

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday Price Threepence

JANUARY 17, 1941.

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For Subscription and Advertising Rates see Page 40.

Should We Tell?

IN an essay written before the war, E. M. Forster said that if the painful decision had to be made, he would sooner betray his country than betray his friend. It would be interesting to know what he thinks now. "Betray" is, of course, a big word, but as things are at present, betraying one's country is betraying one's friends, the closest as well as the most casual, and may easily mean murdering them.

Nor is the question any longer academic. It is an issue with which anybody may be faced at any moment, with which perhaps some recently have been faced, and which it is extremely probable someone is facing as we write this sentence. For every day and every night, New Zealand ships are on the water. Every day and every night, raiders are lying in wait for them. Every day and every night, enemies are seeking for news of their movements; and it is impossible to believe that no single scrap of information has ever been passed on from our own shores.

If news has gone from New Zealand, there is a New Zealander who knows where it started. There is some one who knows whether it was passed on by a fanatic or by a fool, by an enterprising neutral, or by a treacherous national, by a money-maker, a sensation-hunter, or merely by a loose-mouthed idiot. It is true, as the Prime Minister warns us, that one of the Nazi methods of making war is "to foment and disseminate suspicion." It would not help us, but greatly help Germany, if we became "unwitting instruments of this Nazi technique." But it would help Germany more if we were too proud to be suspicious and flatly refused to believe that treachery could begin at home.

It can begin at home, and it does, or it is not treachery. The enemy who collects and passes on information against us may be a spy, and if we catch him, we may shoot him, but he is not a traitor. The national who does it is a murderer, and the national who knows and does not tell, is a potential murderer.

Let us call things by their proper names. Loyalty to a friend in one set of circumstances may be cowardly disloyalty in circumstances of another kind. Pity for one man in danger may be brutality to a shipload of men if that man, by action or inaction, threatens their lives. We must have the courage to abandon a virtue before it is perverted into a vice.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

Letters sent to "The Listener" for publication should be as brief as possible and should deal with topics covered in "The Listener" itself. Correspondents must send their names and addresses even when it is their wish that these should not be published. We cannot undertake to give reasons why all or any portion of a letter is rejected.

HYMNS FOR THE BANDS

Sir,—No part of the band music on Sunday afternoon in the Basin Reserve, Wellington, is more enjoyed than the hymn playing. The hymn tunes played on these occasions are wisely selected for the purpose of tonation. They are well known and are very popular. There is, however, one splendid tune that one would like to hear that is never played. It is to be found in the Methodist Hymn Book of a dozen years ago, and it is called "Madrid"—a very

NOEL COWARD'S ITINERARY

Monday, January 13: Arrive Auckland. 7.45 p.m., broadcast over main National Stations from 1YA.

Wednesday, January 15: Patriotic Concert at Auckland.

Tuesday, January 21: Arrive Dunedin. 7.45 p.m., broadcast talk over main National Stations from 4YA.

Wednesday, January 22: Patriotic Concert at Dunedin.

Thursday, January 23: Arrive Christchurch. 7.45 p.m., broadcast talk over main National Stations from 3YA studio.

Saturday, January 25: Patriotic Concert at Christchurch.

Sunday, January 26: 8.45 p.m., broadcast National Service talk over main National Stations from 3YA.

Tuesday, January 28: Arrive Wellington. 7.45 p.m., broadcast talk over main National Stations from 2YA.

Thursday, January 30: Patriotic Concert at Wellington.

Friday, January 31: Arrive Auckland. 7.45 p.m., broadcast final talk over main National Stations from 1YA.

Saturday, February 1: Leave Auckland by Clipper.

Commercial Broadcasting Service stations will be broadcasting Noel Coward as follows: Monday, January 13: All stations will broadcast a talk at 7.45 p.m.

Wednesday, January 15: 12B will broadcast the Auckland Patriotic concert from 9.30 p.m.

Saturday, January 25: 32B will broadcast the Christchurch Patriotic concert from 9.30 p.m.

Sunday, January 26: All stations will broadcast a National Service talk at 8.45 p.m.

