

It could have been too, for all you can hear.

In fact, it isn't easy to hear a lot of what goes on during *Days of Glory*. That may or may not be a great loss—it's impossible to say—but it is rather, distracting. One of the new faces belongs to Tamara Toumanova, who is a famous star of the ballet. Such being the case, one might legitimately expect that she would be given some chance to dance. She isn't, though she gets to the verge of it once, and then a Nazi soldier spoils her entrance. Still I am prepared to believe that La Toumanova really is a fine dancer. I am much less convinced that she is a good actress. After all, not even the very best actress can afford to be inaudible in the most dramatic scenes.

Another of the interesting new faces belongs to Gregory Peck, who resembles Gary Cooper. Physically, I mean. And there is also a Russian professor among the guerillas who is so much the Leslie Howard type that you might almost imagine he had strayed out of *49th Parallel*.

Oh yes, there are a number of interesting aspects of that sort in *Days of Glory*, but they don't add up to a noteworthy picture.

A Violinist Who Loves His Work

GABRIEL SZITAS, the American violinist whose recordings are at present being broadcast from the ZB stations, is a young private in the U.S. Army. His name is pronounced "Zee-tash," with the accent on the first syllable and the "a" long as in "task." He is of Hungarian extraction.

Szitas was born 31 years ago, and lives in Detroit, Michigan, where he plays in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He passed through Auckland about 18 months ago, on his way to the Pacific, and returned there last March after a period of active service in the jungle. He spent four months in Auckland, giving a public recital in May with Sybil Phillips and Moya Cooper-Smith.

Formerly Szitas was in the Medical Corps, but he has recently been transferred to the band of his Division, in which (much to his amusement) he plays the clarinet—occasionally helping things out by playing flute parts on the fiddle.

One of the reasons for the quality of his playing was evident to friends with whom he stayed in Auckland. He practises anything up to nine hours a day when he is free from military duties. He will spend a whole hour playing slow scales, or working on some single phrase of a musical score. Most of his spare time was spent in this way during his stay in Auckland.

Szitas studied in New York under several famous teachers, and has given concerts in various cities of the U.S.A. He considers that bodily fitness is just as important to a violinist as practice.

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