

Darwin Attacked

AN eye-witness' dramatic account of the first Japanese raid on Darwin, told by Gnr. Darrell Thorne, who has been stationed at Darwin for the past two years. Relating the experience to his wife, Mrs. Thorne, of 25 Mary St., North Hobart, he writes:

I was on lookout duty when a plane came diving out of the sky and crashed into the sea. I think



Gnr. D. Thorne

they thought I'd gone "tropical" when I reported it, but a minute later a Jap. plane came out of a cloud with one of ours on its tail. The dog-fight lasted five minutes, our plane never leaving the Jap's tail, pumping lead into him all the time, and finally finishing

him off. Two of our planes were on patrol work above the clouds, and this Jap got one of them before you could say "Jack Robinson." As soon as the dog fight ended the rest of the Japanese planes came right out of the sun. Then things began to happen. One thing I will never forget—the sight of two of our corvettes sailing out of the harbour with their pom-poms blazing into the sky, and shells dropping all round them. The shells must have missed them by inches, and goodness knows how many sticks of bombs were dropped about the ships. We still don't know how they escaped without being hit.

Prize of 10 to Mrs. Thorne.