

He was born at the Purga Mission in Queensland in 1925. At the age of 20, he was invited by Marjorie Lawrence to sing for her in Brisbane. She foretold a considerable success for him. Through the help and co-operation of admirers, Harold Blair studied at the Albert Street Conservatorium in Melbourne. In 1949 he was awarded the Performer's Diploma—the first aboriginal to receive such an award. After touring Australia as a vocalist for the Australian Broadcasting Commission, Harold Blair went to America for 18 months and studied under the negro baritone, Tod Duncan.



**Harold Blair**

**Harry Penrith**

No less honoured (but for other reasons) is Harry Huddleston of Sydney. Such was his skill as an employee of the Water Board of New South Wales, so great the respect and regard in which he was held by his employers and workmates alike, that he was selected to represent



**Jimmy Little**

**Phillip Prosser**



the workers on the great Warragamba Dam project in assisting the Premier of New South Wales to open the dam on 14th October, 1960.

Harry Huddleston was born on the Roper River in the Northern Territory and educated on Groote Eylandt by the Church Mission Society. It was there that he met his future wife, who was born on the Elsey Station (made famous by "We of the Never-Never"). Before the War of 1939-1945 he was a pearl diver off the Arnhem Land coast for seven years. During the war he served on ships carrying cargo from Townsville to the Gulf. Mr. and Mrs. Huddleston have four children. The eldest, who was born on Groote Eylandt, is now a cadet draftsman with the Sydney Water Board.

Not only in peace but also in war, aborigines, or men of aboriginal descent, have won the respect and affection of their fellows. The A.I.F. of 1914-1918 produced some notable aboriginal fighting soldiers. In the last war Reginald Saunders fought in Libya, Greece, Crete and New Guinea. After attending an Officers' Training School in Victoria in 1944 he was commissioned in December of that year. He served later in Korea where was promoted Captain and given command of a company of infantry.