

Melody Maker

3^d INCORPORATING "RHYTHM"

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 4, 1944

STAGE-BAND VETERAN HIND TAKING OUTFIT TO INDIA

ONE of the earliest of Britain's stage band celebrities, Bobby Hind, who was making a big name on the halls only a few years after the end of the last war, crashes back into the headlines again, twenty years later, with the news that he is shortly taking a band and a company of artists—nineteen strong altogether—to India, under the auspices of E.N.S.A.

"There has been quite a big agitation, in the Press and elsewhere, for more musicians and entertainers to go out to the Indian theatre of operations," Bobby Hind told the Melody Maker. "As one who can modestly claim to have been in British dance music longer than almost anyone else, I am happy to have this opportunity of being among the few artists who are at present taking dance music and entertainment to the Forces in India."

Bobby Hind's company will comprise a band, led by himself on clarinet, and containing four saxes, trumpet, trombone, bass, drums, piano, and accordion.

VARIETY VETERAN

In addition, there will be two girl vocalists, three girl dancers, a comedienne, and a comedy-illusionist. The party will be starting soon, and will be away at least six months. We congratulate Bobby Hind on his enterprise in undertaking this formidable trip, and wish him and his party all possible success.

Right on top in London Variety in the great days of dance bands on the music-halls, Bobby Hind, with his "London Sonora" Band, frequently visited the Continent for highly paid dates in most of Europe's capitals.

His band, noted more for its showmanship than for any particular pretensions to style contained some of the big names of the day.

Back in the 1937-38 period he spent two years as M.D. at the Beach Dance Hall, Aberdeen, and was at the Glasgow Empire Exhibition in 1938.

The outbreak of hostilities found him in Amsterdam, and he met Eddie South and Coleman Hawkins out there shortly before the war.

Bobby Hind has now been on E.N.S.A. for 4½ years.

HARRY LEADER'S AIR-WEEK

FOR next week (commencing 6 November) Harry Leader and his Band, from the London Astoria, are the B.B.C. Band of the Week.

This will, of course, necessitate several days' absence from the Astoria, and while the boys are away a combination led by trumpet-player Jimmy Mayes will play in their place. Jimmy worked for Harry Leader in the old days at Hammersmith Palais.

In the meanwhile, there are one or two changes to report in the Leader personnel. Trumpet notability and old-timer of the profession Charlie Price has joined up with the band and will be replacing Mick Meen, who leaves Harry after eighteen months' association.

The band will also shortly be bidding a regretful temporary good-bye to pianist Joyce Mansell, who is leaving because a happy domestic event is scheduled.

Joyce is married to well-known trumpet player Dick Barrell, who was also in the Leader band, and is now in the Forces.

Harry Gold and Benny Lee for P.E.S. Dances

CHARLES BOHM, enterprising manager of The People's Entertainment Society, Ltd., has given us details of a sensational series of dances which the P.E.S. is promoting in town halls in the London area.

Stars of the series are Harry Gold, stylish tenor saxman and modernist arranger (previously with the Geraldto Orchestra), and rhythm-style singer Benny Lee, who is now featured in the B.B.C.'s weekly "Music From The Movies" programme.

Music at all the dances will be provided by Harry Gold's "Pieces Of Eight" Orchestra, the "pieces" in this case being well-known West End stylists who are interested in forming a top-grade outfit run on co-operative lines. Benny Lee will, of course, handle the vocals.

P.E.S. has an imposing programme of dances for this month, embracing events at most of the popular town hall ballrooms. The series was opened on Wednesday, this week (Nov. 1), at the Assembly Hall, Walthamstow, and this Friday (3rd) the second dance will be held—this time at Peckham's Co-operative Hall.

The rest of the dates and venues for November are: Chiswick Town Hall (Monday, 6th); Battersea Town Hall (Wednesday, 8th); Hornsey Town Hall (Thursday, 9th); Peckham Co-op. Hall (Friday, 10th); Tottenham Baths (Monday, 13th); Leyton Baths (Wednesday, 15th); Wembley (Thursday, 16th); Porchester Hall, Paddington (Friday, 17th); and Stoke Newington Town Hall (Wednesday, 22nd).