Thursday, January 30: 22B and 22A will broadcast the Wellington Patriotic concert from 9.30 p.m.

Friday, January 31: All stations will broadcast a final talk at 7.45 p.m.

much played hymn by one of the crack bands at Home. A minister friend of mine in New Zealand spent a Christmas in one of the cotton towns just outside Manchester. On the Christmas Eve he went into the large market square to hear a very famous band play Christmas music on behalf of hospital funds. There were several thousands present. When he arrived, the band was playing "Madrid," and he assured me that he was never so thrilled by band music. He did not think such music possible. He said: "I stood with my hat off, simply spellbound, and when the collector brought his box along, I told him I would give an extra five shillings if the band

would repeat the tune." This request was granted, and a second collection was taken up on behalf of a good cause. Will some of our prize bands here treat us to "Madrid"?—B. NATURAL (Wellington).

HITLER AND HUMANITY

Sir,—I read with interest "Thid's" article, "The Swastika" in a recent *Listener*. The last few paragraphs relating to the Book of Revelation and Hitler being the beast 666, are amusing. Tolstoy in his book "War and Peace," also proved by figures that Napoleon was the beast 666.

I wonder if your readers have heard the following version of the Beast and the Mark of the Beast:

In Hebrew "Adam" is called "A.D.M." The value of "A" is 1; of "D" 4; of "M" 40. If we add these figures, we get $1+4+4+0=9$ —the number of Adam or humanity.

In Revelation, the number of the beast which hinders is 666. Adding these figures $6+6+6=18$; and $1+8=9$. Thus we have the number of humanity, which is itself the cause of all the evil which hinders its own progress. The number to be saved is stated to be 144,000. Adding as before $1+4+4+0+0+0$ we get 9, again the number of humanity, showing that it will be saved in its totality.—H.S. (Canterbury).

VERA LYNN.

Sir,—I am writing to see if you can give me some information regarding the singer Vera Lynn. What nationality is she? Has she ever toured New Zealand? What is her approximate age? How is she classed amongst singers of her type? And last but not least, is there any possible chance of publishing her photo in *The Listener*?—HAPPY GO LUCKY (Nelson).

(Vera Lynn is still in her early twenties and is an East Ender (London). She was born, educated, and still lives at East Ham, where her father was formerly a plumber. She owes much to her mother's encouragement. Her first broadcast was with Joe Loss and his band when she was 18. She is engaged to marry a former band player who is now in the Royal Air Force. Between broadcasting and recording she paints landscapes in oils, though she has never had lessons in art. Her rise to fame has been almost meteoric. Starting at the age of seven in charity concerts and private parties, she joined a cabaret troupe at eleven, toured the music-halls, and at sixteen started band work. After short periods of appearing with Billy Cotton and Joe Loss, she was featured for eighteen months with Charlie Kunz. Then Ambrose engaged her for radio work as a contrast in styles with his American girl singer, Evelyn Dall. Since then her star has ascended with extraordinary rapidity, and she is now kept busy with film, radio, record and personal appearances. So far, we have been unable to secure a photograph of Vera Lynn, but when one becomes available it will be used.—Ed.)

FIVE TRANSPORTS.

Sir,—Mr. L. J. Bain talks of 25 years ago, and I received the impression from Mr. B. Magee's article that he crossed the Mediterranean in 1915. Therefore Mr. Bain's names would not be quite correct, as at Christmas, 1917, the convoy consisted of six vessels: Kaiser-i-Hind, Malwa, Indarra, Canberra, Omrah, and Leasowe Castle. The last two were lost by torpedo. I saw the Omrah hit one morning early in 1918, and I was on the Leasowe Castle which sank at midnight on May 27, 1918. The Ormonde replaced the Omrah and the Norman the Leasowe Castle. I was glad to hear they were safe at the armistice, but would like to hear that the Kaiser-i-Hind was also present as she was No. 1. The name of the sunken battleship was the Leonardo da Vinci and she was refloated with compressed air some years later.—LISTENER (Linwood).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Subscriber."—We think he will return to the air, but our last news of him was that he was writing and not talking.

"Reader."—High-explosive.