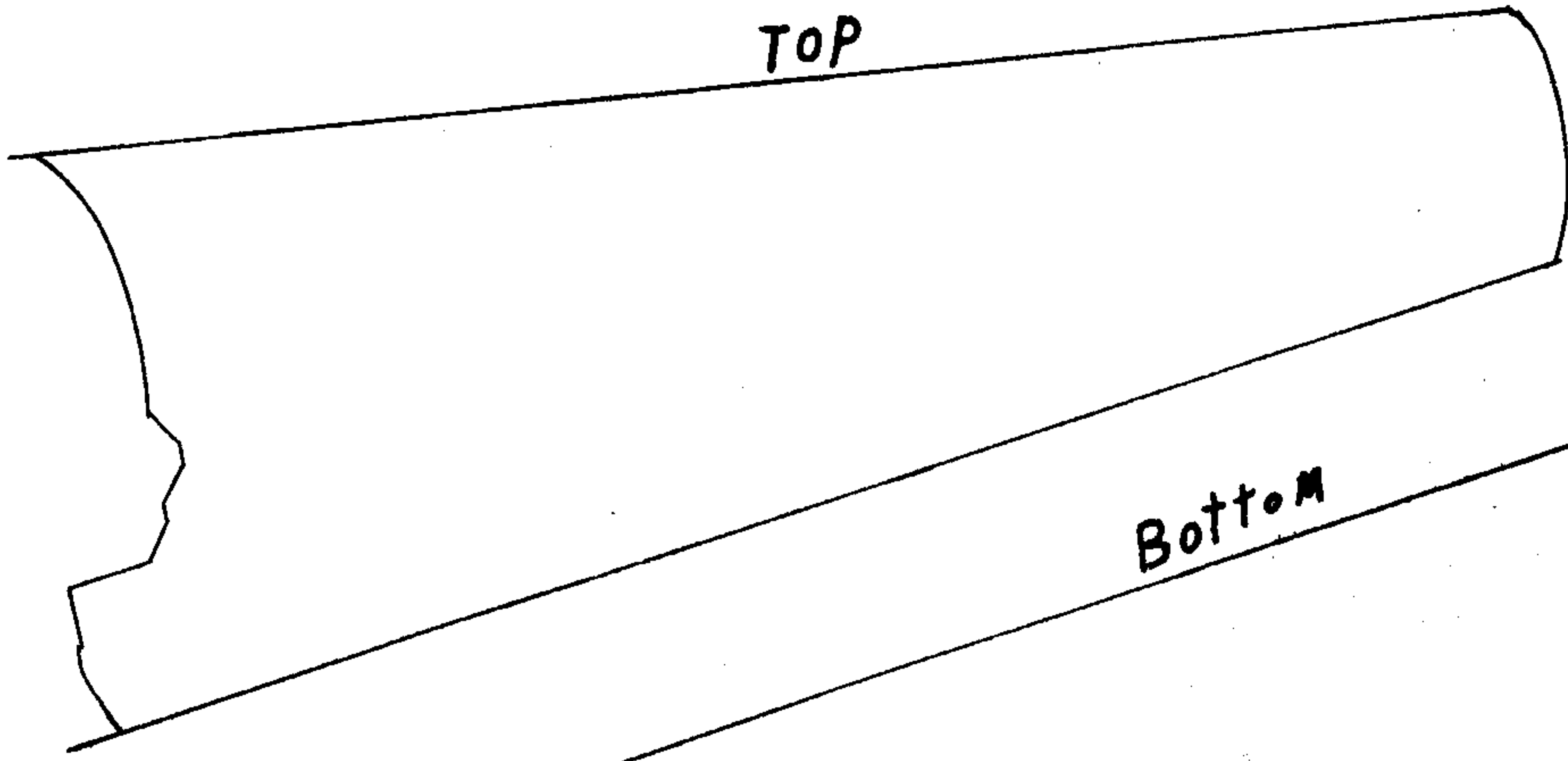


E-1B TRACER



E-2 HAWKEYE AND C-2 GREYHOUND COD





LEFT WING INSIDE BOTTOM VIEW
*NOTE CABLES, PIPES, etc, OMITED TO SHOW
RIBING

