

# Navy Rounds Up Hundreds of Japanese Fishing Boats on Pacific Coast



A Few Hours After Canada Went to War With Japan the Canadian Navy Was Rounding Up All Pacific Coast Fishing Craft Operated by Persons of Japanese Origin. It Has Now Been Announced That These Craft, Shown Tied Up at Steveston, Near Vancouver, Will Be Leased for Six Months After the War. Japanese Will Not Be Allowed to Sail in Canadian Waters During the War. They Will Be Permitted to Serve in a Special War Work Organization If They Desire. The Seizure of Boats Was Done on a Friendly Basis. Many Japanese Fishermen Have Already Volunteered to Serve Canada in Any War Capacity. —Photo by Lieutenant George Lawrence, R.C.N.V.R.

## The Ploughman Who Became a Poet

(By PAULINE M. BARRETT, M.A.)

ON the 25th of January, 1759, in a tiny cottage two miles from Allo-way in Ayrshire, a young Scots farmer and his wife were rejoicing over the birth of their first child, a son. They would have been amazed indeed had they known that in years to come that birth would be celebrated in resounding verse by a certain Thomas Miller, whose poem "The Birth of Burns" opens with these words:

Upon a stormy Winter night  
Scotland's bright star first rose in sight;  
Beaming upon as wild a sky  
As ever to prophetic eye  
Proclaimed that Nature had on hand  
Some work to glorify the land.  
Within a lonely cot of clay  
That night her great creation lay.  
Nevertheless, the baby born in that  
cot of clay" for "the auld clay biggin" as

devils, ghosts, fairies, brownies, witches, warlocks, spunkies, kelpies, elf-candles, deadlights, wraiths, apparitions, cantraps, giants, enchanted towers, dragons and other trumpery. Her tales cultivated the latent seeds of poetry, but had so strong an effect on my imagination that to this hour in my nocturnal rambles I sometimes keep a sharp look-out in suspicious places . . .

### First Love

It was while walking behind his father's plough that Robert received his inspiration for his first poem—"Handsome Nell"—a tribute to his fourteen-year-old sweetheart and harvest-mate, little Nellie Kirkpatrick. It was her love which made him a poet, Burns once said.

In his seventeenth year Robert left home to study surveying in Kirkoswald. He went to school and started higher mathematics, and lodged next door to a

Gavi Hamilton, an attorney, with whom Robert Burns soon became firm friends. With Hamilton encouraging him, Burns wrote more and more freely, and presently he came to be something of a public figure in Mauchline town, known for his ready wit and his outspoken criticism of anything which opposed his growing passion for freedom of thought, speech and action. In the satirical poems written at this period, he began to express his hatred and disgust for all forms of hypocrisy, cruelty and intolerance. But there were other, gentler verses too, among them such favorites as "The Cotter's Saturday Night," in which he immortalizes his father's memory; "Hallow'e'en"; "To a Mouse"; and "To a Mountain Daisy."

### First Publication

BETWEEN farming and writing verse, young Burns found time to go to

claimed in the highest literary circles, feted by the great ones of society. In 1787 he made a triumphal tour along the Border, enjoying the opportunities of seeing more of his native land, and, by his own statement, enthusiastic over the social freedom of his trip after the "noise and nonsense of Edinburgh." Then followed a tour of the Highlands, and such was the hospitality he received everywhere that he expressed his delight in the lines:

When Death's stream I ferry o'er,  
A day that surely shall come,  
In Heaven itself I'll ask no more  
Than just a Highland welcome.

The year 1788 was a busy one for Burns. He received £500 from a new edition of his poems. He wrote many more, among them "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Poet's Progress." He made up his mind to marry Jean Armour, and this time he was successful. He sold his share of Mossiel Farm to his brother, and rented Ellisland, near Dumfries; here he built a home for his Jean, and wrote some charming lines for her.

## 'Round London Town

By JOAN LITTLEFIELD  
(North American Newspaper Alliance)

LONDON.—Many authorities are working on the replanning of London after the war. Leslie Abercrombie, professor of town planning at the University of London, has been specially appointed by the London County Council to work on the reconstruction of the city. He will soon submit his plans to Lord Reith, Minister of Works and Buildings.

The first problem is the redevelopment of the badly bombed areas and the provision of houses for people bombed out of the East End. This hitherto dreary, slum-ridden area will have pleasant blocks of flats and plenty of open spaces.

The reconstruction of London as a whole will be a long-term plan and schemes are afoot which may take up to fifty years to complete.

The Institution of Structural Engineers thinks the docks should be rebuilt somewhere between Dartford, Gravesend and

was with an army corps in France and Belgium in 1940 and went to Cairo last Summer to be deputy chief of the General Staff in the Middle East.

Physically General Ritchie is a big man. He has tireless energy and a mind which seizes upon the central factors of a problem and in a crisis he is imperturbable. He is a keen sportsman, a good golfer, polo player and a champion army fencer. He is married to a Canadian from Kingston, Ontario.

### Presents for Hitler

THIRTY-EIGHT London jewelers, silversmiths and goldsmiths have formed themselves into a group to put their skilled craftsmanship to the best use in making war weapons.

About 300 men, of an average age of fifty, are employed by the thirty-eight firms, and in normal times their delicate,