

# Acts and Attitude of Some Stars Disappoint Troops Overseas

**JOHN LARDNER**, War Correspondent of The Star and Special American Newsmen.  
**NAPLES, April 4** (By Special Radio)—Professional entertainers—good ones, too—have come to Italy to perform for American troops at the front lines and bases here, but there are flaws in the talent supply system—almost certainly originating at home—which have led to various degrees of fiasco in the cases of George Raft, Kay Francis, Eddie Foy, Adolphe Menjou and several other performers, most of them highly competent under proper conditions.



Eddie Foy

In still another case, two actors were almost court-martialed by Army authorities in Italy and this formality was dispensed with only because their schedule had been played out and they were ready to leave the country anyway. I withhold their names because it was mainly their off-stage performance in Italy and this formality was dispensed with only because their schedule had been played out and they were ready to leave the country anyway. I withhold their names because it was mainly their off-stage performance in Italy and this formality was dispensed with only because their schedule had been played out and they were ready to leave the country anyway.



Kay Francis

Mostly, however, entertainment difficulties here can be traced to miscasting at home; miscasting physically as well as in terms of material. Eddie Foy, for instance, one of the deans of American vaudeville, is violently allergic to airplane travel. It is nearly impossible to meet bookings in this area except by plane. Foy missed a number of shows. Troops misunderstood the situation, which was created in the first place by a misunderstanding of conditions by the talent exporters in America.

Kay Francis, most noted for stately drama against lavish Hollywood backdrops, was sent here as a comedian with a string of quick gags she had to memorize on the plane coming over. She did not exactly roll them in the aisles. Adolphe Menjou,

one of the shrewdest and most resourceful of dramatic performers, was sent as a monologist. His act, Menjou himself admitted, was calculated to stink the joint out and was poorly received by the troops and had to be saved by the overnight enlistment of Miss Tony Mason, a local Red Cross worker who can sing.

## Hope Uses Lavish Props.

As against this, Bob Hope, one of the smoothest and most gifted solo performers in the world, was equipped with lavish props and auxiliaries, including Frances Langford and Jack Pepper, practically a show in themselves. The physical difficulties of front-line entertaining for trouping entertainers, some of them middle-aged, who are used to hand-made theaters, the best hotels, central heating and comfortable travel.



Bob Hope

Joe E. Brown was sent here badly tired out from earlier Army junkies and, though he came willingly, it is the soldiers for whom the entertainment is planned and who must be considered in these cases. A disposition also has been found among visiting stars to pass up hospital engagements in favor of impracticable visits to the front lines—these are not always impracticable, but often for military and physical reasons the Army considers them so—which might seem more glamorous and

make better story-telling material back home.

**Shirking Laid to Raft.**  
 Against George Raft high Army authorities here openly level charges of "gold-bricking," which means shirking in the Army. After missing his first show and insisting he could not do more than one a day, though booked for two, Raft obtained a doctor's certificate that he needed hospitalization for a cold. In all, he played 3 of 15 scheduled appearances. The Army ended up by canceling his engagements and substituting Harry Barris, a pianist and singer who once was Bing Crosby's partner in the Rhythm Boys.



George Raft

About the work and willingness of Barris and of June Clyde and Louise Abritton, who were originally booked to appear with Raft and were told by Raft not to appear unless he did, the local Army people and GI's are enthusiastic.

Col. M. J. "Chief" Meyer, a former football official who heads the special services organization in Italy, says that steady, competent per-

# Citizens' Group Maps Fight Against Vice

Determination to eradicate vice in the Kenilworth area was voiced last night by the Kenilworth Citizens' Association, which heard a report on police action against an alleged disorderly house in the 1200 block of Kenilworth avenue N.E. Sgt. R. J. Tompkins of the 11th precinct told of a raid on the establishment on March 21. In answer to complaints that the establishment is continuing in operation, Charles M. Maize, president of the association, urged increased vigilance on the part of members in

order to facilitate police action. Police should be notified immediately when persons are observed on the premises, he said. A request for express streetcar service from Fifteenth street and New York avenue N.W. to Kenilworth and a complaint regarding the omission of signs on some Kenilworth cars were directed to the Capital Transit Co. Attention of the police was called to the need for repair of Nash street at Forty-fifth place N.E. and a request was directed to the Commissioners for the repaving of the street from there to Kenilworth avenue.

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**ABE LYMAN**, celebrated orchestra leader, says, "Adam Hats have been my choice for a long time." Mr. Lyman leads the style parade with an Adam Executive \$7.50. Others to \$10. 1329 F St.

clearing the section of a junk yard facing on the 1200 block of Kenilworth avenue was sent to the captain of the eleventh precinct. The meeting was held in the Kenilworth Recreational Center.

