

FAMOUS VIOLA PLAYER RETURNS FROM WAR ZONE

Ugo Ara, of Flonzaley Quartet, Reappears in United States After 15 Months' Experience in Army in Northern Italy.

NEW YORK, July 27.—Ugo Ara, the viola player of the Flonzaley Quartet, has returned to New York as suddenly as he departed for Italy 15 months ago.

He was not called to the army service, but volunteered. As his physique barred him from the firing line, he was assigned to an ambulance corps and sent to the north of Italy.

Forced to the humiliating confessions that he could not typewrite, nor was he a bookkeeper, a stenographer, the director of the hospital broke forth with "What on earth can you do, then? Are you perhaps a musician?"

When Ugo Ara acknowledged the turn had been called, the director in despair cried, "Then what can I do with you?" He soon answered his own question by initiating him into the mysteries of sweeping the floor, washing dishes, and counting the soiled linen. Although different from the life to which he had been accustomed, M. Ara says that he felt no repulsion at whatever seemed to be the military need of the hour, and following a few days of this he was promoted to the post of Sanitary Adjutant.

This brought him for the first time to the true realization of the havoc and suffering of the world, as he was immured for months in a hospital where he saw hand in hand with the most appalling suffering examples of bravery, courage and resignation such as it would have been impossible to believe existed under any other conditions. By the time this life had become something of a routine he was ordered away as secretary and interpreter for a commission for the "prisoners of war."

In this capacity he examined thousands of prisoners and this kept him traveling constantly in what he called "American tempo and European discomfort." Italy was making a brave fight as the heights of the Carso came into the hands of these fine soldiers who already had begun to feel that Trieste was won. Then came the unexpected and inexplicable disaster of Caporetto, the most terrific blow in the history of the Italian kingdom, when they lost within a few hours all that had been conquered in two years of tremendous fighting.

Instead of the discouragement which might have been expected, the result was just the opposite and a feeling of revolt and vengeance swept the country from the Alps to Sicily and from the Adriatic to the Ligurian Sea. To this day M. Ara attributes the glorious resistance of the Piave. Moved by a mad desire to enter active fighting in an irresistible longing to give all he had, even to his life, he again requested to be sent into the firing line, but again he was rejected, and when he found that it was decisive, he presented to the country every cent that he had saved in Europe and America during a career of 14 years.

Forty thousand francs were thus divided between the Italian Red Cross, the Bonomi Work, Prisoners of War and Venetian Refugees. M. Ara continued his work in the hospitals where he began to feel that something had to be done for the recovery of the souls of that legion of young men who came back from the trenches too tired, too exhausted to have feelings of any sort. As he was studying how these poor creatures might be awakened, he says the answer came from America. The soldier-artist then told of the arrival in January of 1918 of the Y. M. C. A. forces with no plans except to wander from hospital to hospital and from barracks to barracks offering time, love, and every known means of entertainment. They brought innumerable games, musical instruments, books, sporting articles, phonographs, they interested those able to participate in mounting stage performances and in addition to supplying their own entertainers, they selected them wherever they could be found. But these wonderful offerings did not meet with immediate success. On the contrary their efforts were decided failures. They were accused of hidden political and religious aims, but firmly they continued the beneficial work they had undertaken. Finally the military and civil authorities began to realize what a noble mission brought them upon the scene of action and the sympathy and trust of the entire country was directed toward the Y. M. C. A. and no manifestation of gratitude seemed too great to prove to them that they were understood and appreciated. It became M. Ara's privilege to be attached for four months as secretary and interpreter to the Italian Commission of the Y. M. C. A. in charge of Professor J. Nollen, former president of Lake Forest University, and he tells with joy of the proclamation made by the Minister of War after a long and intimate interview with Mr. George Braden, director of physical culture, that the army corps open wide the doors to the members of the Y. M. C. A. and to facilitate their work in every possible manner. Thenceforward Mr. Braden organized throughout the entire country all sorts of races, and sporting events, courses of physical culture in the military schools, convalescing homes and training camps, hospitals were supplied with all sorts of table games, moving picture shows, musical performances and regular instruction in mild sports. The commanding officers of many regi-

ments began to realize what a tremendous support lay in the assistance of the Y. M. C. A. One Colonel wrote, "You have turned my convalescing home from a house of sorrow into a house of pleasure." The director of a hospital expressed his gratitude: "The austere atmosphere of my hospital has been transformed into an atmosphere of perfect serenity since your coming." M. Ara says that in no phase of life has he been so happy as in the restoration of morale, courage and force among the fighting men of the world today.