For the 24th and 30th of the month, dances are planned at East Ham Town Hall and Epsom Baths, and the premises have been applied for, though arrangements are not yet completed.

BOBBY RICHARDS' BAD BREAK

THE Melody Maker deeply regrets to announce that famous Rabin drummer Bobby Richards is seriously ill, and will have to be away from the band for several months.

Bobby, who suffered a breakdown recently, has been ordered a long complete rest in a sanatorium.

We join his numerous fans all over the country in wishing him the speediest possible recovery.

A successor to take over with the Rabin Band during Bobby's absence has not been permanently fixed at the time of writing.

Syd Raymond stepped in for a short time when Bobby was taken suddenly ill, and at the moment Stanley Fraser is filling in.

GERALDO FOR FRANCE AND BELGIUM

In E.N.S.A. Gala Shows

WINNICK

OFF TO ITALY

TO CELEBRATE THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE, E.N.S.A. IS SHORTLY SENDING OVER TO THE CONTINENT THE MOST STAR-STUDDED SHOW IT HAS EVER ASSEMBLED, TO PLAY GALA PERFORMANCES IN PARIS.

DANCE BAND CHOSEN FOR THIS SUPER OCCASION IS GERALDO AND HIS FULL ORCHESTRA, WHO WILL BE LEAVING SHORTLY TO SPEND SOME THREE WEEKS ON THE CONTINENT.

At the time of going to press, it is already known that the E.N.S.A. party will include Noel Coward, Bobby Howes and glamorous Frances Day, but other distinguished artists have been invited and will probably make the journey.

Geraldo told the Melody Maker: "We shall be playing a gala performance at the Marigny Theatre in Paris, along with other dates in the French capital, and we shall then go on to Brussels to entertain the troops and population there."

In between these official dates the band and I will be getting about to entertain the camps so that as many of the British and Allied Forces as possible can hear us."

The full Geraldto Orchestra will make the trip, together with vocalists Sally Douglas, Johnny Green and Len Gamber, plus an interesting newcomer to the vocal department in Scottish swing-singer Billie Campbell.

DUNCAN WHYTE'S ASTORIA LINE-UP

COMMENCING at the London Astoria Dance Salon last Sunday (29th), trumpet stylist Duncan Whyte is fronting a nine-piece band with a pronounced modern flavour, containing several players who are well known in town.

Duncan, who leads, is the only brass man in the band (and, incidentally, he is playing terrific trumpet these days).

He is supported by George Rowe, Ian Doneger, Don Randall and Harry Holland (saxophones, etc.); George McCallum (piano); Jack Allicorn (bass); Stan Watson (guitar); and "Flash" Winstone (drums).

George Rowe was previously with Harry Roy, Jay Wilbur and Billy Terment; Don Randall is known as a stylish tenor man; Ian Doneger and Harry Holland are promising pupils from the Harry Hayes school.

Jack Allicorn was with Henry Hall, and Stan Watson, who was at the "Blue Lagoon" niterie, is one of our most modern electric guitarists.

MAURICE WINNICK and his Band—news of whose projected tour, under the auspices of E.N.S.A., to entertain the Allied Forces in Italy was given recently in the "M.M."—are due to start their travels very shortly.

Maurice will be fronting a band of twelve. There are, in addition, the Winnick outfit's two famous vocalists, Doreen Stephens and Heien Ward; plus a number of other artists, most of them noted on the music-halls, and eight girl steppers to complete the glamour side of the show.

The Winnick Band is essentially a largely different combination from the one he features at home. Some of his regular men found themselves unable to make the trip, and some were prevented by health reasons from doing so.

The re-formed line-up gives a splendid chance to several newcomers, whose public-spirited attitude in joining the Band, with this strenuous trip as the first item on their programme, is to be highly commended.

