

be equipped with the famous Corsair aircraft. Meanwhile, New Zealand Warhawks, operating from Bougainville, have assumed the role of fighter-bombers, and are striking the Japanese in the Rabaul area. An attack bomber squadron of Venturas has made its presence felt among Japanese installations, while Catalina flying-boat squadrons based at Fiji and farther north have carried out valuable reconnaissance and search missions. During the last few weeks New Zealand Catalinas have rescued over twenty United States airmen from the sea. Squadrons of Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers and Dauntless dive-bombers have been formed and trained.

Linked with the operational squadrons in the Pacific are the Air Transport and Pacific Ferry organizations. These play a less spectacular but none the less important role than the fighters and bombers. New Zealand heavy transport aircraft carry personnel and supplies to and from the forward area of the Pacific, generally maintaining fast and efficient communication between New Zealand and the forward bases. This organization is equipped with Douglas Dakota and Lockheed Lodestar transport planes.

The Pacific Ferry organization brings to New Zealand by air across the Pacific many of the modern aircraft that are subsequently flown by operational units. In many respects the work of this organization is similar to that of the famous Atlantic Ferry Command. It has greatly speeded up the delivery of aircraft, and so has played a vital part in the efficiency with which the air war against the Japanese is being prosecuted. The organization has tens of thousands of mishap-free miles to its credit and, as a weekly newspaper stated recently, "the ferry crews have yet to lose an hour, much less an aircraft on the way."

No review of R.N.Z.A.F. activity in the Pacific is completed without some reference to the ground organization



[R.N.Z.A.F. Official Photograph.

#### ACE

**R.N.Z.A.F. Pacific fighter ace at the present time is Squadron Leader P. H. G. Newton, Wellington, who has five Japs destroyed (confirmed) and one probable to his credit.**

which, in itself, is material for a long article. In brief, it can be said that wherever R.N.Z.A.F. aircraft are based in the Pacific area there also will be found New Zealand servicing units, personnel, and administrative organizations. Like their flying counterparts, the men in the ground organizations have tradition; some of them served with the R.N.Z.A.F. fighter squadron and aerodrome-construction unit in the Malayan-Singapore campaign. They bring to their work a speed and quality which wins high praise from British and American correspondents.

