

NEWS AND VIEWS

Major-General Iven Mackay, C.M.G.

THE mantle of General Monash, the Australian civil engineer who proved to be the greatest military leader of the Australian Imperial Forces during the War of 1914-18, has fallen on another man of science, Major-General Iven Mackay, who is in command of the A.I.F. now operating in Libya which recently took a leading part in the successful attack on Bardia. Mackay was assistant lecturer and demonstrator in physics in the University of Sydney in 1910, where he had obtained his 'blue' for rowing and for football; he combined his aptitude for sport with his scientific training by acting as sports as well as science master in the Sydney Church of England Grammar School during 1905-10. When he joined the staff of the Physics Department of the University of Sydney he also became a sports coach. Later he undertook the duties of student adviser. He worked in the Cavendish Laboratory during 1919. In 1933, he became head master of Cranbrook School, Sydney, and held that position until 1940. During his early career at the University thirty-six years ago he, together with several others, organized the Sydney University Scouts, which eventually formed the nucleus of the New South Wales sector of the A.I.F. Mackay was born on April 7, 1882, the son of a Scottish father and a Canadian mother.

New Year Honours List

THE names of the following scientific men and others associated with scientific work appear in the New Year Honours List: *O.M.*: Prof. Gilbert Murray, F.B.A., trustee of the British Museum and president of the International Committee for Intellectual Co-operation. *Baronets*: Sir Kenneth Lee, lately director general and secretary of the Ministry of Information, formerly chairman of the Industrial Grants Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Mr. Hugh Lett, president of the Royal College of Surgeons. *K.C.B.*: Dr. E. V. Appleton, F.R.S., secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. *K.B.E.*: Mr. D. E. Vandepier, second secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. *Knights Bachelor*: Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta; Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar, director of industrial development, Advisory Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, and lately director of the University Chemical Laboratories, Lahore; Prof. W. L. Bragg, F.R.S., Cavendish professor of experimental physics in the University of Cambridge (who is taking the style Sir Lawrence Bragg); Brevet Colonel R. N. Chopra, professor of pharmacology and director of the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta; Mr. R. B. Ewbank, lately Commissioner for Natural Resources, Newfoundland; Dr. James Weir French, chairman of Messrs. Barr and Stroud, Ltd.; Mr. P. R. Laird, secretary,

Department of Agriculture for Scotland; Brigadier C. G. Lewis, surveyor-general of India; Prof. J. S. E. Townsend, F.R.S., Wykeham professor of physics in the University of Oxford; Prof. R. S. Wallace, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney.

C.B.: Mr. J. S. Pringle, director of electrical engineering, Admiralty; Mr. R. A. Watson Watt, scientific adviser on telecommunications, Ministry of Aircraft Production. *C.M.G.*: Mr. C. Bullock, secretary for native affairs, chief native commissioner and director of native development, S. Rhodesia; Prof. R. T. Leiper, F.R.S., professor of helminthology in the University of London and a director of the Department of Parasitology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Mr. J. R. Mackie, director of agriculture, Nigeria. *C.I.E.*: Prof. H. G. Champion, professor of forestry in the University of Oxford, lately conservator of forests, United Provinces; Mr. C. G. M. Mackarness, conservator of forests, Assam; Lieut.-Colonel H. E. Short, director of the King Institute, Guindy, Madras; Mr. C. C. Wilson, chief conservator of forests (retired), Madras. *C.B.E.*: Mr. G. E. Bailey, managing director of Messrs. Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Company, Ltd.; Mr. R. T. G. French, secretary of the Electricity Commission; Mr. G. Hogarth, fisheries secretary, Scottish Home Department; Lieut.-Colonel C. A. MacLean, cane commissioner, Bihar; Mr. W. E. Nicholson, director of education, Sierra Leone.

O.B.E.: Sukumar Basu, secretary of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; Mr. R. S. Browne, deputy conservator of forests, Madras; Major D. R. Crone, superintendent of the Survey of India; Mr. R. M. Drake, secretary of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers; Mr. J. R. Haddow, veterinary research officer-in-charge of serology, Izatnagar; Mr. A. G. Herbert, secretary of the Forestry Commission; Mr. C. Hollyoak, superintendent of the Royal Ordnance Factory, Nottingham; Mr. F. G. L. Holland, director of education, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony; Dr. H. W. Jack, director of agriculture, Fiji; Dr. J. T. Jenkins, marine superintendent of the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Committee; Mr. H. C. Papworth, principal of the Presidency College, Madras; Mr. G. F. Masters, superintendent of the Royal Gun and Carriage Factory, Royal Ordnance Factories, Woolwich; Mr. J. W. Mills, deputy director of armament production, Ministry of Aircraft Production; Mr. P. A. Mytton, chief livestock officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; Mr. J. Taylor, assistant secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland. *M.B.E.*: Prof. Ananta Prashad Banarji-Sastri, professor of Sanskrit, Patna College, Bihar; Dr. A. J. Noronha, lecturer in bacteriology and pathology, B. J. Medical School, Poona, Bombay; Prof. Cumbakonam Kailasa Krishnaswami Pillai, professor of geology, Presidency College, Madras; Tufail Muhammad Chhaju Khan

Rajput, criminal tribes settlement officer and personal assistant to the collector of Sukkur, Sind; Raj Narain Singh, deputy conservator of forests, Utilization Division, Naini Tal, United Provinces; Dr. Raghunath Sabajirao Tiradkar, professor of medicine, Grant Medical College, and honorary physician, J. J. Hospital, Bombay.