With the ever-reliable Harry Hines as 1st sax and deputy leader, the rest of the boys are Harry Turoff, Ken Gregory, and Fred Baker (reads); George Kenneth and Ray Landis (trumpets); Ted Darrah and Clarence Bones (trombones); Pete Stuteley (bass); Alan Moran (piano); Alec Lavitt (drums); and Johnny Connor (guitar). Owing to his being under 18, there is some slight doubt as to whether Johnny Connor will be able to make the trip.

Harry Hines, Geo. Kenneth, Ray Landis, Harry Turoff and Pete Stuteley were with the Band before. Tom Christy is acting as manager.

Bad luck has befallen sax notability Jack Miranda, who was to have made the trip, but who is seriously ill. However, it is hoped he may be well enough to fly over and join the boys later.

RUMBA specialist Francisco Conde from the Potomac and Princes Restaurants, Piccadilly, London, is now carrying out an interesting "double" playing afternoons at Bental's Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames, with his orchestra, plus vocalist Santiago Lopez.

Previous M.D. at Bental's has been Glasgow drum notability Johnny Birks—now in London—who recently played a few weeks' season there, under the Harry Roy direction.

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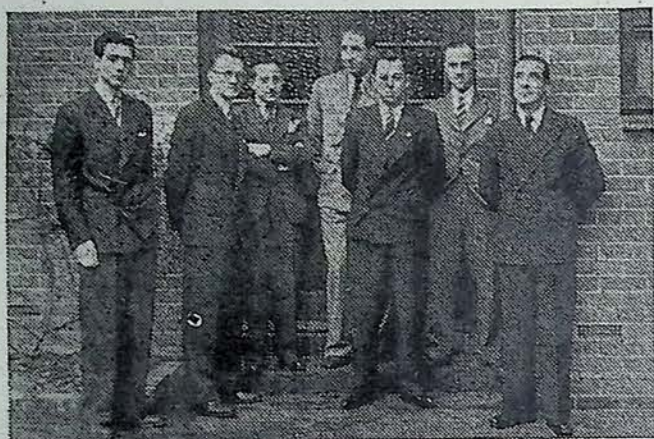
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A photo of M.U. officials and local bandleaders taken after last Sunday's M.U. meeting at Reading.

READING M.U.: GOOD START

U.S. HIT PARADE

HERE is the latest available list of the nine most popular tunes in America, as assessed by the weekly nation-wide ballot conducted by the American Tobacco Co. and broadcast in their 'Your Hit Parade' programme over the C.B.S. network...

As a result of the well-attended meeting held at the Butcher's Arms Hotel, in Reading, last Sunday (October 29), the decision was made for the immediate formation of Reading and district branch of the Musicians' Union.

Over 60 local musicians were present. The meeting was addressed by famous figures of the London musical world, Van Phillips, Ivor Mairants and Ted Anstey. Acting as chairman was local guitar celebrity, Jim Knowles. Den Piercy took over the duties of secretary.

DENIS' BIG DATES

JOHNNY DENIS and his Novelty Broadcasting Swingette, who have caused a very big impression with their visits to Provincial ballrooms in recent months, are making their first appearances in Manchester when they play at the Levenshulme Palais and the Devonshire Ballroom.

WRIGHT HITS

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MUNRO'S STAGE SHOW COMES TO LONDON

THE path of the pioneer who attempts to create something new in the way of dance-band stage shows is at all times difficult—in war time, almost impossibly so. In these circumstances a particularly big hand should be accorded to Ronnie Munro, famous B.B.C. leader of 'Sunday Serenade' fame...

BUILDING UP WELL

It is a very good sign, anyway, that the show which Ronnie is presenting this current week at Hackney Empire, London, is an enormous improvement on his show the previous week, when Londoners had their first sight of his new outfit at the Metropolitan Theatre.

Ronnie's own pleasant, relaxed personality and excellent musicianship contributes in no small measure to the general success. What the show now requires would seem to be a more suitable opening, a better arrangement of numbers...

Tommy Anderson, Chris Christieworth (trumpets); Hamish Christie and Tommy Turner (trombones); Theodore Gutter, F. Harris and F. Kean (violins); Ernie Harris (bass); Jackie Greenwood (drums); M. Winstone (guitar); and J. Woolstons (J. H. H. Tower and A. Casey (saxophones).

