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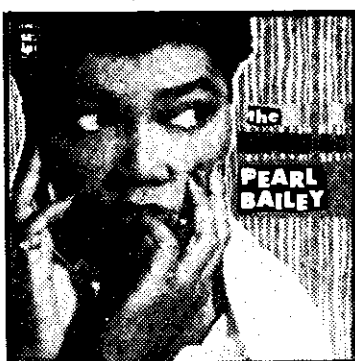
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# Open Microphone

A BATTERED old piano accordion that he has had for a long time is what F. A. Jones uses to help him compose his popular songs, which have been represented in *New Zealanders Wrote These*. It's an instrument with a history. During the war years Mr Jones served in the Merchant Navy, and his ship, Komata, was taken by a German raider masquerading as the Tokyo Maru. It was then that the accordion really proved its worth. Life on board the German raider was not easy for the 130 prisoners crammed into her hold, but a nightly concert went a long way towards making things more bearable. The piano accordion and a violin be-

## HISTORIC ACCORDION

aid of two stewards, dispensed cigarettes and food from behind a counter they rigged up. The bo'sun also organised the concerts, offering performers two cigarettes for each item. Limericks about the food (mainly rice—which rhymes with "lice") were particularly popular. Today Mr Jones lives in Kawakawa, where he is in business as a house painter. In his own words he has composed "quite a few" songs, and he regards "It's All Over Now" as his best effort to date.

## NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

NEVER again will I raise a superior eyebrow as singers make yet another positively last appearance (writes J. W. Goodwin from London). Kirsten Flagstad, who made one farewell at Covent Garden nearly 10 years ago and another at the Festival Hall some years later, descended from Valhalla the other night to make positively her first appearance at a BBC Prom Concert. The occasion was the 50th anniversary of the death of her countryman Grieg. Despite tumultuous applause as Sir Malcolm Sargent led her on, my heart sank a little. Norwegian peasant costume—white shawl over the head, white sleeves, and full black dress—together with a tendency to waddle, made her look like a penguin in negative. Trying to be charitable, one saw not the operatic prima donna of yesteryear, but Juliet's Nurse.



F. A. JONES  
The Germans also listened

longing to one of the Rangitane's crew were the only musical instruments on board, but with the aid of the "Rangitane Hotspots," a professional entertainment group, a high standard was reached.

The performance was always started in the early evening while it was still light enough for the German sailors to watch through the hatch. Those who could speak English would call down requests—"Show Me the Way to Go Home" seemed to be their favourite—and when they were particularly pleased they would throw down cigarettes, tobacco and matches. "My piano accordion was literally worth its weight in cigarettes," says Mr Jones fondly. All the donations were appropriated by the bo'sun of the Rangitane, who, with the

Then she sang and this illusion was swept away. Grieg's pretty songs became more than life size with a transfiguration of her still glorious voice. One is now more conscious of her artistry. There is a slight edginess about some top notes, but she has that same apparently limitless supply of breath. Few singers of any age, let alone in their 60's, can surpass her in that.

The pianist in the Concerto in A Minor was the Norwegian, Robert Riefeling.

FOR all we know, this story may be as old as the hills, but we liked it when we read it in a recent airmail letter from Arthur Jacobs to the ABC. Larry Adler, it seems, was about to meet Khachaturian in London, but before the introduction the interpreter warned the harmonica virtuoso: "Don't mention that Sabre Dance." Apparently Khachaturian was tired of being asked about it. At the Soviet composer's request, Adler demonstrated—how to play a soft note, a loud note, a scale, a crescendo on a single note. Then Khachaturian said: "I suppose you don't happen to know my Sabre Dance?" Adler not only knew it but played it right away, with the composer at the piano. When they were through Khachaturian jumped up, embraced Adler and exclaimed: "When we mark Russian music students in their exams the highest mark we give is five. Five is the maximum. You get five and a half!"

	J. J. JOHNSON	KAI WINDING	A	B	
C	D	E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z

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