Prof. A. F. Joffe: Award of Order of Lenin

FOR his outstanding work in physics, Prof. A. F. Joffe has been awarded the Order of Lenin, the highest honour in the Soviet Union. The award was made on the occasion of Prof. Joffe's sixtieth birthday. Prof. Joffe's study of the mechanical and electrical properties of crystals has gained him a world-wide reputation. His work on the photo-electric effect and the magnetic field of projectiles is of importance; during the past few years he has investigated semi-conductors. Under the guidance of Prof. Joffe, experiments have been carried out as a result of which it has been possible to increase the frost-resistance of Soviet-grown caoutchouc and to work out a new method for the manufacture of plastic synthetic rubber. He was responsible for the establishment of the Physico-Technical Institute in Leningrad in 1918, the first of a system of physico-technical and physico-chemical institutes in the Soviet Union in Kharkov, Dniepropetrovsk, Sverdlovsk, Tomsk, and elsewhere. Prof. Joffe is a member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. and also of many scientific academies of other countries.

Air Raid Damage at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich

THOUGH parts of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, have been damaged on several occasions during recent air raids, the historic Wren building of 1675 remains substantially undamaged and the damage to instrumental equipment has been of a minor nature. The south portico of the Altazimuth pavilion was hit by a high explosive bomb and partly demolished. The Altazimuth instrument had recently been dismantled and a small reversible transit instrument mounted in its place; this was thrown from its mounting and broken in two, but the object glass and impersonal micrometer were undamaged. A personal equation machine had been fitted to the collimator in the south portico; this and the collimator objective sustained no damage. Though the main gates were destroyed, the Shepherd 24-hour electric clock, well known to visitors to the Observatory, received only slight damage. The damage to the coverings of the domes has been considerable, but the objectives and mirrors of the principal telescopes, with other valuable equipment, were dismantled and sent away for safety in the early days of the war. The main building, erected at the end of the last century, has received minor damage. The time service provided by the Observatory has been maintained without interruption; alternative arrangements had been made early in the War to ensure its continuance in the event of damage to the Observatory.

Air Raid Damage at the University of Liverpool

THE buildings of the University of Liverpool have been damaged during air raids. One of the chemical departments in the main University buildings received a direct hit, and extensive damage was done in the laboratory, generating and battery rooms; damage to the structure of the building, however, was superficial. Nevertheless, the building was severely rocked and many of the laboratory instruments were affected; the building was not in use at the time and there were no casualties. More than a hundred windows in the University buildings, and particularly the Engineering Laboratories, have been destroyed by blast. Bombs have also fallen in the grounds of both of the University's halls of residence; the damage, however, was slight, consisting mainly of shattered windows.

A Committee on Reconstruction

IT is announced that the Minister without Portfolio, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, has undertaken responsibility for the study of reconstruction and post-war problems. Later on, when the end of the War can be more clearly foreseen, a Ministry will be formed for this purpose. Meanwhile, Mr. Arthur Greenwood will be chairman of a group of Ministers studying these problems. The object will be to find practical solutions for the immediate problems of a transition from war to peace, and also to outline and presently to amplify a policy for the years immediately following the War which will command the support of the nation as a whole and enable united action to proceed in peace as in war.

Medical Planning Commission

A MEDICAL Planning Commission has been set up by the British Medical Association "to study war-time developments and their effects on the country's medical services, both present and future". It will consist of 68 doctors, representing all branches of the profession, under the presidency of Colonel Thomas Fraser, consulting physician to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The detailed work of the Commission will be undertaken in committees and sub-committees. The chairman of the council will be Mr. H. S. Souttar, surgeon to the London Hospital.

The Universities: An American Tribute

YALE and Harvard Universities have sent a telegram to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge conveying a tribute to the "dynamic courage of Great Britain" and stating that an important aspect of that courage is expressed "in the determination of your scholars to pursue their researches in the spirit of Milton's Seraph, 'Unshaken, unsexed, un-terrified'". The Vice-Chancellors of Oxford and Cambridge have replied, sending "grateful acknowledgments to Harvard and Yale for their tribute to the resolution of this country". They go on to say: "The cause of liberty and learning, now eclipsed over most of Europe, is nowhere better understood