

...hied aircraft are...
...pacific B in the number...
...er. P means "pursuit"...
...observation, and so on...
...that allotted to particular...
...sual category.

...sometimes count, and an in-
...reversion to their use has been
...in connection with the identification
...enemy aircraft. Unknown to the Ger-
...ans and the Japs, Allied authorities have
...bestowed a series of nicknames on enemy
...aircraft which are reverent, but expres-
...sive. A list of the names reads like the
...cast of a comedy about American Middle
...West small town life.

For instance, the Japanese Zero single-
...seated fighter, most noted Jap plane of
...this war, has become "Zeke," a contrac-
...tion of the good old Biblical name of Eze-
...kiel. There might be some sense in this,
...on the reasoning that "Zeke" sounds like
...Zee," which is the American pronun-
...ciation of the last letter of the alphabet, which
...we call "Zed," and "Zee" stands for
..."Zero." But, you might not unreasonably
...ask, why is Zeke's first cousin, the Zero
...float plane, called "Fete"? I don't know.

The German Messerschmitt single-seater
...fighter—that is, the latest type, Me
...109F—is "Mike" if you are picking it out
...on an identification chart, and the Focke-
...Wulf 190 is "Fred." Other members of
...the single-seater fighter family are "Nate,"
..."Oscar," "Hap," and the slightly disreput-
...able "Dave," and "Rufe," who have float-
...plane landing gear.

...naming feast, but it is doubtful when
...the dear things will be flattered to lead
...that they are mostly confined to the bom-
...ber and transport types of aircraft. Mik
...and Zeke and Hap betray the dominant
...mate by being fighters, but it is consid-
...ered that the feminine touch is best ob-
...served in dropping explosives and carry-
...ing things about. The only exception is
..."Mavis," who is a 4-engined fighter bom-
...ber.

...floatplane divebomber. In the list
...are "Ditch" and "Sue," "Tilly,"
..."Betty" and "Doris" are in the medium
...bomber class.

"Tess," "Thelma," "Topsy" and "Trudy"
...are transports, but "Trudy" has the distinc-
...tion of being the big Focke-Wulf transport,
...which the Nazis have used to fly out over
...the Atlantic and pick Allied shipping in
...co-operation with the U-boats.

OFFICIAL NAMES

These are official names, and have
...nothing to do with the popular names
...bestowed on individual aircraft by their
...own pilots and crews. They are included
...in large charts of silhouettes giving elab-
...orate technical details of the different
...craft involved, and are used in army and
...air force communications.

Where individual fliers exercise the right
...of naming their own craft, the results
...are usually even less reverent. It comes
...as something of a shock, for instance, to
...see a big Meisander come lumbering into
...airfield with its fuselage slashed and
...by bullet holes in perspex sheathings.

...on the "Topsy" and "Sue" immediately
...on the "Topsy" and "Sue" immediately
...is a very scantily clad young lady reclin-
...ing on an ornamental stool which an-
...nounces that she is "Saucy Sue."

Austeriticians will no doubt regret to
...learn that a large number of these names
...are based on alcoholic refreshments and
...the uses to which it is put—"Whisky-
...ada," "One-Over-the-Eight," "Snifter,"
..."Smart" and so on. "X X X X" on one
...crate indicated a gesture of affection
...for a certain type of beer.

One noted squadron leader "up north,"
...who has led his men into some particu-
...larly daring raids over enemy held terri-
...tory, has emblazoned on his plane large
...fish groups of United Nations' flags,
...which are rather ostentatious until one
...is a couple of feet away, just below
...the cockpit, a little group of Jap flags.

JAP CRU.

Australians' Expe.

(From Noel Adams, Our Own Co-
...pendent, Somewhere in Australia).
...Friday.

An amazing episode believed to be
...unique in the war, followed the sink-
...ing of a small naval vessel, HMAS Pa-
...tricia, near Wessel Island, off the north-
...east tip of Arnhem Land. After
...sending the ship to the bottom with a
...direct hit and bombing and machine-
...gunning the survivors in the water,
...the plane alighted on the sea and took
...prisoner one of the personnel of the
...ship who was wearing only a pair of
...shorts and who was hard of hearing.
...The Japanese pilot clambered out of
...the cockpit on to one of the floats and
...called to this man who was the nearest
...of the survivors to the plane. The
...man swam to the plane, while the
...pilot covered him with a revolver.
...Other survivors could see them talk-
...ing, but were too far away to hear
...what was being said. The conversa-
...tion lasted for about three minutes and
...ended with the pilot helping the pris-
...oner into the middle of the three
...floats already occupied by a Jap
...pilot, possibly the navigator.

The prisoner was given something to
...drink out of a flask by the pilot and
...the plane then took off and disappear-
...ed. The ship which was a wooden
...vessel and flat bottomed, sank within
...90 seconds of being hit. The plane
...dived on her out of the sun, just after
...midday, and the first bomb, striking
...amidships, penetrated the hatch and
...blew the bottom out. The second bomb
...struck the side of the ship, and Wessel
...Island. While the ship was strug-
...gling in the water, most of them suffer-
...ing severe burns, the effects of the
...explosion, the plane dropped another
...bomb in among them, killing a rating
...and two native members of the crew.
...It then circled over the men for half
...an hour machine-gunning them, but by
...diving under the water, all escaped
...serious injury.

The brutality of the attacks removes
...the possibility that in taking the pris-
...oner from the water, the Japanese
...were acting from a humanitarian mo-
...tive.

After the plane made off the sur-
...vivors put the more seriously wounded
...men on a damaged raft which had
...been blown off the ship and improv-
...ised other rafts from the flotsam to which
...the men clung.

Wessel Island was visible, but after
...paddling and swimming for hours, the
...survivors found themselves no nearer
...it.

At midnight, however, a current
...carried them towards land and in
...early hours of the morning they landed
...on a small rocky island off the
...coast of Wessel Island.

They had been in the water for
...nearly 15 hours. They were found
...by natives and given food and water.
...Then the commander of the ship set
...off in a canoe with natives to Wessel
...Island, where he had to walk 35 miles
...in his bare feet in two days. The
...following day an aeroplane dropped
...supplies to the survivors and four days
...later they were rescued and brought
...to an Australian port. While on the
...island, a rating and a native died from
...the effects of the bombing in the
...water.