That this phase is being recognized abroad was the cause of his orders to leave immediately for America. His release from military service in Italy having been asked by a musical commission headed by Count di San Martino, the eminent president of the Santa Cecilia Society of Rome. What Mr. Ara's duties will be in this country, he was not ready to disclose, but there is no doubt a project under foot to form a closer alliance with the musical life of this country, and he will probably interest himself in securing American compositions and artists to appear in Italy and to open the field of Italian music other than operatic literature to the concert givers and music lovers of this country. What hold music has in Italy, notwithstanding all its suffering, M. Ara indicates by the series of 24 orchestral concerts given by Bernardino Molinari, the very talented young Italian conductor, who presented to sold-out houses 24 programmes devoted exclusively to Latin and Slavic composers, not excluding Smetana and Dvorak, but eliminating even the German classics. In connection with the musical work of immeasurable value M. Ara brings the first real news of the daily life and activities of the great Italian tenor, Alessandro Bonci, well remembered and dearly loved in this country. "Bonci," said M. Ara, "is living in a superb villa in Bologna, much more beautiful than the villa Baruzzi, where he lived during his visit to this country. When the war first began the tenor organized a great opera company, to which he gave his services and 10,000 francs so that the people of Italy would not be deprived of their favorite amusement. After the tragedy of Caporetto, he felt that this would be impossible, and organized tremendous sacred concerts, with the assistance and co-operation of Tebaldini, the noted organist and choirmaster of the Santa Casa at Loreto. All receipts have been donated to the Red Cross work and to care for the refugees. Bonci has drawn a wonderful chorus from the wounded and returned men of the army, and the orchestra, also consisting of the soldiers, makes one of the most impressive organizations that has ever been heard in the musical life of Italy. These concerts are given in the hospitals and for the entertainment of the refugees, as well as for the receipts that they bring for the cause. No one who has ever heard Bonci sing can fail to realize how supremely beautiful his voice sounds in the great sacred music of our country. He is besieged to accept engagements in Spain, in South America and in the United States, but he refuses all engagements in order not to leave the country where his two sons, Enzo and Gino, are in the fighting lines, but Bonci says that he is studying hard on English repertory, and that he will take the first boat for this country that leaves after peace is declared. He speaks with great affection of America, and remembers every detail of his very enjoyable career."

M. Ara expects to receive from the secretary of propaganda, his excellency Gallenga, a great collection of modern Italian music, among which will be numbers by Vincenzo Tommasini, whose quartet has been played in New York by the Kneissels, Malipiero, whose facility may be judged from the fact that he submitted seven operas to one competition, "Castelluccio," of which M. Ara has a copy in his repertory, and declares it to be a real masterpiece. Respighi, whose "Fontane di Roma" was played with the greatest success under Toscanini, in the marvelous concert that he has given; Alfredo Casella, pianist, composer, founder of modern music in Rome, and journalist, whose music wood winds has been heard by the organizations under Georges Longy, of Boston, and Barrere, of New York. Upon the arrival of these scores M. Ara hopes to interest some of the orchestral conductors in their merits.

Among those Italian artists known in America now at work in their own country are Arrigo Serato, professor at the Santa Cecilia of Rome, who, in addition to his pedagogic work there, traveled all season in concerts for the Red Cross and to entertain the refugees and the wounded men, and Arturo Toscanini, who is giving his entire time to the dissemination of French, Italian and Spanish music, not only for the support of the orchestra, but for the purpose of upholding the best music and keeping alive the interest.

Asked what sort of a crossing he had had, the artist stated that it was ideal as to weather; that there was never a thought of submarines or danger and that the sea was as smooth as glass.

The track, makes its first appearance here. Johnny Morris and Eddie Parks are the principal fun-makers and they have been surrounded by a cast of excellence. There is a big beauty chorus of twenty-four girls, all of whom are figures. The costumes are exceptional and the act has been handsomely staged.

