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"I TOLD HER"

Creator of "Mrs. Miniver" Talks to N.Z.

"*MRS. MINIVER*" was the most popular film of 1943 in New Zealand, and statistics also reveal that it is now listed third among the biggest box-office successes in international screen history. Some interest therefore attaches to the woman who created the character of Mrs. Miniver. She is Jan Struther, and the film was based on a column which she contributed to "The Times." Since 1939 she has been living in the United States, and recently took part in the radio series "America Talks to New Zealand." Here is a condensation of what she said on that occasion, and on the opposite page is a photograph of Jan Struther and some personal details about her:

* * *

BEING able to speak to you to-day, by means of short-wave radio, makes the many thousands of miles between America and Australia and New Zealand seem a very short distance indeed. But the closeness that I feel toward you is far from being only a matter of the mechanics of modern science.

One of the good things that has come out of this long and terrible war is that millions of people, all over the world, have discovered for the first time how really near they are to each other. It's not surprising, after all, that freedom-loving people, wherever they may be, should be fighting Fascism and defending themselves against oppressors.

What perhaps is surprising is that we are all living for the same things! I have found out, in the last four years if I never knew it before, that the Mr. and Mrs. Smiths of this world (and that includes most of us) want pretty much the same kind of homes, have the same small and innocent ambitions for themselves and their families, and laugh at the same kind of jokes.

This discovery, which destroys any feeling of strangeness between the people of various nations, is being made by millions of men and women whose quiet, peaceful lives have been shattered by this war, and who, like myself, now find themselves far away from the country in which they were born and grew up.

For most of us home will always be best—but we are finding out that life somewhere else can be good, too. If, after the war is over, we can all remember that, I think it will have more to do with promoting a lasting peace and a real understanding among nations than any number of treaties and charters.

Making the Same Discoveries

It is great fun for me to see the boys from Australia and New Zealand who have come to this country making the same discoveries about America that I

(continued on next page)