

(continued from previous page)

unnaturally the standard deteriorated a bit as time went on! I was still writing the closing stanza when Jack came to the last message:

*From Banff to Saskatchewan we come—
Tom Nicholson, here is your Mum—
Brother Bill's in Home Guard,
Sister Jane's working hard
But we're sorry your Dad couldn't come.
See what I mean about deterioration?*

In due course, I was promoted, and allowed to see the programmes on the



ENID MAXWELL
Organiser of the sessions

"MOSQUITO NETWORK" Pacific Radio Service is Valuable Morale Builder

(R.N.Z.A.F. Official News Service,
Guadalcanal)

UNDISTURBED by the fact that in the northern Solomons its listeners certainly comprise Japanese as well as Allied servicemen, the "Mosquito Network," a broadcasting service organised by the U.S. Armed Forces Radio Service, Los Angeles, continues daily and nightly its valuable work of morale-building in the South Pacific.

Thanks to a generous issue of radios by the National Patriotic Fund Board, New Zealand airmen scattered over the South Pacific, in common with their American Allies — and, in some cases, Japanese neighbours — are enabled to keep in touch with the news of the world and are cheered by bright and varied radio programmes through the good services of the Mosquito Network.

Probably the greatest proportion of New Zealand listeners tune in to "Radio City," on Guadalcanal, the "city" consisting of a broadcasting studio and offices set in the shade of what was once a large coconut plantation. From this station they hear a summary of world news "every hour on the hour" and programmes ranging from Philharmonic arrangements down to (or up to, according to taste) "hep-cat jive."

The "New Zealand Hour"

Guadalcanal radio has a New Zealand hour once a week. Every Monday, New

air myself. All the messages were recorded on bands — perhaps eight or more to a record — and it took a great deal of earnest rehearsal to get records and script to agree. The red light flickered, off went the announcer, "Hello Betty, here's your mother talking to you from Balham. . . ." A hot yet icy prickle ran down my back, for out of the loud-speaker came a deep bass voice "Hello John, this is Dad."

We used to do variety programmes to North America, as well, and I have great joy in remembering the argument between Godfrey Kenton, who was going to recite "O, to be in England" with Noel Iliff, who was insisting that the poem should have an undercurrent of vacuum-cleaners to give it the correct spring-like quality.

Tragic Occasion

Of course everything wasn't so light-hearted. Once the sending of a message proved a very tragic occasion. Mr. and Mrs. H. had sent out their son and daughter to Australia for the duration, and the little boy had died there. They wanted to send the girl a message to cheer her up. I believe we were nearly all in tears before that recording was completed. Another time, however, we were talking to a father who had five children in Africa. "How you must miss them," we said. "Not likely," he replied, "there's four more of 'em at home." But like all good fathers and mothers, he sent the right sort of message. And like all good children, they wrote and told us they'd thoroughly enjoyed it.

Zealand news, which has been radioed up the previous day, is broadcast through the Solomons. This includes descriptions of race meetings, sports results and items of general New Zealand interest. It is hoped to increase the scope of this service in the near future.

Although most of the programmes consist of well-known American shows which are recorded for the benefit of armed forces throughout the world, local talent is encouraged and touring shows give local broadcasts. In the latter respect the visit of the Band of the R.N.Z.A.F. to Radio City, Guadalcanal, is still well remembered. An impressive feature at present being broadcast regularly is a series of poems recorded in a local servicemen's chapel to a background of organ music.

Propaganda of any description is notable for its absence over the Mosquito Network. The aim is purely to provide entertainment and to assist morale, and that aim has been fulfilled with notable success.

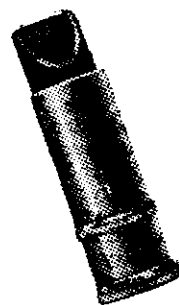
Popular Old Waltz

A PART from one composition, "Nights of Gladness," the work of Charles Ancliffe is not very well known to listeners of the present generation, but some of us remember this waltz from our dancing class days. Under the title "Biography of a Waltz," 3ZB will broadcast at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday, February 4, selections from Ancliffe's works, with the story of the great success of "Nights of Gladness."



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