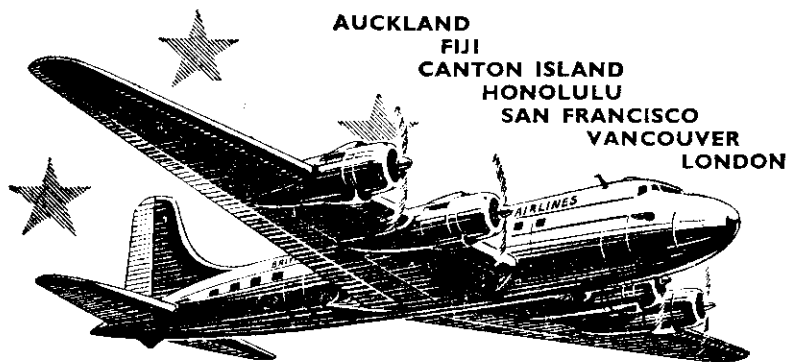


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SHORT STORY

(Continued from previous page)

difficulty in getting vegetables or in getting the washing dry. And Mr. Broughton would be falling upon his food with a relish that was more complimentary than a thousand words of praise. He would also respond to her confidence with his hollow grunt from time to time. When he had finished he would brush up his crumbs, scrape his bones into the waste bin, and wash up his plates. He would refill his cup with tea and roll himself a cigarette. Then he would sit perhaps for an hour, flicking off his ash into the palm of his hand, sipping an occasional mouthful of tepid tea, and listening with his eyes on the fender while Miss Ritchie prattled on and the radio serials were gay and anguished and unending. About eight o'clock he would mumble "Good-night," and trudge off to bed. For he was in his fifties and had to leave at six-thirty every morning. This had been going on for years.

It is eleven o'clock in the morning. Miss Ritchie is busy—"busy for the lunch." The doorbell rings and she pulls off her apron, dabs her hair with a fat busy hand, and bulks swiftly along the gleaming passage.

It is a man from the wharf who briefly explains about Mr. Broughton, how the doctor said it was heart failure.

Back in the kitchen she sits down on the white-enamelled chair. The radio is shouting. Trembling, she gets up and switches it off. A great and steamy

silence comes pressing down all over her. Her chin and cheeks are shivering as she sits with chubby hands idle in her lap. Defenceless for once, she allows wave on wave of self-pity to well up through her. Boarders! Boarders! moan the cringing little waifs of an old forgotten pride, and sharper, nagging harpy voices jab at her with "Wash, scrub, mend, clean"—as though all the forces of dust and cobweb, grease and dirt, and the demands of bodies, which she had kept at bay ceaselessly, ploddingly, enduringly, hour-long, day-long, year-long, now rise in mockery of her. Weaving through the fabric of her misery come the coarse grey threads of a school-age memory, the voice of a great grumbling Scotsman: All work is noble—work is alone noble—happiness, unhappiness, all that was but the wages that thou hadst—not a coin of it remains with thee, it is all spent, eaten.

She rocks to and fro slowly in her great grief. Nothing created. Only endless reparation, bustle and toil to feed and wash and mend, and be forgotten. Not a coin of it—spent, eaten! Everybody could not create. No, but at least there was procreation—there might have been children and grandchildren who would look back, perhaps, and remember her. She clasps her trembling fat hands upon her full and empty bosom and yearns for bone of her bone and flesh of her flesh.

Suddenly the lid bubbles up from a pot, there is a sharp hiss of steam, and Miss Ritchie stumbles across to the stove, to see to the meal.

SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

LISTED below are the news bulletins being heard at present on the short-wave band. Many more are to be heard, but only those of good strength, and reasonably free from interference, have been noted.

		Freq.	W/L
		Mc/s.	Metres
3.30	Australia	15.23	19.70
4.00	London	9.60	31.25
4.10	Lake Success	15.32	19.58
(except Sunday and Monday)			
5.00	San Francisco	11.81	25.40
5.30	Australia	15.20	19.72
5.30	Brazzaville	11.97	25.05
6.00	London	11.80	25.42
6.00	San Francisco	11.90	25.21
7.00	London	11.75	25.53
7.00	San Francisco	9.70	30.93
7.20	Switzerland	11.715	25.60
(except Sunday and Wednesday)			
7.30	Moscow	11.62	25.80
7.30	Lake Success	9.65	31.09
7.30	Australia	9.58	31.32
8.00	San Francisco	11.90	25.21
8.00	New Delhi	17.76	16.89
9.00	San Francisco	9.65	31.09
9.00	New York	9.75	30.77
9.00	Canada	11.72	25.60
(Sunday only)			
10.00	Holland	17.77	16.88
10.00	San Francisco	9.70	30.93
10.45	New York	9.75	30.77
11.00	London	17.81	16.84
11.00	San Francisco	9.70	30.93
11.00	Australia	9.58	31.32
11.30	New Delhi	17.83	16.83
11.45	Singapore	11.88	25.25
12.0 m'g't	San Francisco	9.70	30.93
12.00	Australia	11.81	25.40
a.m.			
12.30	Moscow	15.34	19.56
12.45	Switzerland	15.31	19.60
12.45	London	11.93	25.15
1.00	San Francisco	9.65	31.09
1.00	London	17.81	16.84
a.m.			
12.15	Rome	11.82	25.38
12.45	Paris	11.70	25.64
1.00	London	11.75	25.53
1.00	New York	15.25	19.67
2.30	New Delhi	15.16	19.79
3.00	London	11.75	25.53
3.00	Moscow	11.72	25.60
3.00	Australia	17.84	16.82