The plot is laid at the race track and the action is rapid and interesting. The musical numbers are speedy, keeping in harmony with the atmosphere in which the action takes place. Mr. Morris is an extremely clever comedian and he is ably assisted by Mr. Parks. Patricia, the famous entertainer, will be one of the special features, presenting her latest song successes in her own inimitable manner. Patricia has been the most popular woman in vaudeville, and her engagement here will be welcomed.

Jane Ward and Billy Cullen introduce among other fascinating features their original hit, "Huckleberry Finn," a song that has won for them much popularity. With Miss Ward at the piano and Mr. Cullen in songs, the act provides delightful entertainment.

Archie Onri, the wonder boy, assisted by Miss Dolly, offers one of the most remarkable acts in vaudeville. Mr. Onri is extremely versatile and he does everything from juggling and magic to acrobatics and whirling devil sticks. Miss Dolly introduces some excellent dancing.

"The Gadabouts," Herbert Hall Winslow's latest comedy, is the vehicle for Bernice Howard and Jack White. The plot concerns a couple, both of whom are fond of partying, but without the knowledge of the other. How they are finally caught provides the theme for a very clever comedy, well handled by Miss Howard and Mr. White.

The Hoyt-Bryant Trio provides all sorts of musical entertainment, and one of the best parts of the act is the

HELLIG TOMORROW at 8:15 TWICE DAILY THEREAFTER

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GRAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA!

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SEATS NOW AT THE HEILIG

EVENINGS AT 8:15 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1, BOX SEATS \$1.50

NEWS OF THE THEATERS

(Continued From Page 2.)

today on account of the popular demand. There will be a double matinee today, at 2:15 and 5 P. M. and tonight at 8:15 o'clock.

Twenty-three German prisoners, two of them officers, are shown in a barbed-wire stockade. The officers are standing apart, probably being kidded by the Sammites standing on the side lines. Though they have their backs to the camera most of the time, they are forced to turn around once in a while if only to satisfy their curiosity, and all sorts of subterfuges are used to get a look at their facial map. In the picture one of these sallyes by the American boys apparently succeeded, as the officers turn their faces in the camera's direction and then hastily turn away again, but the camera has caught them, and their attempted look of snobishness and disgust is most potent.

In the background another lot of Roche prisoners are seen marching to the rear.

The officers seen in the picture are evidently of the last year, as they do not appear to have the real military cast such as you would see in the regular army, so their desire to show contempt of their situation is not the real thing, but it appears to give them a real sense of satisfaction.

Pershing's Crusaders" will have the last showings in Portland twice this afternoon, at 2:15 and 5 o'clock and tonight at 8:15 o'clock.

MUSICAL COMEDY AT PANTAGES

"The Handicap Girls" One of Season's Successful Productions.

Diversity marks the programme at Pantages for the week, commencing with the matinee tomorrow, when "The Handicap Girls," a Marty Brooks musical comedy, with its scenes laid at

the track, makes its first appearance here.

Johnny Morris and Eddie Parks are the principal fun-makers and they have been surrounded by a cast of excellence. There is a big beauty chorus of twenty-four girls, all of whom are figures. The costumes are exceptional and the act has been handsomely staged.

The plot is laid at the race track and the action is rapid and interesting. The musical numbers are speedy, keeping in harmony with the atmosphere in which the action takes place. Mr. Morris is an extremely clever comedian and he is ably assisted by Mr. Parks. Patricia, the famous entertainer, will be one of the special features, presenting her latest song successes in her own inimitable manner. Patricia has been the most popular woman in vaudeville, and her engagement here will be welcomed.

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imitation of bugle calls by the human voice. The programme is extensive and diversified.

Patience Weekly will offer new motion picture features.

"Hoosier Girl," the sparkling musical comedy, will be one of the features of the continuous performance today from 1:30 to 11 o'clock.

HIPODROME BILL IS CLEVER

Leah Cohen, Portland Girl, to Entertain in Singing Act.

Eight novel attractions are featured on the Hippodrome programme, opening with the matinee this afternoon. In addition to the regular six-act vaudeville programme, a special added feature has been secured and Carlyle Blackwell stars in the five-reel photoplay offering.

