

THE KIWI CONCERT PARTY.

MOST people on board will have noticed that the Kiwi Concert Party is with us, that is to say, those of the party who have survived the Battle of New Zealand. Of the original 28 who returned from the Middle East on furlough only six remain. The rest have been graded out or have clung to their wives and children - one even became an expectant father.

Wally Priotor, the famous blonde soprano, being Grade IIIp is now in civvies, minus the wig, of course. Phil Jay, the brunette, is awaiting another board and may yet return to the fold, but that "terrible child" Tim Bonner is definitely out. That fine upstanding chorus is reduced to Tony Rex and Bill Nichol to carry on the good work, and, of the orchestra, only the Sax team remains.

However, 2nd Lieut Terry Vaughan, the Kiwi producer, has already started rebuilding the show. The orchestra now contains some of the best players in New Zealand, and the stage personnel is boosted up with Ted Quill, baritone, Bill Moore, light comedian and that first-rate "magician" Ces Morris. The company now numbering only fourteen, intends to do its best to keep people amused on board with music and odds and ends on deck - "weather permitting."

2nd Lieut Vaughan would like to meet anyone on board who thinks he has suitable qualifications for the Kiwi Concert Party as under:: Singers (not necessarily solo voice but good appearance), trumpet players, sax players violinists and what have you. Call at Cabin 47 or when the orchestra is rehearsing.

NEWS BRIEFINGS.

WITH flares and the booming of guns, Russia has been celebrating the success of a great Soviet offensive on the Leningrad front. Here the Russians have killed 25,000 Germans in a week and have captured some of the big guns which had been shelling the city.

New Zealand and Australian ministers who have been conferring in Canberra have agreed upon a policy for the disposal of man-power in the light of recent developments in the war and also upon a policy for the future defence in the Pacific.

In Italy the Fifth Army has made further advances, and the guns of the Eighth Army are bombarding Cassino.

In an Allied air attack on Rabaul five Japanese ships were sunk and three others probably sunk at a cost of 12 planes. 18 Japanese aircraft, for certain, and probably 15 others were brought down.

Berlin has again been heavily raided by the R. A. F.

BEHIND THE ABLUTIONS+

AT the height of the gale the other day, some of the troops were chatting with a member of the crew who had been serving in her for only a few months. "She seems a pretty good sea-boat," commented a soldier. "Well, I don't know," replied the seaman, gazing out over the wave tops. "I haven't been on her in rough weather."

From ship to shore at a certain port. "Where's Nabel?" "Swap you a kiwi for a kangaroo." "Where do you folks go when the tide comes in?" "Who's keeping the pub here now?" "What won the Cup back home?"

Those who will see the Kiwi Concert party only from the fringes of the crowd may take comfort. The date has not yet been announced, but we understand they are arranging for a show in the Berlin State Opera House this year.

Security: As the furlough draft's transport was drawing close to the Hobart wharf on the way home six months ago, a passenger on a passing ferry yelled, "where are you going?" A security-minded Kiwi replied, "Hobart."

No doubt the humorist who removed 20 dollars and a watch from his cobbler's clothing in C4 Moss only meant it as a joke. But we kind of miss the point.

We are asked to deny the rumour that the beams rigged at the bridge are used to lower members of the crew in a basket two at a time for their morning shower.

2nd KEMPER FILCOSE SWEETSTATE.

1st Prize, No. 3234; 2nd prize No 3252; 3rd prize No. 3250.