BERYL IN KENT

FAMOUS London singing star, Beryl Davis, will make a personal appearance at the Pavilion Ballroom, Clarendon Road, on Wednesday, November 8, where local band-leader and hall-proprietor, Claude Giddins, in collaboration with Maurice I. Kinn, is presenting the 1944 Kent Crooning Championships...

Melody Maker

Incorporating RHYTHM WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 4, 1944 Editorial, Advertising & Business Offices 93, LONG ACRE, W.C.2 Editor: RAY SONIN Telephone: TEMple Bar 2468 Advertisement Manager: F. S. PALMER

CALL SHEET

- Carl BARRITEAU and Band, One-Night Stands, Bristol. Ivy BENSON and Band, Belle Vue, Manchester. Johnny CLAES and Claspigeons, Gilderdrome, Boston. Billy COTTON and Band, Grand, Blackburn. George ELRICK and Band, Green's Playhouse, Glasgow. Gloria GAYE and Band, E.N.S.A. Henry HALL and Band, Empire, Newcastle. Leslie 'Jiver' HUTCHINSON and Band, One-Night Stands, Midlands. Felix MENDELSSOHN'S Hawaiian Serenaders, One-Night Stands, Leicester. Ronnie MUNRO and Orchestra, Palace, East Ham. Harry PARRY and Sextette, Palace, Burnley. Jack PAYNE and Orchestra, Hippodrome, Coventry. Oscar RABIN and Band, Empire, Leeds. Monte REY, Regal, Southend. George SCOTT-WOOD, E.N.S.A. Lew STONE and Band, Neale's Ballroom, Coventry. Billy TERNENT and Orchestra, Pavilion, Liverpool. TROISE and his Mandoliers, Empire, New Cross.

HARRIS OPENS COSMO MUSIC

A TUN PAN ALLEY change is reported this week. Bernard Harris, associated with the exploitation side of Lafleur's since 1940, has left to open up the Cosmo Music Co. at 36, Dean Street, W.1, where he extends a warm welcome to all his many friends in the profession. On the arranging side of this new firm's activities, Bernard has installed Den Berry, who has also come over from the Boosey firm.

LONDON HAWAIIANS

A BAND which is helping to popularise Hawaiian music in West London these days is Johnny Macintyre and his Hawaiians. Line-up of the Macintyre outfit is Johnny Binder (piano); Frank Yoe (bass); Jack Chapman (drums); Buddy Cawte (tenor); Jimmy Jones (alto/clarinet); Jack Greenfield (guitar); Eric Sellers (electric plectrum guitar); and Johnny Macintyre (leader and elec. guitar).

LIONEL HAMPTON DISAPPOINTS

EDGAR JACKSON'S Record Review

LIONEL HAMPTON AND HIS SEXTET 'Bouncing at the Beacon' (Anon.) (Am. Victor OA955237). 'Chasin' with Chase' (Neal, Shivers) (Am. Victor OA904037). (H.M.V. B9395-5s. 4/d.) 55237—Hampton (probably pno.), probably with Ray Terry (alto); Charles Thompson (pno.); Irving Ashby (clar.); Vernon Alley (bass); Lee Young (dms.). Recorded December 20, 1940. 64057—Hampton (dms.) with Marshall Royal (clar.), Terry (alto); Carl George (tp.); Thompson (pno.); Ashby (clar.); Alley (bass). Recorded April 20, 1941.

LIONEL ON DRUMS Much the same must be said of 'Chasin' with Chase.' In this our Lionel (vide above personnel) plays drums. As a technician he can probably hold his own with most drummers. He plays conventional and unconventional beats with an accuracy and incisiveness that one seldom finds excelled.

LIONEL ON PIANO But in 'Bouncing at the Beacon' as a vibraphone, clarinet or violin it is to be heard. Also, to add to the fact that there is no vibraphone, the high-register piano style is identical with Hampton's. So I can only assume that for this particular title Hampton played the solo piano part, aided and abetted by such other members of the available combination as have given, playing just the instruments I have stated after their names.

