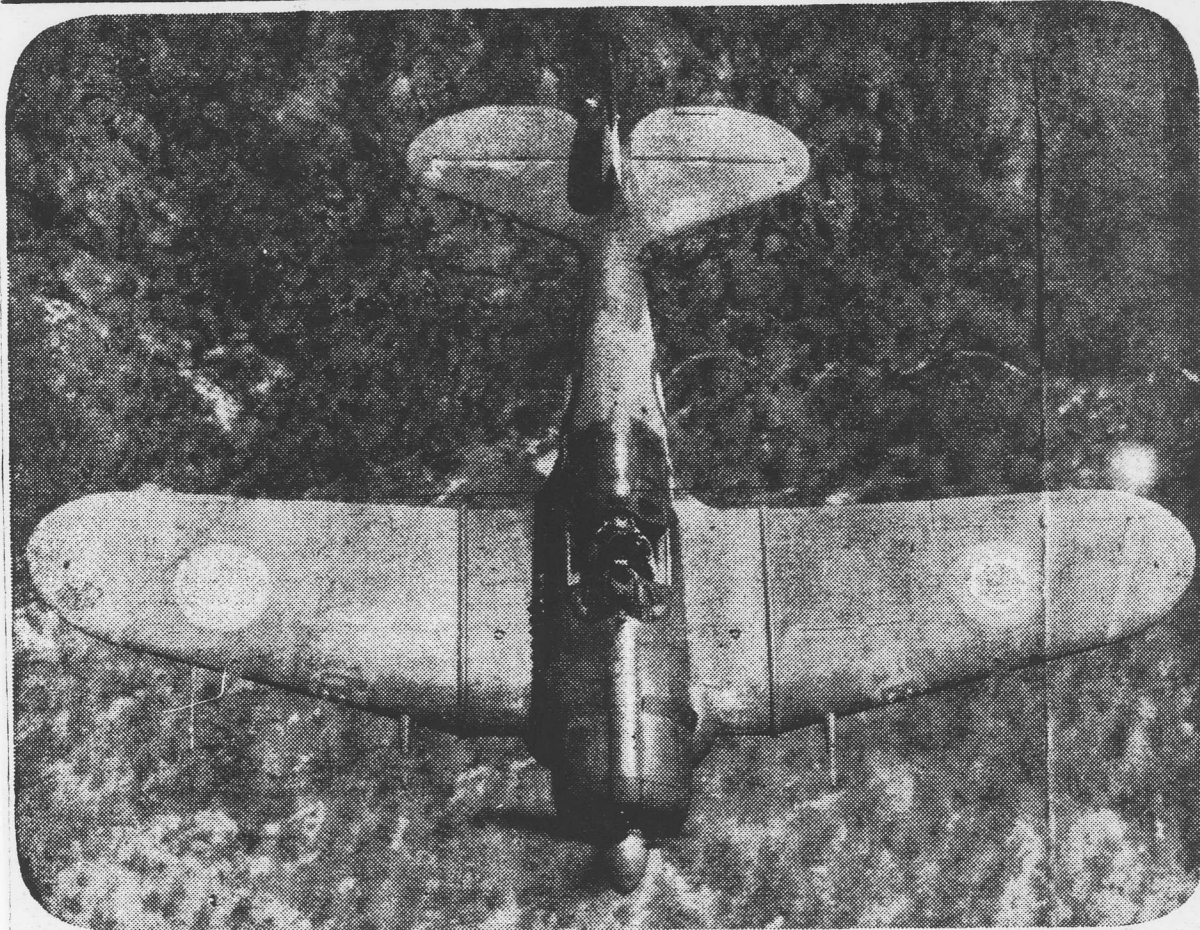


**BUILT HERE:**—Austra-  
lian  
made Boomerang fighter  
which went into action for  
the first time this week, dur-  
ing the Allied bombing of Lae,  
New Guinea. The Boomerang,  
which has been secretly manu-  
factured in Australia for a year,  
is ranked as a high-altitude  
interceptor. **RIGHT:** Wing  
Commander Wackett, who de-  
signed the Boomerang, and the  
test pilot, Mr. Ken Frewin, for-  
merly a commercial pilot, well  
known in Brisbane.  
Department of Information photograph.

