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GERALDO MIDDLE EAST TOUR: ELEVENTH-HOUR BOMBSHELL

ON the eve of their departure for the Middle East to play for the troops under the auspices of E.N.S.A., a bombshell was thrown into the Geraldo camp with the news that exit permits had been refused to two of the musicians.

THE MEN CONCERNED ARE GUITAR STALWART IVOR MAIRANTS AND TENOR ACE HARRY GOLD, AND NO REASON HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE AUTHORITIES FOR THE LAST-MINUTE WITHHOLDING OF THE PERMITS.

Eleventh-hour efforts by Geraldo and E.N.S.A. officials to reverse the surprising decision were unavailing, and when the band arrives in the Middle East it will be without two of its most important players.

On musical grounds, the loss of these two cornermen will be very keenly felt, and whatever deputies Geraldo may be able to find in the Mediterranean, one can hardly expect that these will be able to fit in with the rest of the band in the brilliant way that Ivor and Harry do.

Harry Gold has contributed much in building up the sax section into its present high standard of ensemble playing; and in Ivor Mairants the band loses not only a corner-stone of the rhythm section, but an individual soloist whose absence will mean the actual reshaping of many of the orchestrations.

M.U. RESOLUTION

It is some weeks ago since the boys of the band applied for their visas, etc., and were inoculated for their Eastern trip. No suggestion was then made that Mairants and Gold would not be allowed to go, and their papers apparently went through smoothly.

Then, at the last minute, when it was too late for Geraldo to get anyone to take their place, the drastic edict went forth, and everybody who knows these two quiet and eminently respected musicians will be asking—Why?

Ivor Mairants, incidentally, played a very important part in the decision that the present tour to the Middle East should be undertaken.

In the report of the Musicians' Union National Delegate Conference held in July of this year, the following paragraph appears:

"Mr. Mairants declared that it was an unfortunate fact that bands were not giving even the six weeks' service per year they were asked to give to E.N.S.A. It should be the policy of the Union to encourage members to play for troops rather than to West End people."

The feelings of all those who know Ivor Mairants and Harry Gold will undoubtedly be in accord with the sentiments of their professional associates, who passed a resolution on the subject at a packed meeting of the London Branch of the Musicians' Union on Tuesday (12th).

The resolution expressed the members' "utmost confidence in the integrity" of the two men, and requested "that all possible steps be taken to induce the appropriate Government Department to reconsider their decision with a view to exit permits being granted."

WINNICK REOPENING CIRO'S WITH 14-PIECE BAND

MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT IN THE WEST END DANCE BAND WORLD FOR MANY MOONS IS THE RE-OPENING OF CIRO'S CLUB, ORANGE STREET, LONDON, W., WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH.

Not only is this exclusive and world-famous resort returning to activity, but it will present a fourteen-piece band, to be led and directed by that well-known figure of Variety and radio, Maurice Winnick.

Thus, for the first time since the early days of the war, the West End will once again house a full-sized dance band. The importance of this to the profession cannot be overstressed, and the move is bound to have favourable repercussions for musicians throughout West End hotels and nighteries, where small bands are still the rule.

Maurice Winnick said to the "M.M.": "I have had many offers to return to London, but refused all of them until this one, because none afforded a chance to use a full-sized band again."

In pre-war days, Giro's was Maurice Winnick's home for many years. In making his comeback to the West End, he does not intend to depart from the essentially "sweet" music with which his name is nowadays nationally associated, and which he says the public desire, but he will introduce all possible variation into his performances.

BROADCASTS

The new Winnick band will be heard in a series of broadcasts.

Maurice has asked us to announce that he will be pleased to hear from first-class musicians who wish to take this very rare opportunity, and play in the West End with a full-sized dance orchestra again.

Musicians desirous of contacting Maurice regarding the project may do so at his offices: Standbrook House, 2-5, Old Bond Street, London, W.1. Tel: Regent 2277-9.

The now famous Maurice Winnick Show, "Dorchester Folies," in which he and his band are such a prominent feature, will carry on with its successful tour throughout the country—the orchestra in this production to be fronted in future by well-known personality Harry Eines.

The negotiations and contractual arrangements for Winnick's engagement with the Directors of Giro's Club were commenced by Maurice himself, and successfully concluded by Edward Sommerfeld.

JAMBOREE: FULL LIST OF BANDS

THE list of a dozen bands at the 1943 Jazz Jamboree (Stoll, Kingsway, Sunday afternoon, October 24) is completed by two famous aggregations, both led by clarinetists, and both extremely popular in their own sphere.

The first is Carl Barriteau and his Orchestra, which is reaching great heights on the stage these days, and was the sensation of the recent Feldman Club "Tribute to Swing" concert.

The second band is led by ex-Ambrose ace Billy Amstell, and is his swinge R.A.F. five-piece, including "Tiny" Winters and other stars.

This means that the full list of bands at the Jazz Jamboree will be: Ivly Benson and her Girls' Band; Eric Winstone and his Swingtette; The London Fire Force Dance Orchestra (directed by Eddie Franklin);

- *Billy Amstell and his R.A.F. Swingtette;
 - *The R.A.F. No. 1 Balloon Centre Dance Band (directed by Cpl. Paul Fenouhett);
 - *Buddy Featherstonhaugh and the Radio Rhythm Club Sextet;
 - *The U.S. Army Band of Headquarters, E.T.O. (directed by Warrant-Officer Frank Rosato);
 - Carl Barriteau and his Orchestra;
 - Edmund Ros and his Cuban Band;
 - The Dance Orchestra of H.M. Royal Air Force (directed by Sergt. Jimmy Miller);
 - Harry Parry and his Sextette; and
 - Phil Green and his Lower Basin Street Orchestra.
- During the broadcast, from 3.30 to 4.15 p.m. (Forces), the four bands marked with an asterisk in the above list will be heard.

Radio Rhythm "Ferryman"

A NEW swing outfit which should intrigue the fans comes to the microphone in "Radio Rhythm Club" next Thursday (October 21).

It is Mill Ferris and the "Ferryman", and consists of the well-known trombonist, with the boys who comprise his successful band at London's Panama Club.

Mill has given a great deal of attention to preparing his programme, which he thinks will get the enthusiasts by the ears.

With the maestro on trombone, outfit for the broadcast comprises Fred Cornell (piano); "Kitch" Moss (bass); Hugh MacFarlane (drums); Duncan Whyte (trumpet); George Bayton (tenor and clarinet); and Archie Slavin (guitar).

RABIN IN TOWN

AT the end of this current week Oscar Rabin and his Band will have a three weeks' break from touring in Variety, when the band will play a resident engagement of that duration at the Royal Dance Hall, Tottenham.

Rabin starts at Tottenham on Monday (October 18), and the full band and vocalists will be featured at each session.

Rabin will have several broadcasts during this period. In Town, the first, from the Royal, Tottenham, on October 25 (11.15-12 midnight).



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CHANGES AT CRICKLEWOOD

BILLY SMITH, for three years the tower of strength at the Cricklewood Palais de Danse, is leaving with his band to take over the stand at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on October 23 (see story on page 5).

Succeeding Billy as resident M.D. at Cricklewood is pianist Jan Wildeman.

Jan played for a while in Billy Smith's Band a short time ago. Before that he was on tour with Henry Hall. At the time of writing he is with Jimmy Mesene, where he remains until the Cricklewood date.

Besides his abilities on piano, Jan Wildeman is widely known as a vocalist, and was featured singer with Slim Grossman for five years.

