

NEW GUINEA

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therly provinces of the Netherlands East Indies. They have been content to let Dutch New Guinea wait.

On the coast, however, are a few small towns and isolated plantations. It was reported, in 1935, that considerable numbers of Japanese had settled along the northern coast, and were exploiting the rich marine and timber resources. Meratuke, the main port of the south coast, near the Papuan boundary, had a brief period of fame as the centre of a thriving trade in bird skins and feathers—mainly bird of paradise plumes. Since 1926 this traffic has been prohibited and the 60,000 florins annual trade has ceased. The value of copra exported was once more than 100,000 florins annually, but this too has declined recently. During the last few years there has been a revival of interest in prospecting for gold and oil, but results have not been made public.

Exciting Days

In striking contrast to Dutch New Guinea's uneventful history, the British half of the island has had a very chequered career. Papua, now a territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, and formerly known as British New Guinea, was first annexed by Queensland in 1883, after repeated requests that the British Crown should acquire Eastern New Guinea had failed to produce any result. This proceeding was not ratified by the Imperial Government, but in 1884 Britain and Germany each declared a protectorate over part of the eastern half of the island. The south-east coast and adjacent islands became British New Guinea, the Australian colonies of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria undertaking to guarantee £15,000 a year for ten years to defray the cost of administration. In 1906 the territory was taken over by the Commonwealth Government and its name changed to

Papua. Germany's share included North-east New Guinea (Kaiser Wilhelm's Land) and the Bismarck Archipelago. Later the Protectorate was extended to the German Solomon Islands, Nauru, and the Marshall, Caroline, Mariana and Pelew Groups.

In August, 1914, an Australian Expeditionary Force occupied Rabaul, in New Britain, the largest island of the Bismarck Archipelago, and the capital of the German New Guinea Protectorate. After the war the Protectorate was divided between Japan and Australia under the Mandate system, the equator being the boundary between the two mandated territories. Japan administers the Territory of the Marshall, Caroline and Mariana Islands; Australia the Territory of New Guinea (including the Bismarck Archipelago and the former German Solomon Islands, Buka and Bougainville), where the phosphate island of Nauru is administered jointly by Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Japan's Main Target?

It was in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea (New Guinea for short to Australians) that I spent just over a year in 1937 and 1938 as geologist for an oil-prospecting company, and it is this part of New Guinea which probably constitutes the main target of Japanese aspirations. It is the nearest of Australian territories to areas under Japanese control (from Truk, one of the main settlements in the Caroline Islands, to Rabaul, until a few months ago the capital of New Guinea, is only about 500 miles, and the equator is the common boundary between the two mandates). It is the richest in natural resources of the three political divisions of the island of New Guinea, and possesses the finest harbours for naval bases and the best sites for aerodromes. It is also the most developed part of the island and contains the greatest proportion of the white population. And also, perhaps, it is going to be the hardest part to defend.

Bravery Of N.Z. Airman-Pianist



Alan Blake photograph
PILOT-OFFICER TOWSEY

A YOUNG New Zealand pianist, and a former programme organiser in the NBS, has distinguished himself in air operations, according to news from London. Pilot-Officer C. P. Towsey, of Auckland, was flying a bomber in a raid on

Brest and, although the whole of the crew suffered severely from air sickness because of exceptionally bad weather and their oxygen supply failing, Pilot-Officer Towsey pressed on to the target, placed his bombs successfully, and then safely returned to base. Pilot-Officer Towsey had to carry on almost unaided because of the illness and lack of oxygen of the exhausted crew. The flight lasted over eight hours, including from two to three hours without oxygen at a great height.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Bomber Command brought to the notice of all bomber stations his "commendable courage and resolution."

Patrick Towsey comes of a musical family. His father was Cyril Towsey, accompanist at IYA for many years, and his grandfather was well known as musician and conductor in Dunedin, Auckland and Wanganui. He was a programme organiser at IYA in 1937 and 1938 and gave piano recitals from IYA and 2YA. He is now about 24 years of age.

A PROFITABLE NIGHTINGALE

NEXT time you hear "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" spare a thought for the Australian composer, Eric Mascwitz. Having written the book and lyrics for the stage success, *Bala-laika*, he left his job as director of light entertainment at the BBC, and was soon raking in thousands of pounds in royalties from this and other successes. He left for America to delve into radio, films and stage, and more success and money were his. Then war broke out, and Eric returned to London, leaving

his money tied up in a film venture which finally failed.

He passed out of the limelight, until last year his friends were pained to learn of his misfortunes. An unsympathetic landlord sued him for unpaid rent for his untenanted London flat—for Eric, unfit for military work, was earning just £7 a week in a censorship department. An understanding magistrate dismissed the suit, allowing Eric to retain his flat and his few treasured possessions.

But, little by little, Eric is coming into his own again, for the words of the song, "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" are his, and every time it is sung or played in public it means money for him. And every radio station in the world, except the Hitlerised ones, are playing it.

LARGE
ECONOMY
TUBE
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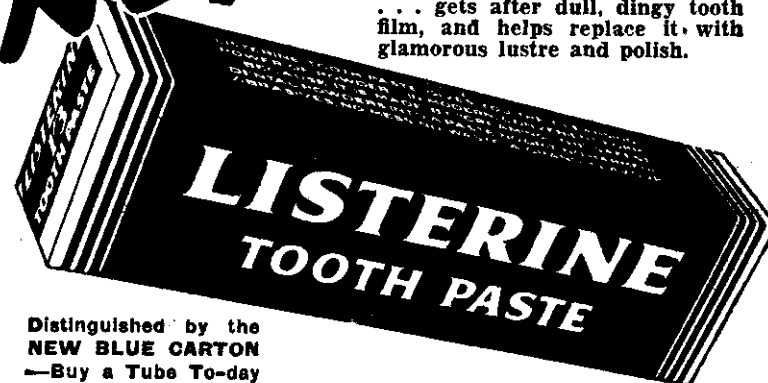
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