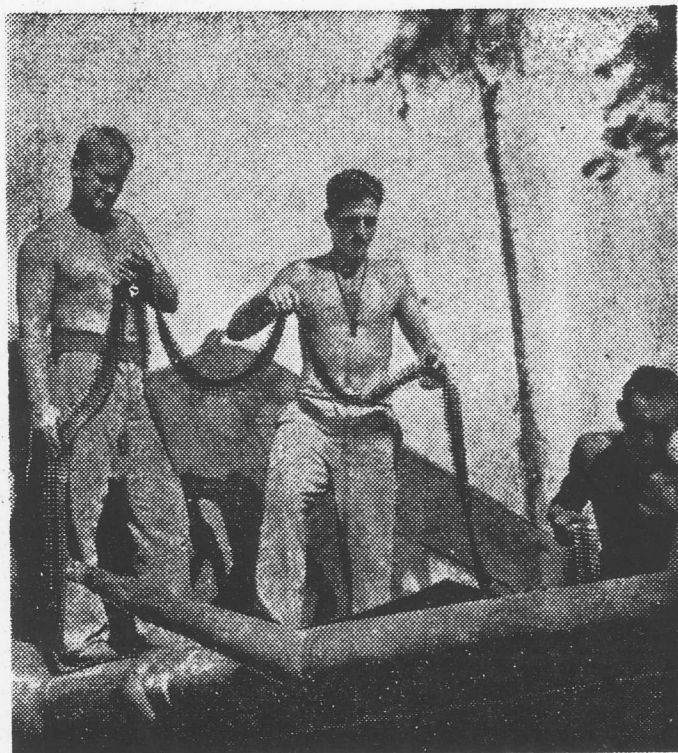


## REMARKABLE ACTION PICTURES OF AUSTRALIAN-BUILT BOOMERANG



**THIS STRIKING NEW ANGLE SHOT** of a Boomerang single-seater, a unit of one of the R.A.A.F. tactical reconnaissance squadrons, was made looking straight down through the camera hatch of a Wirraway. **Right:** Peeling off from echelon formation in a practice diving attack, these Boomerangs are units of a squadron which comes under Army operational control and specialises in tactical reconnaissance, strafing and "close support" for troops.

—Dept. of Air photograph



### Anzac Unity In Air Strafe

Located by a RAAF boomerang, Japanese 75 millimetre guns at Tasiu, north of Bougainville, were destroyed by a flight of RNZAF Corsairs, led in by a RAAF Wirraway.

The story is told in a Department of Air bulletin.

Working in close co-operation with the AMF, the Boomerang pin-pointed the positions of several guns camouflaged under heavy jungle at Tasiu.

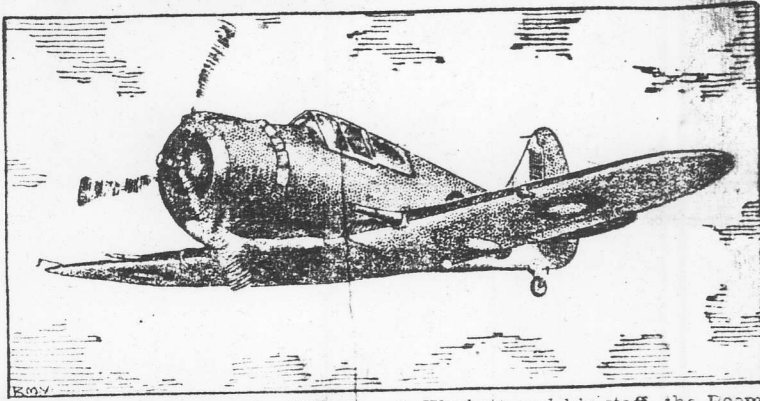
Flight-Lieut. Gil Cory, of Brisbane, led 14 Corsairs of the RNZAF to the gun position, and marked it with smoke bombs.

Flying Officer Peter Fiskin, of Kilkenny (S.A.), who flew with Cory, said that the bombing was so successful with 1000 pounders that seven aircraft accounted for the guns.

The other seven Corsairs were diverted to smash another suspected 75 millimetre gun position at Ponton Plantation.

# AIRCRAFT OF TODAY

No. 33.—The "BOOMERANG," First All-Australian Fighter



DESIGNED and built at the Fishermen's Bend works of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, the "Boomerang" fighter represents Australia's first attempt to enter into the field of high-performance single-seat combat planes.

The Boomerang is perhaps best described as an adaptation rather than a completely new design, since it was arranged to make use of as many parts as possible of the "Wirraway" trainer, which has been in production since just before the present war began.

The work of Wing-Commander L.

J. Wackett and his staff, the Boomerang is a low-wing cantilever monoplane. It has a retractable undercarriage and carries two cannon as well as machine-guns. The pilot has armor-plate protection.

Power comes from a 14-cylinder twin Wasp Pratt and Whitney engine, the type now being built in Australia. This engine, which is moderately supercharged by a gear-driven blower, drives a de Havilland three-blade airscrew, also made in Australia. The engine develops about 1200 horsepower and the plane's best performance is given at medium altitude up to 15,000 feet.

The Boomerang's fuselage is deep and comparatively short. Some of the early models tended to swing disconcertingly during the take-off, and to obviate this the fuselage was lengthened slightly.

The plane is of all-metal construction, with riveted sheet Alclad covering. Hydraulically-operated split trailing-edge flaps are fitted.

Ailerons, elevators and rudder are fabric-covered on metal frames. All are fitted with trimming tabs.

Although performance was not good enough to qualify the Boomerang as a fighter-interceptor, for which it was intended, it has nevertheless been useful as an Army Co-operation aeroplane and has also been used to lead R.A.A.F. bombers in to targets hidden in the jungle or in rugged mountain country, and they join in the strafing of ground targets.

Speed of the Boomerang is in the vicinity of 300 miles an hour. Wingspan is 36ft., and length 25ft. 6in.