THE 1944 edition of 'Rhythm Style,' the Parlophone booklet, compiled by Edgar Jackson, which gives the personnel of Parlophone's 'Rhythm Style' and other swing and jazz records, has at last been published and should be available now from all Parlophone record stalls.

This is, of course, the Parlophone equivalent to the H.M.V. 'Swing Music' Booklet published in June. It covers records issued up to and including December, and there are quite a few innovations which make it even more interesting and useful than any of the previous editions.

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Carroll Gibbons (centre) drops into the offices of the newly-formed Cosmo Music Company to see what Bernard Harris (right) and Den Berry have to offer in the way of swing orchestrations. The story about this new company is given on page 2.

STANLEY NELSON'S LATEST

STANLEY NELSON is one of our oldest 'M.M.' contributors, and certainly a veteran writer on jazz. His work in this field ranges from a feature, 'Philosophical Ramblings,' in this paper, which is still remembered, to technical articles and many records under the auspices of the London Regional Committee for Education among H.M. Forces, with a book, now out of print, called 'All About Jazz' thrown in as an aside.

As I expected, I found this a mine of information in a small space. Stanley and his fellow-contributor, Jack Sharp, have presented the tyro arranger with a voicing, chord and range chart, specimen intros, modulations and codas, advice on what not to write (a subject usually neglected in arranging books), how to harmonise passing notes, and a list of selected records for arranging study—and all for half-a-crown. This is a worthy addition to Messrs. Lafleur's famous Swing Style Portfolio Edition, and I am not surprised to learn that it sold nearly a thousand copies in just over a week after publication.

ranging in the most lucid manner, and always with practicality as the keynote. As one would expect from such a fine arranger, Sid examines every aspect of the matter, and those who read his fine series on the subject in 'Rhythm' prior to the war will not need to be told that everything Sid says has sound theoretical sense behind it, for he is undoubtedly one of the most scholarly (in every sense as well as musical) of our dance-band arrangers. He rightly points out that arranging is, above all, a practical study, and this book is only a primer. That is true, but in my view if the would-be arranger studies 'Rhythm Style Arranging' thoroughly and then takes a look at 'Arranging at a Glance' he will have the necessary technical equipment to travel far in this intriguing field. Sid's book is published at the low price of 5s. by Messrs. J. E. Dallas and Sons, Ltd., who also inform me that they have in the press the first book to be published in this country fully examining dance-music harmony. Again it is by Stanley Nelson, will be a companion to Sid Phillips's book, and will share the same price—viz., 5s. Although it is not strictly within our province, Leslie Woodgate's new book, 'The Chorus Master' (Messrs. Ascherberg, Hopwood and Crew, 5s.), is full of interesting material. I have long enjoyed the broadcasts of the B.B.C. Wireless Singers, which body has been trained by Leslie Woodgate, and here their conductor discusses the work of choral groups in the most intriguing manner. His little homilies on conducting and team work can be read with advantage by every dance musician. R. S.

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LE JAZZ HOT LIBERATED!

The Continent Swings Again

As the tide of the Allied Armies' advances sweeps on through Europe, the people of the liberated towns and villages living in its wake resume a way of life as normal as the circumstances permit.



Where the Allied Armies go, jazz follows—as this snap from France proves. Ken Lyon sent it to us, and it shows him and some R.A.F. colleagues beating it out at their camp on the Continent.

Paris

When first I went into newly liberated Paris I was not thinking of jazz, even though I was in the company of three British members of my unit all of whom in happier days were devotees of the more torrid type of music.

Brussels

Later on I had occasion to spend a day in Brussels on my own, and, bearing in mind my happy experience in Paris, I made a bee-line for the Broadway Club, where trumpet-ace Robert de Kers is leading a snappy six-piece to the obvious delight of swing-minded Belgians.

I had not touched a bass since leaving England, and the temptation was too much for me. So, the necessary permission having been obtained, there took place a strange session consisting of myself on bass accompanied by Bob on piano—probably the first time drums.

