

KINGS OF JAZZ

ZB Feature Recalls Bandleader's Quarrel With BBC

JACK PAYNE, the famous English bandleader, who was once the centre of a stormy quarrel with the BBC, is the subject of a *Kings of Jazz* session to be heard from Station 3ZB at 10.15 p.m. on Saturday, September 27. The occasion of the quarrel was Payne's retirement in 1933 from the post of Director of Dance Music at the BBC, which he had held for five years.

In an interview, Payne accused the BBC of applying his ideas of presentation to other shows in which he had no part, and strongly criticised the fees paid to dance bands. At that time, the fee for a late night broadcast of an hour and a-half was 40 guineas. Payne's band consisted of 23 musicians, and he complained that the BBC rule which paid the same fee to large or small bands, whether famous or not, was absurd and unfair. The BBC retorted that it had made Jack Payne's reputation, whereupon Payne in return stoutly maintained that he and he alone had made his reputation. His final shot was that the BBC's new studios were acoustically bad, and spoiled his broadcasts.

Whether the BBC had made Payne's reputation for him or not, he went on from strength to strength. Soon after leaving the BBC, he made a film *Say*



JACK PAYNE
Self-made, not BBC-made

It With Music, then another, *Sunshine Ahead*. To-day, what with presentations, entertaining troops, and making recordings, he is one of Britain's busiest band leaders. He listens to a dozen or so new tunes every day, and then rehearses his band for several hours. In one four-year period, he and his band broadcast 3000 tunes (selected from 15,000).

The *Kings of Jazz* session at 2ZB the same Saturday night features Red Nichols and his Five Pennies, an American dance band long noted for its brilliant "hot" playing. Nichols first broke into the news with a band known as Red Nichols and his Red-heads. Records made by this band had a tremendous sale, and recording companies bid keenly for his services, offering as high as 50 dollars per side per player, with 10 sides a day as an average "bag."

With the depression, the commercial field all but disappeared, but Nichols was "discovered" by radio. His was the first band to be signed for a simultaneous broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia System.

Station 1ZB's *Kings of Jazz* session (on Monday, September 22 at 10.0 p.m.), will tell something of the life story of Hal Kemp.

BACK SEAT BLITZKRIEG

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all over the place and by the time his squadrons had run out of bombs and gas and turned back to the Ark Royal most of us were under the seats or sinking rapidly. He came screeching down so realistically that for a while the bus-driver thought there was a traffic cop on our tail and most of us were late in getting home. Morrison's nothing if not versatile. He torpedoed me three times at Matapan even though I wasn't taking sides at all. *Pour encourager les autres*, I suppose. And as for Stukas, he picks 'em off like pheasants on the first of May; bang-bang, right and left, just like that.

Versatile and ubiquitous, that's Morrison. I've seen him bomb Berlin, strafe the U-boats from the Western Approaches and give General Rommel a desert headache all in the space of a five-penny bus trip and for all I know after I got off he may have managed to mop up Italian Somaliland and solve the Indo-Chinese puzzle before he himself got to the end of the section.

BUT while he can give a good account of himself on any front and even on several fronts at once, he's most at home

defending the sacred soil of Holy Russia. As he says, it gives him a bit of room to manoeuvre in. Remember the German motorised divisions that were reported to be thundering down the broad road to Moscow about nine weeks ago? They were never heard of again. Morrison got them. He came bustling up the road from Moscow in a fleet of three-thousand-ton tanks and creased them right out. Great fellow, Morrison. He wiped out the Fuhrer's special division of S.S.W. Blackguards at the gates of Smolensk. Then he blew up the Dneiper Dam and without bothering to ring up Uncle Joe, either. He blew it up coming home one Friday night and the havoc that kind of blast can cause in a confined space like the back of a bus has to be seen to be believed. We nearly went off the road. Bingo! Just like that. Oh, a great fellow, Morrison. He nearly bust a blood vessel the night before last tightening the steel ring of the blockade around Germany, and last night he was hurling munitions trains along the trans-Iranian railway. I got out just as he was roaring through Teheran amid the frantic cheers of the populace, but I'll bet he beat Adolf to the Caspian. No doubt of it, he should be on the Allied General Staff—sometimes I wish he was!

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Gulliver's Happy Discovery!

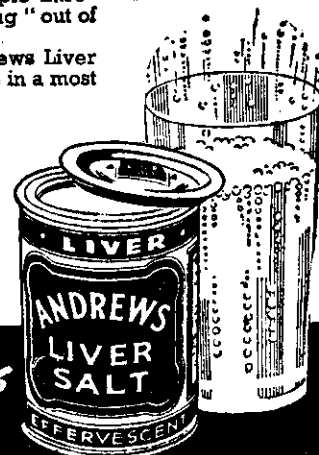
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