

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD

Rudolph said when we asked him about his new series of broadcasts from a link of all YA stations and 3Y2, in which he directs the Capital Quartet with Betty Evans and other soloists. "The boys are doing numbers like 'The Good Green Acres of Home,' which is one of Rudy Vallee's songs; 'The March of the Grenadiers'; and a comedy

A SMILE number called 'How De-AND A SONG lane's Donkey Won the Half Mile Race.' For Jean McPherson, our soloist in the second broadcast, we've made up a Scottish programme with songs like 'A Gordon for Me,' and 'Granny's Hielan' Hame.' The last one was new to me, so she sang it over the phone and I took it down," he said, adding that as usual he was doing all his own arrangements of the songs.

His soloists in the third and fourth programmes will be Ken Macaulay and Rae Gibbons, and the members of the Capital Quartet at present are Frank Malthus, Joe Miller, Bruce Chandler and John Dellow. "John McDonald has gone to Auckland," Henry told us, "so Joe Miller has taken his place as second tenor, and John Dellow takes over Joe's old place as baritone in the quartet." The series is being programmed under



Spencer Digby
BETTY EVANS



HENRY RUDOLPH

the title *Music With a Smile and a Song*, and starts at 8.18 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27. Henry added that his first soloist, Betty Evans, had accompanied him to Korea with the Sixth Korea Concert Party last year, where she was very

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PEGGY ASHCROFT reads the part of Portia and Michael Redgrave plays Shylock in the BBC World Theatre version of Denis Carey's Stratford-upon-Avon production of "The Merchant of Venice," which is being broadcast from YC stations next week (see page 18)



BBC photograph



AUCKLAND'S Underground Air Headquarters, showing operations staff at work during the recent air defence exercise on which the NZBS programme "Operation Safeguard" is based (see below). Speakers in the programme include the Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice-Marshal W. H. Merton, C.B., O.B.E., R.A.F.

popular with the troops and was frequently asked to sing additional songs in the messes, apart from her regular work in the shows.

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THE air defences of Auckland were sorely tried on Saturday, March 5, for on that day the city was "bombed" by "enemy" planes. A hit was scored by an R.N.Z.A.F. Devon aircraft on the King's Wharf power station, but the "raider" was "shot down" by Mustang and Vampire fighters before it could do any further damage. *Operation Safeguard* was the name given to the air defence exercise, and it

OPERATION is also the name of the SAFEGUARD programme about the exercise which will be broadcast from 1YA at 9.30 p.m. this Saturday, April 23. The exercise gave valuable instruction to the many servicemen and servicewomen involved. An underground headquarters was

manned as a control centre for the city's air defence, and there, in a concrete chamber 50 feet below the surface, Rex Sayers, of 1YA, was able to observe and describe the scope of the operations.

Another commentator, Bruce Broadhead, spent the day at the radar posts and with the anti-aircraft batteries, and a third, Doug Laurensen, joined the "enemy" and flew with the attacking bombers. The exercise was also valuable for the lessons learned, and some of these lessons are discussed in the broadcast by the Air Defence Commander for the operation, Wing Commander J. R. Maling, of Christchurch. The Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice-Marshal W. H. Merton (above) also recorded his impressions, and these are included in the programme, which was produced by Arthur E. Jones.



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[N 1952 Max Saunders wrote a delightful musical version of Lewis Carroll's *The Hunting of the Snark*. A year later he made a musical adaptation of two of Edward Lear's nonsense poems, which he called *The Jumbies and the Dong*. Last January he achieved what the *Radio Times* recently called his "hat-trick" with a broadcast in MUSICAL the BBC's Third Programme of a musical version of Lewis Carroll's well-known poem *The Walrus and the Carpenter*. Saunders is described by *Radio Times* as "a New Zealander who has been writing music for the BBC for more than 20 years." He comes from Auckland and his photograph once appeared on our cover (on February 4, 1944). He describes *The Walrus and the Carpenter* as "a melodrama for some voices and a few instruments." The highly original music includes a four-part fugue for "But four young Oysters hurried up, All eager for the treat . . ."

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