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## 'Magna Carta' Of Refugees Comes Into Being

### Not Happy In Service, He Broke Gauges

LONDON, Sunday.—A sailor sentenced by court martial yesterday to 15 months' detention for having caused wilful damage to Britain's biggest aircraft-carrier, Eagle, was said to have done it out of pique—actuated by reading of similar cases of damage.

Stoker-mechanic Henry Maurice Kirk (24), pleaded guilty to having damaged 11 gauges on the carrier on January 18. In October, two stokers from the Eagle were gaoled for doing wilful damage to the ship, and there have since been similar incidents on several other British naval vessels.

The prosecution said that two leading stoker-mechanics saw Kirk slashing at gauges with a big spanner held in both hands. It was stated for the defence that Kirk had joined the Navy in 1948 to meet his parents' wishes and was not happy.

### Orion Reports A Woman's Disappearance

SYDNEY, Sun.—A 41-year-old married woman mysteriously disappeared from the liner Orion three hours after it left Melbourne for Sydney last Thursday.

The woman is Mrs. Annette Alphonous Withers, wife of Capt. Leonard B. Withers, master of an oil tanker now on its way from Singapore to Australia.

Mrs. Withers, a first-class passenger, has been missing since 8 p.m. last Thursday, when she left the ship's dining room.

She boarded the Orion at Southampton on December 19. Orion passengers told the police that Mrs. Withers planned to go from Sydney to join her husband in Melbourne when his tanker, the Delomes, arrived there on February 9.

NEW YORK, Sun.—The final action needed to bring a convention relating to the status of refugees into force was taken when Australia deposited its instrument of accession with the United Nations.

Australia's delegate (Mr. W. D. Forsyth) said the convention had been described as the Magna Carta of the refugees.

Mr. Forsyth deposited the document on Friday.

The convention will come into force 90 days later in Australia, Belgium, Denmark, the German Federal Republic, Luxembourg and Norway, which previously had ratified it.

Six ratifications or accessions were needed to bring the convention into force. It was adopted at a 26-nation U.N. conference in Geneva in July, 1951.

Fifteen other countries have signed the convention, including Austria, Brazil, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

### Australia's Part

Mr. Forsyth said at the ceremony marking the depositing of the document that the convention defined the term "refugees" and endorsed the moral obligations of nations to try to assist persons whose misfortune it was to be refugees from their homelands.

"It states the obligations which a person in the designated status of refugee has towards the country which gives him asylum," he said.

"It also sets out the obligations which the Government of the country which receives the refugee undertakes towards him."

"My Government regards the adoption of this convention as a necessary step towards the alleviation of the condition of large numbers of people whose plight is one of the saddest facts of our unhappy world."

"My country, like others, has been active in material assistance to such unfortunate people since the end of World War II. Beyond material assistance, we, like others, have been concerned to have this problem discussed and dealt with in terms

compatible with the moral principles of the U.N. charter.

"My Government, as well as providing material assistance to and cooperating with the International Refugee Organisation, has afforded homes in Australia to many thousands of former refugees."

"I say former, because from the time these people arrive in my country they cease to be refugees."

Mr. Forsyth said that, since the international refugee body ceased to function, the Australian Government had taken great interest in the work of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and recently made a second contribution of £A31,250 to the High Commissioner's fund.

Australia's action was commended by the U.N. Secretary-General (Mr. Hammarskjöld) and in a message from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (Dr. Van Heuven Goedhart) read at the ceremony.

Mr. Hammarskjöld said it was gratifying that Australia, which had done and was continuing to do so much towards providing a permanent solution of the refugee problem by accepting within her borders large numbers of refugees, was the country which brought this convention into force.

"I should like, Mr. Forsyth, to ask you to convey to your Government by own deep appreciation for its accession to the convention, thereby bringing it into force," he said.

### Two Of Three Rescued From Plane In Sea

NEW YORK, Sun.—An Italian motor boat yesterday rescued an American airman who had been floating all night in the Mediterranean after parachuting from a United States Navy postal plane which crashed into the Gulf of Salerno.

The airman is the second of three men aboard the plane who has been saved.

The pilot was picked up by an Italian corvette after four hours in the choppy water. Look-outs spotted his white parachute in the dark.

American and Italian aircraft today joined numerous fishing vessels, an Italian corvette and a water tanker in a desperate search for the third man, but hopes are fading.

The pilot said he believed the plane exploded as it hit the water. American authorities are mystified by the crash of a U.S. Navy Neptune bomber into a mountain outside Honolulu, killing all eight of the crew.

Flying weather was near perfect when the big aircraft rammed into the rocky slopes on Thursday night and splattered flaming wreckage over a wide area.

A marine helicopter, searching for survivors, was caught in a downdraft and crashed near the burning bomber, but the pilot and a marine medical rescue crew of three escaped uninjured.

### Police Search For Mother Of Roadside Baby

AUCKLAND, Sun.—Detectives tonight searched the outlying areas of Auckland for the parents of a three-week-old baby boy who was found abandoned in the bush yesterday afternoon.

He is in good health and is being cared for at a State child welfare home.

Two Maori youths found the baby lying on a bed of ivy beside a track running through the bush at Grafton Gully.

There was no sign of neglect and his clothing was clean and neat.

The baby was lying in full view beside the track and police believe he could not have been there more than half an hour. His empty feeding bottle was beside him.

Sandflies had bitten his face, arms and legs and he was hot from the sun.—A.A.P.

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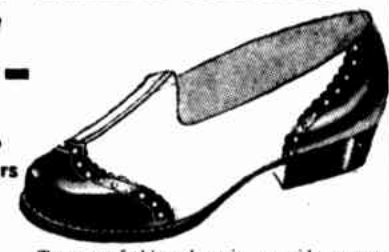
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