

The Big Picture – Aerial Mobility

Announcer: The United States Army presents *The Big Picture*, an official report produced for the armed forces and the American people. Now, to show you part of *The Big Picture*, here is Sergeant Stuart Queen:

Sergeant Stuart Queen: 1958 marked the sixteenth anniversary of Army aviation. Although within the Army itself the development of Army aviation is considered to be one of the most significant of modern times, this function still is little known or understood outside the service.

Three factors are indispensable to victory in war: fire power, mobility, and communications. Success invariably goes to the side which has the greatest punch and, along with it, the ability to move in quickly and exploit that punch; in short, the power to outmaneuver and out-fire the enemy. The tools and the techniques of war change, but this principle of combat itself remains as true today as it has ever been. For years, indeed for centuries, fire power and mobility were substantially in balance on the battle field. Warfare was characterized by movement by foot, and soldiers could carry their muskets and drag their cannon with them.

On the battlefields of World War I, however, warfare became stalemated. New weapons brought a greater firepower than any army had ever had before...