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NEW ZEALAND ex-service-men who were in Bari, Italy, during the last war will remember the silo of the big macaroni factory that was taken over by the troops for conversion into a theatre called the "Stuky." There were plenty of mechanics, electricians and other specialists in the ranks, and

which fittings were acquired. On one occasion the theatre was used preliminary to forming an Area Concert Party, when Neville Clapham's co-adjudicator was the novelist Naomi Jacob ("Auntie Micky" to her ENSA protégés).

Today Mr. Clapham is living in Wellington, where he is departmental manager in the office of a big overseas concern. Recently he branched out as a writer (both words and music) of art songs and ballads and, moreover, a successful one. Some of his songs were broadcast from 2YA at the beginning of this year, and again the other evening from 1YA when the singer was Mr. Clapham's sister, Aimee Richardson (contralto). Neville Clapham was born in New Zealand, but for the greater part of the last 30 years he has lived in England. He has been a violinist since he was 10 years old, playing in chamber groups and orchestras, including the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra under the conductorship of the late Sir Dan Godfrey. When I asked him about his hobby the other day he said that for a time he gave up music completely. Three years ago he began to compose songs and last year the English tenor John Chew sang some of them at a recital in the Wellington Concert Chamber. Chew paid him the compliment of asking him to stand and acknowledge the applause. "I have written about a dozen songs all told," he said. "This year I have completed one so far and another is on the way. I write the melody first and it suggests a theme for the words." He has also set some of the poems of Keats and Rupert Brooke to music. "None of my songs has been published so far," added Mr. Clapham. "I like to hear them sung by good artists before I start thinking about publishers. I may say that I owe a great deal to Frank Crowther, the Wellington musician, for his encouragement and his help with piano arrangements."



N.P.S. photograph
NEVILLE CLAPHAM
The air suggests the words

in no time they erected a first-class stage and provided the best of modern settings for members of the Bari Opera Company and others. Although badly damaged in a big German air raid on Bari in December, 1943, when over a score of our ships were sunk in the small congested harbour, the theatre building survived to provide entertainment to large numbers of Allied troops in the Adriatic sector. Returned men may remember, too, Neville Clapham, the man responsible for the theatre, and whose rank as a British Army officer and close connection with Ordnance possibly had a bearing on the ease with

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STARTING on Thursday, May 7, Station 1YZ Rotorua will broadcast a series of programmes about the life



RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH (centre) relaxing with two contestants in the Show "What's My Line?" The young man with the wavy hair is a valet 'by trade (or is it profession?) and the third person (singular) is a Christmas card maker. "What's My Line?" is being broadcast by the four ZB stations and by 2ZA Palmerston North on Thursdays at 9.0 p.m.

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 1, 1953.