

# Plenty of humour in 'Worm's Eye View'

**MR. STAN. STEWART**, playing the part created by Ronald Shiner, stole the hearts of the audience with his excellent performance in "Worm's Eye View," presented by the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society at the Regent Theatre, Chelmsford, this week.

The play deals with the hilarious occurrences when five unwanted R.A.F. men are billeted on the Bounty family at Sandcombe, in the winter of 1942-43.

As Porter, a newly-arrived recruit with many profitable side-lines, Stan. Stewart made the most of the

humour, although at times he was guilty of laughing at his own lines.

**Donald Leech**, as Pop, a 'last-war airman,' was a joy to watch. He was natural, and at ease with his part. **David Flatt** played the Duke, the amorous type in the billet, with ease and assurance. His drunken scene was particularly convincing.

Another natural performance was from **Frank Morgan** as Taffy, the other new recruit. His Welsh accent was very good, and he showed considerable acting experience. He had the sympathy of the audience who could see, before it happened, that he would have to put his foot in the plate of jelly.

**Mike Cornell**, as Mark, the corporal in charge of the billet, was hesitant in his approach to the part, but carried it off well. His love scenes with **Kathleen Newell**, as Bella Bounty, were rather stilted. Miss Newell was inclined to be over dramatic, and her voice became too shrill in parts.

## STRANGE ACCENT

As Mrs. Bounty, the unpleasant landlady, **Mary Leech's** characterisation was excellent, but the unaccustomed accent resulted in inarticulate lines. **Roy Cooper**, as Mr. Bounty, and **Stanley G. Love**, as Sydney Spooner, Mrs. Bounty's son, were both good. The fight between Sydney and Mark, however, was unconvincing.

**Daphne Armstrong**, as Thelma, the maid, and **Ted Matthews**, as S/Ldr. Briarly, C.O. of the unit, gave admirable support.

At times, members of the cast were guilty of masking, and also of speaking lines with their backs to the audience. The standard of acting, however, was high, and producer **Robert Vernon** is to be congratulated on his handling of the cast.

## SCENERY GOOD

Scenery was good, although parts of it were a little insecure. The efficient working of the gas-fire merits a small bouquet for the stage manager. Efficient workers behind the scenes were: hon. prompter, **Miss Rosemary Gornall**; hon. wardrobe mistress, **Mrs. S. H. Warren**; hon. property master, **Mr. Peter Smith**, assisted by **Mr. Tony Oliver** and **Miss Muriel Passmore**; hon. call girl, **Miss Muriel Passmore**; hon. perruquier, **Mr. Frank Page**; and stage manager and chief electrician, **R. Burton**.

**Janice Farmer**