



Spencer Digby photograph
CAPTAIN TERRY VAUGHAN
Talent only needed discovery

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he heard the conductor Serafin, with a great orchestra. He also heard Gigli, the tenor, in a very fine performance of *Tosca*, with Caniglia the soprano, and met them after the performance. Caniglia, he says, is the best opera soprano in Italy at the moment.

Music in Italy goes to extremes, he says. In the cafes, the trashiest music is played by orchestras which contain some fine players. The party found some first-rate instrument-repairers in Italy but, curiously enough, no worth-while piano tuners. Italians would either leave a piano as they found it or make it worse. The only perfect tuning was done by a New Zealander who had been in the business at home.

To appease our mathematically-minded readers, we asked Captain Vaughan if he had a rough idea of the distance the Kiwi Concert Party travelled and how many shows it gave. He laughed. "Not the faintest idea, except that we went a long way and played a lot." He himself produced 12 shows and there were 50 performances of each, not including those at hospitals and rest camps. "All the success of the party," he said, "came from the talent of the men—talent that was there in New Zealand and only needed bringing out. Every artist was drawn from the fighting units."

"How did you secure your artists?"

"When certain players or performers were wanted we put a notice through routine orders and along came the men for auditions. Some, of course, were not up to the mark and were politely told that their work was not quite the type desired."

We asked, in view of the infrequency of visits to New Zealand by professional companies, if he thought such a combination as the Kiwi Concert Party could find a permanent home on the New Zealand stage.

"No, it was simply a product of the war and meant solely for the troops," he said.

"Did the party do any broadcasting?"

"Yes, and it was rather a joke," said Captain Vaughan. "While we were near

Rimini we made a 40-minute broadcast over the Eighth Army station, whose range was from 50 to 60 miles. We were in a hill village hall with hardly any roof and all windows gone. It was freezing. I had been given to understand that there would be two microphones and arranged the script accordingly. But there was only one, with the result that the fading in and out of the voices was delightfully natural instead of electrical."

We asked about serious music and Captain Vaughan's experiences.

"I met John Barbirolli in Bari and discussed modern English music with him," he said. "I could claim that we were old boys of the same school as it were—the Royal Academy. Barbirolli was sent to Italy by the English authorities to conduct Italian orchestras for the troops. One day I heard the Bari Symphony Orchestra. It was mediocre. A week later, after three rehearsals under Barbirolli, the difference was remarkable. Now Barbirolli is back in England conducting the Halle Orchestra."

Captain Vaughan looks on his work with the Kiwi Concert Party as his war job and as one of light relief as far as music goes. Now he hopes to devote himself seriously to music.

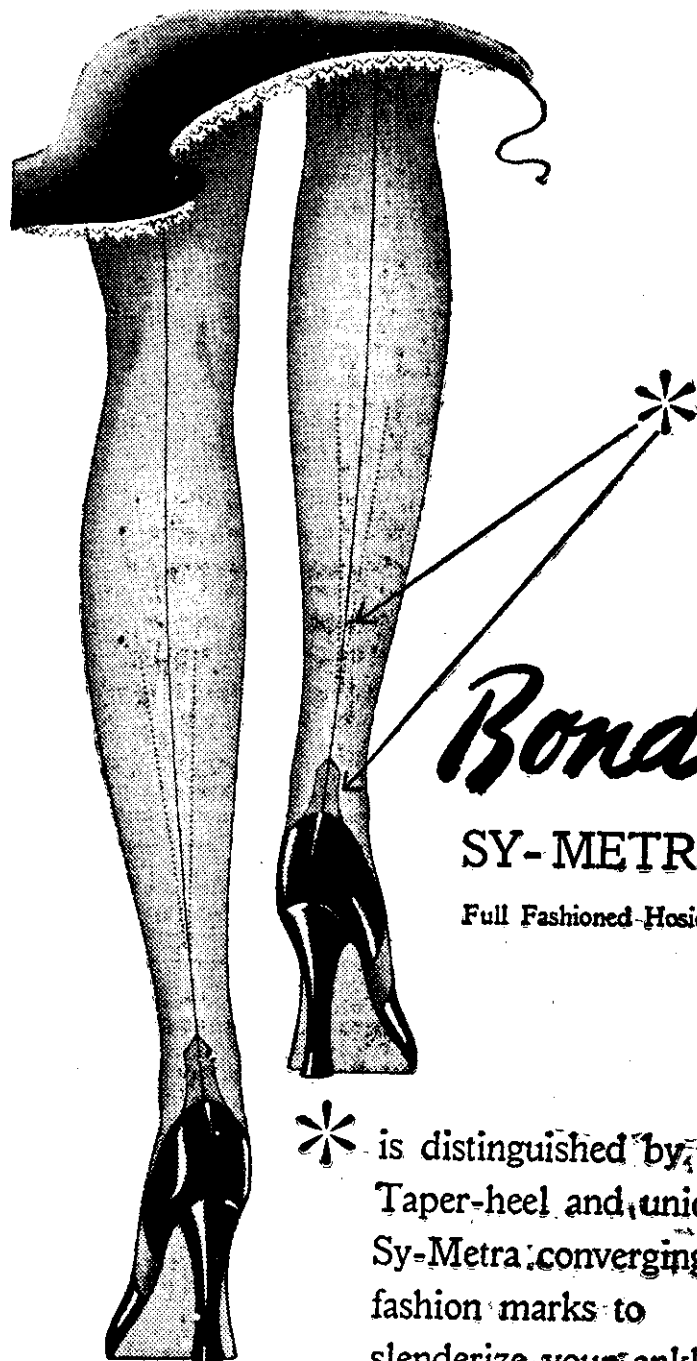
Soldiers Became "Swots"

IT would not be unreasonable for a civilian to think that soldiers coming home on troopships give up all their spare time to games; that the dart-board and "housie" fill up the long days at sea. A large number of men, after war, do consider games the best form of relaxation. But a very large number are to be seen in sheltered spots on the decks "swotting." At least that is what we were told by Captain E. F. T. Beer, who returned to New Zealand on the *Strathaird*.

A journalist in civil life and well known in East Coast cricket—his parents live at Tolaga Bay—Captain Beer says that the number of men who give up all their spare time to trying to catch up on professional and industrial education is surprising. Their one desire is to make up for the years when the Army was their whole existence and to become rehabilitated as quickly as possible.

No man could complain of lack of assistance. Much help is given by the N.Z.E.F. Educational Rehabilitation Service, which was mentioned in a recent issue of *The Listener*, and which provides the men with books. Without that service many of the books would be unprocurable on account of their cost. It takes just on a month for a ship to reach Wellington from Port Tewfik and that time is looked on as a part of the transition from a soldier to a civilian.

"I hope the people of New Zealand, and particularly of Wellington, know how much their action in taking Australian prisoners-of-war into their homes, when their ship arrived on a recent Sunday, is appreciated," said Captain Beer. "The Australians have repaid that little debt. When we were in Australia on the way home it was impossible to walk along a street without somebody in a car pulling up and offering us a lift and an evening at home. There is a very warm feeling between the soldiers of the two countries."



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