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"Au Revoir, Boys," Says Gracie, Leaving Morotai

"My bestest love to all the Australian boys," was Gracie Fields' farewell to Morotai. "It's been a great privilege to entertain you all," she said.

"You're all the same — British, Australian, American. I love you all. Au revoir, boys!"

Miss Fields left this morning after a performance last night for the US 3rd Division and will continue her service programme in Burma, India and Italy.

She hopes to be home in Capri for Christmas Day and is scheduled to appear soon afterwards at the Royal Albert Hall, London, in a concert honouring The Women of the War. Then follows a visit to France and Germany before she returns to the US by March, 1946, after a year of

continuous entertainment of Allied troops.

Gracie Fields' tour of Australia and NZ before coming up here netted £60,000, which she gave to benefit wounded soldiers, war widows and children.

The soldier's sweetheart is taking home with her many local souvenirs, which she says are better than all the diamonds in the world. A perspex brooch carries the duralium lettering "From the Boys on Tarakan." she has serviette rings (duralium again) from Brunel, shell beads from Balikpapan and bangles from Lae. One of the Morotai shell necklets which she prizes most is earmarked for her niece, little Gracie Wakefield. "But," Gracie warned, "she won't get it until she's old enough to take care of it."

Miss Fields paid tribute to the arrangement of her tour by Amenities which, she said, was better than the famous British ENSA. But she implored: "Please don't tell ENSA. Australian Amenities have treated me swellerer than anyone."

"Peggy Shea, your own soprano, has been a great help to me, and the boys have loved her," added Miss Fields. "Eric Fox, the accompanist has been a perfect darling. And the boys who supported me have been wonderful."