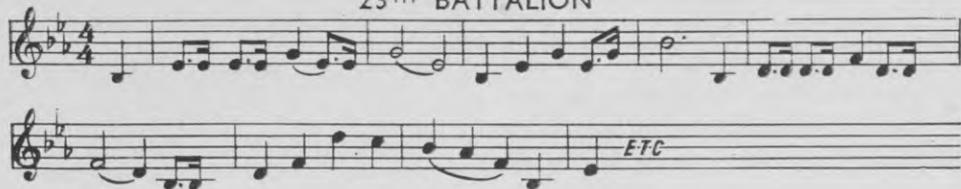


25TH BATTALION



popularity is more evident in New Zealand than with the Services overseas. Perhaps the reason for this is its patriotic emphasis. Patriotic songs don't appear to have the same appeal to members of the Services as they once had. In fact, my observation has been that the New-Zealanders overseas prefer to sing songs which have a humorous twist frequently introducing the language of other countries. These foreign words make some of their songs almost unintelligible to people at home. A notable example is a recent version of "Sayeeda Bint." The second verse sings of a soldier's ambitions:—

Two eyes of fire—that tell me Stanna shwire
I'd like to do what all good Kiwis do
I'll take you by the river in my Army V8 flivver
My little Gippo bint your Kwois Kateer.

A song with a humorous twist which is very popular with soldiers of the Middle East is the famous Matruh song—

Oh the rafters made of timber and the walls are made of
^{scrim}
And the gaps that let the dirty sand storms through
I can hear those Iti bombers as they circle round at night
In my flea-bound bug-bound dug-out in Matruh.

One reason why some of these songs do not reach the public is that they have not been published. But a great difficulty here is printing. According to one authority here, English publishers are down to one-third of their pre-war paper supplies. Apart from that, however, publishers give composers little encouragement in royalties. As a case in point, one Kiwi submitted a good song for publication, but he was offered 10 per cent only on actual sales over and

above the first 200, which had to be given free. This hardly seems fair, especially when the average popular song retails at 2s. a copy. Still, there are probably many other aspects to be considered from a publisher's point of view, especially when there are numerous American publications available for public consumption.

In spite of these difficulties quite a few Kiwi songs have reached the market—four of these being "Maori Battalion Song," "N.Z. Army Music Song," "A Kiwi Song" by Ossie Cheeseman of the Pacific Concert Party, and "Kiwis on Parade" by Russell Murray of the Middle East Concert Party.

The Maori Battalion has contributed more war songs than any other unit of the three Services—company songs, battalion songs, and songs about their exploits overseas. At home also fitting tributes to the heroes of the Maori Battalion have been expressed in song, as those who were fortunate enough to attend the Ngarimu V.C. investiture celebrations will know.

The Wrens have had a fine martial tune written for them by Richard Addinsell of Warsaw Concerto fame. The words, by Clemence Dane, the famous B.B.C. script writer, novelist, and playwright, are as follows:—

Serving the Islands in duty and in pride
We'll watch the weather, the time and the tide,
Live through the midnight and hail the redding grey
'Til a morning comes with the rolling drums of triumphant
day.

And here are a few bars of the music:—

WRENS' MARCHING SONG

