Early Flying “Robots: from models to target UAVs”

UAV (Drones) Inquiry Unit Supporting Question 2

Article Source: \[\text{Article Source: ŽƐ͘ŶŐĞůĞƐ͘dŝŵĞƐ. 28. January, 1938, morning edition.} \]


Before the U.S. entered World War II, research had begun on remote, radio-controlled airplanes. At first, they were popular with hobbyist model builders; however, development began in earnest to build UAVs as targets to train military gunners in the Army and Navy. Reginald Denny, Walter Righter, and Paul Witter developed early UAVs in California beginning in the late 1930s. By 1940, the Radioplane Company, which eventually became Northrup Grumman, evolved from this activity. (Note the small size.)