Portland talent will be demonstrated in an excellent singing offering by Leah Cohen, known as "Portland's Own Nightingale," who for some time past has been cultivating her voice in one of New York's leading conservatories.

A series of living pictures by Mile. Beret's "World's Perfect Possessors" is an unusual offering presented in the form of tableaux, with a range dating from the Babylonian and Egyptian periods to the modern times. Great care has been taken in the selection of costumes and special scenery for each picture, all of which are said to create a most artistic and realistic effect.

A present-day problem has been woven into the plot of "The Devil in Pose," the comedy creation of Kingsbury and Munson, a story of a young husband tired of his wife because she is so goody-goody. How she cures him of this idea and at the same time teaches him a good lesson is well brought

out by Miss Kingsbury during the course of the story.

Flatt and Moher, a duo of young men with splendid singing voices, present a novel act under the caption, "Most Anything."

Fletcher and Terre are comedians of ability. Seror will perform a number of difficult feats on triple horizontal bars, and McGreevy and De Monde have a comedy talking and singing offering.

In the photoplay offering, "The Golden Wall," a charming love story adapted from a famous French romance, Carlyle Blackwell as poor French marquis, who declared his title was not for sale, and Evelyn Greeley, as Marian Lathrop, daughter of the American millionaire who thought the marquis a fortune hunter, are the stars.

CLOSING BILL IS ANNOUNCED

Season at Lyric Theater Winds Up

With "The Runaways."

"The Runaways," to be given this afternoon and evening only at the Lyric Theater, will be the closing bill of the season. For four weeks the house will be dark, and the members of the company will scatter to their favorite resorts for a needed rest. It has been 47 weeks since the Lyric season opened, each week seeing a new musical comedy rehearsal and produced, and it is doubtful if a more hard-working or conscientious lot of performers ever worked in this city. The season has been highly successful from a box office standpoint.

The closing bill is to be a hilarious farwell for the vacation season. The season has been highly successful from a box office standpoint.

Tomorrow the contractors will begin remodeling and redecorating the Lyric for the next season.

Most of the principals and many of the present chorists will return to open the house again, but Managers Keating and Flood have lined out for some new faces that will strengthen the company

ing-work as co-star with George Beban.

The vaudeville part of the programme will consist of Harrigan and Malone in a novelty comedy sketch with special setting; Delaware and Marion in late songs and instrumental music; De Foy and Henrie in an unusual offering of French pantomime, and Robert Moore, well-known singing comedian.

Current Events Weekly, which has proved popular with Strand patrons, contains a lot of interesting scenes taken at the front-line trenches.

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Carlton Shanks Pleased With Life in Uncle Sam's Army.

MONMOUTH, N. J., July 27.—(Special.)—Corporal J. Carlton Shanks, writing to his parents from France, under date of June 18, says that Company L, 162d Infantry, is going through some stiff training and that "by the time you receive this there is a chance that I will have my first Hun."

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which is brought out to us. After dinner we drill until 3:45, or later, and then hike back to camp. So you see, even though we put in a pretty steady performance, we are not overworked at all. Quite a bit of our drill is in the nature of lectures and explanations.

"A large number of our men have been transferred, so our company is pretty small at the present time. I think we will soon be filled up again, though, with other men. It would have been nice if we could have gone to the front with our old company, but I guess it will be better to have men from a number of states together."

"We have quite a few entertainers here, as there is a Y. M. C. A. building and also a 'Y' tent here. We also have our own band, and there is no lack of music. There was a band concert and also a number of boxing matches pulled off last night, and tonight there is to be another concert."

BROTHER ASKS FOR JUSTICE

California Man Says Slayer of I. W. W. Should Pay Penalty.

HONOLULU, T. H., July 15.—A brother of John S. Walker, confessed pro-German and I. W. W., who was killed here recently by Captain Henry Allen for his insult to the flag and to American soldiers, has written to Governor McCarthy to demand justice. The brother is F. L. Walker, of San Diego, Cal. He denies that the slain man was pro-German and asks that a penalty be meted out to his assailant.

A jury exonerated Allen.

War contracts now being filled in Detroit, Mich., amount to more than \$1,000,000,000.