

HE JOINED THE NAVY

Former 2YA Radio Operator Has Seen A Lot

JOIN the Navy and see the world" used to be the Fleet's recruiting slogan. Now it is "Help the Navy to save the world." So a New Zealander who, before the war was a radio operator at 2YA, decided to do both. He joined the Navy, he saw the world, and now he is back in the Southern Hemisphere helping to save the world. Though he does not put it that way himself.

What he told *The Listener* when we interviewed him was that he had been places and seen things but run into no kind of bother himself.

Yet it is remarkable that he escaped trouble. The day he reached England the port at which he landed was subjected to a savage raid. When he moved to another port the raiders came again twice as strong. Life at that second shore base was largely a matter of entering and leaving shelters, very often in a hurry, and then helping the pioneers to clear away the wreckage. It was a disturbing experience for a New Zealander just arrived in a war theatre, but his most vivid impression of it all is still the calmness and cheerfulness and courage of all sections of the population.

A Rest

Then one night he went for a "rest" to London and struck a blitz by 500 bombers. Here, as in the other great city, the bombs fell everywhere—five among civilians for every one on a military target—and it was a heart-breaking sight to see the tubes packed with women and children lying everywhere, but managing somehow to help one another. Nothing that he saw or suffered anywhere moved him as much as those tube shelters packed with people and ventilated by the continuous running of the trains to create air currents.

Chasing E-Boats

Within a month of his arrival in England he had the luck to be selected for duty on a fast-moving patrol guarding the South Coast and the Channel. Here

the enemy were the E-boats, and it was a great thrill to find himself at intervals moving through the water at 45 knots. But he still escaped trouble—unless it was trouble (he certainly found it disturbing) to find himself one day talking to the King, who arrived on a visit of inspection and made a special point of seeking out and talking to New Zealanders among the ratings.

The rest of his service abroad cannot be reported. All that can be said is that he saw half the ships of the world before he got back, and half of the world's great bases. On the way, too, he was joined by an English rating, who was added to the personnel in the West Indies to replace a sick New Zealander, and is now seeing New Zealand for the first time.

"Nearly Killed by Kindness"

But it can hardly help the enemy to allow both men to confess that they were nearly killed by kindness in California. Mary Pickford heard about them, and then Mrs. Sam Goldwyn, and then more movie actors and actresses than it would be wise to talk about. But what Hollywood did to them in kindness was repeated by every American, rich or



MARY PICKFORD
She heard about them

WHAT SOLDIERS ARE PAID

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and 18/3 for three children, every other child being allowed 5/-.

U.S. allowances were also lately increased by Congress. Whereas before the passing of the new Bill a married woman with two children received £18 per month, in future she will receive £25 a month, or more than £6 a week. Privates in the American Army also make contributions, home service men retaining £7 per month and overseas men £9/10/- of their pay.

Canadian wives get about £2 a week, about 13/- each for the first two children, 10/- for the third child, and 6/- for the fourth; after that, no further allowances are made. A Dependence Allowance Board considers cases of hardship when a soldier applies for special family grants.

Australian wives come off best in the

Empire with 49/- (Australian) per week and 17/6 a week for one child. A woman with three children under 16 receives almost £5 Australian per week or £4 British.

Families of Allied soldiers who succeeded in escaping from German occupied territories, or who live in colonies, receive different allowances according to the finances of a Government in exile. A Polish wife receives 18/- a week if she is childless, 7/6 a week for the first child, 5/6 for the second, and 4/- for the third.

Wives of warrant officers have to live on 24/6 a week, and the same rates of pay for children as privates, while officers' wives with two children receive 38/6 a week.

The wife of a Belgian soldier has to make ends meet on 25/- a week with no allowance for one child. Two children bring her in 16/6 a week, and an extra 10/- for the third.

poor, who happened to make contact with them. They had free travel, and free eating and drinking, every day they were ashore; and although they had a suspicion now and again that some of their hosts did not know where New Zealand was, they had all heard of the Anzac soldiers.

Looking Back

When they look back on everything that has happened during the last two years both men agree that what remains most vividly are the cheerful people in London's tubes, the hospitality of America, and the incredible things done in the Pacific since the raid on Pearl Harbour. There is not the slightest doubt anywhere in America, they say, that Japan's number is up, and there is no difficulty in agreeing after a duty tour of the Pacific coast and several Pacific islands.

As for the British Navy, when we asked the English rating how ordinary ratings felt about their losses, he asked us how the enemy feel about the Navy's replacements. The Fleet is holding its own, he said, "and a little more." The feeling of all ranks is that it "can still take on anything sailing the seas."

"A One-Woman Corporation"

"I'M supposed to have a great voice," said Martinelli, the singer, after hearing a performance by Hildegard, "but Hildegard, who hasn't a great voice, can do more with hers than I can do with mine." Hildegard, 22B's "Morning Star" for Sunday, September 20, at 11.30, comes from Milwaukee and had a varied career as pianist, singer, and vaudeville artist before she began working on special cabaret acts of her own, first making a hit at the Café de Paris in London and then in clubs in Paris.

"I spent three and a-half years in Europe and there I acquired the continental finesse, the polish, and the technique necessary for my performance," she said in a recent interview. In 1936 the vice-president of the NBC persuaded Hildegard to go back to America. The Milwaukee girl, returning to her native country, went on the air as the highest paid single act in radio.

Hildegard to-day is a one-woman corporation. She has a manager, an arranger, a publicity agent, and a personal agent. Every part of her performance is carefully rehearsed, from lighting effects to delivery. Her gowns cost 300 dollars. Generally she does two shows a night. In Chicago she appears at nine and at midnight. In New York she appears at midnight and at one-fifteen. The performance runs for roughly 45 minutes. Rehearsals and public appearances take up a large part of the day.

"I know I haven't a great voice nor am I a great pianist," says Hildegard, who is honest with herself. "And I love to kid with my Milwaukee French." All the same, many famous authorities have testified to the fact that she is a great entertainer and her popularity is enormous. (A photograph of Hildegard appears on page 16.)

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