When at last I reluctantly took my leave of the boys they pressed me to go back again as soon as possible for another session, an invitation which I shall certainly accept at the very first opportunity.

Belgium

From AC F. Collis, of the R.A.F., comes news, through a friend of mine now in Holland, of the activities of several well-known Belgian musicians.

States. Unfortunately I couldn't help him out much except with what little news I'd read in such home sheets as Art Hodes' 'Jazz Record', etc.

There is an accordion player called Noe Seys, only 16 and looking less. What jive comes out of those buttons (button-type squeezers are the most common over here)!

France

Further news of Parisian Jazz comes from Larry Quilligan, writing from 'somewhere in France,' whose letter has been passed on to us by Ralph Venas.

From these letters, then, it is clear that good dance music, and even hot jazz, are very much alive in the Continental areas already freed by the Allies.

U.S. DISC NEWS

From Chicago.—Earlier this summer George Heifer, of "Down Beat" fame, wrote: "Phil Featheringill made some interesting records here last week, using Richard Jones (piano), Preston Jackson (trombone), Darnell Howard (clarinet), Bob Schoffner (p.), John Lindsay (bass), and Baby Dodds (drums)."

These four sides are now available as the first of a series of original recordings on the Session label, known in the past for its fine reissues. For those who are interested, the address is: Session Record Shop, 125 N. Wells Street, Chicago (6), Illinois. They are 12-in. discs, priced at \$1.75 each.

Letters from two readers contain information on U.S. disc activity which is worth passing on. Sgt. Colin Pomroy sends details of some of the latest hit records. First he gives the most recent of Louis Prima's waxings:

"Angeline"/"Oh, Marie" Hit #106. "A Fellow on a Furlough"/"Kentucky" Hit #096. "I'll Walk Alone"/"Robin Hood" Hit #083.

Continuing Sgt. Pomroy's letter, he tells us: "Also lately released are two by Harry James, both presumably new recordings. [Explained by the fact that Hit are not involved in the U.S. record ban.—Ede.]:

"A Million Dreams Ago"/"Carnival of Venice" Hit #065. "My Greatest Mistake"/"Flight of the Bumble-Bee" Hit #064. "And most important of all," concludes Colin, "one disc by Cootie Williams' Orchestra:

COLLECTORS' CORNER

by REX HARRIS and MAX JONES

suggested last time. Cozy would appear to have special attachments to this firm. Tito mentions only a couple of titles, neither of which we can read accurately, but at a guess we'd transcribe them as follows: "Basic English," knowing the prevailing taste in the States for puns of this agonising kind.

HIS MASTER'S VOICE DELETIONS

EARLY in October we had to draw "Corneries" attention to a mass of R series recordings which Parlophone plans to delete from its catalogue after January 31, 1945.

From the B series, an extremely important disc comes out: Jim Yancey's "Slow and Easy Blues"/"The Mellow Blues," only quite recently issued here. It is one of all they do not already possess it.

Others we recommend as safe purchases are "Swingin' 'em Down," by Freddy Jenkins; "Eddie's Blues," by Eddie South; the Dickie Wells coupling; and "Jazz Lips" for those who like to have everything by Duke.

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"HOT DISCOGRAPHY" UP TO DATE

SIDNEY BECHET—(Cont.)

Sidney Bechet and his New Orleans Feetwarmers. Sidney Bechet (soprano sax and clarinet); Sidney De Paris (trumpet); Cliff Sandy Williams (trombone); Cliff Jackson (piano); Bernard Addison (bass); Wellman Braud (bass); Sidney Cattlett (drums). New York, June 4, 1940. (051222).

Under-rated jazzmen. Nat was born in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1916. Four years later his family moved north to Chicago, where Cole senior followed his vocation as a preacher, and still does today. At his father's church, Nat learned to play the organ, receiving a full musical training there and developing an early taste for music.

Regular work followed in New York, Washington, Chicago and the West Coast. Meanwhile, the trio's popularity grew enormously. They have to date cut numerous records besides having featured in a small war film, four films. Two years ago Johnny Miller replaced Prince on bass when the trio came to Europe.

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