

But The MBC Goes Marching On! "THE PEOPLE'S PLAN"



MARIE NEY
Imperturbably Elizabeth

(Continued from previous page)

and it is the sole provider of entertainment for people who are in urgent need of diversion but who are for obvious reasons tied to their homes and no longer able to visit the theatre or cinema. It is the main fount of reliable news and information. And it is the safest and quickest channel through which the authorities can issue essential instructions.

BBC to MBC

When the war in the Pacific broke out, the MBC had to adapt itself to blitz conditions, and, whatever the difficulties, it had to fulfil all those functions which the BBC had carried out in London. In one way the task was easier. The Japanese never raided Singapore with the same ferocity and consistency as the Germans raided Britain, and I can't remember a single night when it was impossible to have at least a few hours of peaceful sleep or a day when there were not periods of calm — except towards the very end. On the other hand, we had nothing in the way of underground or even soundproof studios. Our equipment was extremely primitive, in fact. . . .

The Show Went On

My job was to look after talks and all "live" productions. In putting on plays I had the assistance of a very distinguished New Zealander, Miss Marie Ney, who ranks now among the first ten of London's actresses. I shall never forget the example of courage and hard work which she set during those anxious and dangerous weeks. I well remember one occasion when she was portraying the part of Queen Elizabeth in a little one-act play which we had adapted for radio. The guns were booming, and the studio was literally being shaken by explosions. But Marie Ney remained, imperturbably, Elizabeth, the great English queen whose nerve was proof against the machinations of any foreign foe, and who had "the heart and stomach of a King."

Devotion of Asiatics

When I first arrived in Singapore, I heard a good deal of rather dismal speculation about how the Asiatics

would stand up to bad air raids. Well, from my experience of them in the MBC, I've no doubt at all in my mind that they behaved every bit as selflessly and gallantly as their fellow members of the British Empire in London and other blitzed towns of Britain. Not one of them was ever known to desert his post in an emergency. And when I say this I am thinking not only of the top men—programme organisers and control engineers—but of the humblest members of the staff.

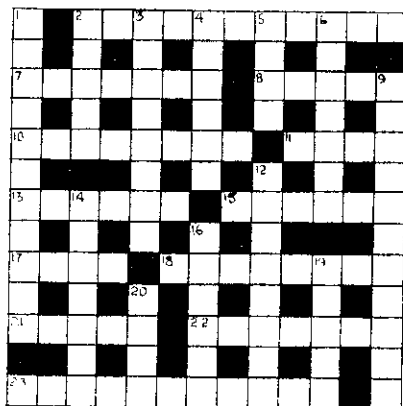
Radio Must be the Vanguard

To-day the members of the MBC staff are scattered all over the world. Some are prisoners, some, I fear, may have lost their lives, some are free in Australia, and in India, and some have returned to England, but I like to think, indeed I know, that the functions of the Malaya Broadcasting Corporation are not over; and that the pioneer work which Eric Davis undertook was not done in vain. One day, sooner perhaps than most people expect, the Allied Nations must launch an offensive to recapture the territories wrested from them by the Japanese. And when they do so, the Malayan Broadcasting Corporation will be needed. For in modern warfare, I am convinced, a well-equipped radio organisation must be both the vanguard and the rearguard of an invading army.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(No. 105)

(Constructed by R.W.C.)



Clues Across

2. Nearness
7. Got a tub (anag.).
8. Christopher Marlowe mentions the "topless towers" of this city.
10. Sank cars (anag.).
11. What to do on the dotted line.
13. Visual
15. Gave his name to certain polls conducted in U.S.A.
17. Slap (anag.).
18. Unexpected legacy.
21. Change of heart
22. Tried me for this undesirable quality.
23. I'm stern? Nuts! (Anag.)

Clues Down

1. Make insertions with ore and tinplate.
2. Result of a pang.
3. Gum resin used in perfumery.
4. Mixture of tea and ink.
5. Epigram found in 2 across.
6. I nail it at the beginning.
9. Eats in a lump (anag.).
12. They frequently play 23 across
14. Prim use (anag.).
16. Do swim! (Anag.)
19. Cares for these.
20. Scorch.

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I did not start taking De Witt's earlier

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