## Alba Returns to London

**LONDON, April 4** (AP)—The Duke of Alba, Spanish Ambassador to Great Britain, has returned to London after more than two months of consultations with government officials in Madrid, it was announced today.

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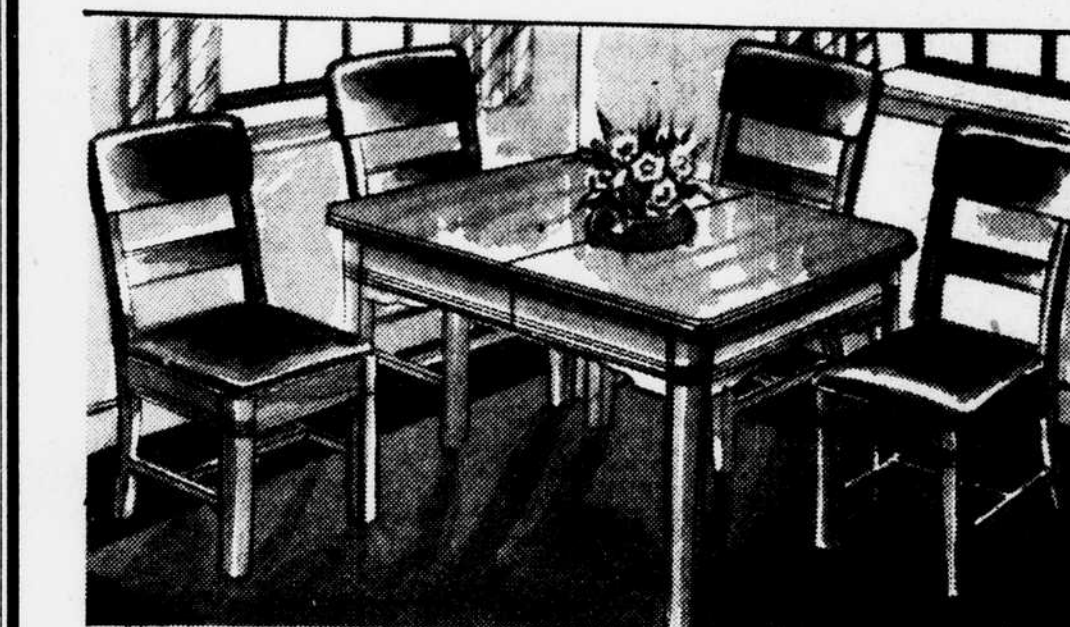
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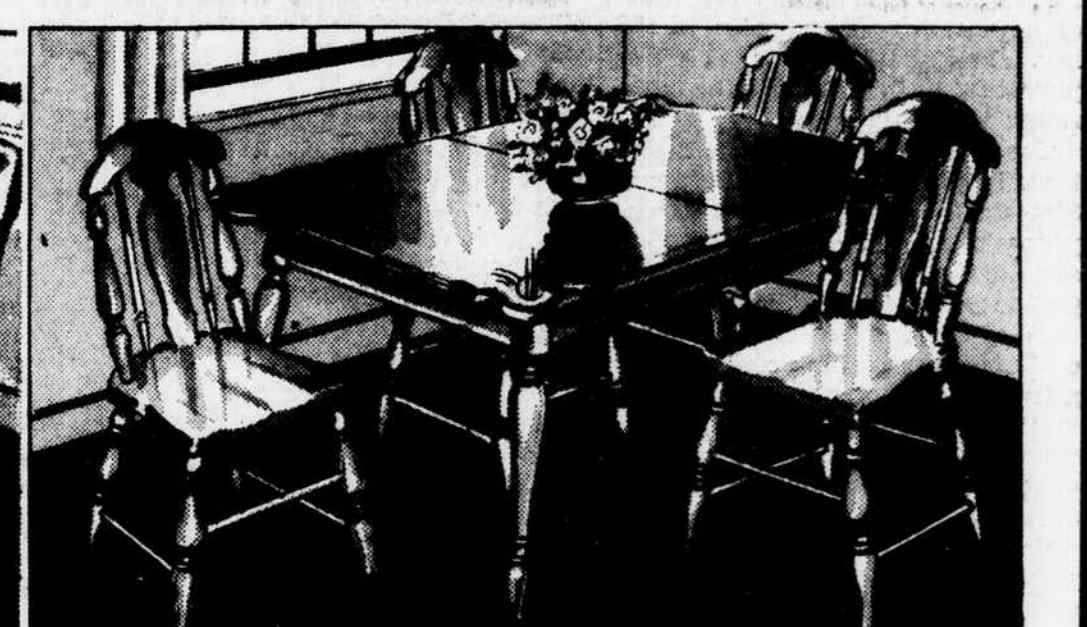


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