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VISCOUNT FOR AUSTRALIA.

The first of a fleet of six Vickers Viscount Airliners ordered by "Trans-Australia Airlines" is to be named at a short ceremony held at the Vickers factory at Hurra, England. There to perform the christening is Sir Thomas White, the High Commissioner for Australia.

The Viscount is to be named "John Batman", and, although you can't crack a bottle over a plane's nose, you can give it the champagne treatment - with Australian champagne of course.

The Viscount, the first civil airliner in the world to be designed with propellor-turbine engines, is being produced at the rate of three a month. "John Batman", is the first of six for use in Australia. Most of this fleet will be equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks to give them greater range. The first five will be powered by the Rolls Royce Dart Mark 505 engine: the sixth by a new uprated version, the Dart Mark 506. The entire fleet is expected to be in operation in Australia during the autumn of this year.
