On The Screen

Naval Aviation's Wartime Troubles Reviewed At Stanley

By GILBERT KANOUR

PRODUCED for Warner Brothers by Jerry Wald and with the cooperation of the United States Navy, "Task Force" is revealed at the Stanley as one of the most valid as well as one of the most exciting photoplays that have ever dealt with naval aviation.

Written and directed by Delmar Daves in semi-documentary style, it has historic significance, too, because it illustrates with graphic detail the years beginning in the 1920's when some farsighted naval officers put a platform on top of the collier Langley and taught themselves how to land airplanes on it.

The business of making an aircraft carrier a part of the fleet ran into difficulties, including a lot of the Navy's top brass, isolationist politicians in Washington and, during one crisis, a hard-headed chain newspaper publisher who discounted all possibilities of another world war.

Some of all this, of course, is fiction, although based upon known facts, but there is also a lot of "Task Force" that has been lifted from the motion pictures taken by navy photographers during the course of actual battle.

Many of them have never before been exhibited to the public and they help materially in preserving tension, a mounting suspense and an excitement that compels admiration for uncommon cinema merit, the Blue Ribbon with Palms.

Gary Cooper In Stellar Role

"TASK FORCE" is introduced when Gary Cooper, as a rear admiral, is being saluted as he departs from a carrier after the second World War and goes into retirement. He has a lot of impressive memories of the years he put in as a fictional member of the developing group who graduated from Annapolis, and we see them in a prolonged flashback which begins in 1921.

Landing on the Langley was a hazardous job comparable to "making a 10,000-foot dive into a rain barrel," and it took a tragic toll. This also provides for an inevitable romance which no film made in Hollywood can expect to escape.

But in this case, when Cooper, as a lieutenant, marries the widow (Jane Wyatt) of a carrier pilot killed in a crash, the love-story is offered to a dignified and plausible minimum.

Among the young officer's chores is a tour of duty as an instructor at the Naval Academy, where it runs afoul of his superiors because he is entering too many men into naval aviation; and one in Washington where he figures in a series of political lobbies in an effort to have the Government agree that carrier-based fighting planes are a necessity in any war overseas.

Walter Brennan In Supporting Cast

ALL this is revealing and impressive as an example of the antagonism prevalent at one time in the higher echelons, but "Task Force" reaches its thrilling peak after Pearl Harbor. The Messrs. Wald and Daves, we understand, screened almost three million feet of film, much of it in color, taken during the fighting at Guadalcanal, Saipan and other points in the Pacific for the footage they needed.

The scenes of planes crashing in flames on the decks of the carriers, of Jap Kamikazes—the enemy's suicide force—diving to their own destruction—and often to ours—are calculated to draw the spectator to the edge of his chair.

The performances are uniformly excellent. Mr. Cooper was a splendid choice for the role of the pioneer, a disciple of Gen. Billy Mitchel who was given the bum's rush by the army brass because he argues, the airplane was here to stay.

Miss Wyatt is graciously and gracefully visible as the widow he marries; Walter Brennan is spleen did, without whiskers or any other of his familiar disguises, as Mr. Cooper's sympathetic superior in the navy, and all of the others, too, including even those told off to the brief parts of Japanese diplomats, around for being easily insulted are first-rate.

The last war has been used for a lot of cinema trash, but it has never been employed more medicinally, to our notion, as it has as a springboard for "Task Force," which shouldn't by any means be overlooked at the Stanley.

Switch On An Oldie

Hollywood, Cal. (AP)—The sign on the outskirts of Pioneertown, Cal., read "Live Here and Live Longer." Until Lew Ayres came along. After "Daybreak" locationed a week at the hot desert resort, Lew scribbled beneath the slogan, "It only seems longer."

Movie-Style Scalping

Hollywood, Cal.—From Aspen, Col., where Robert Ryan and MGM company is making "Devil's Doorway," comes this tale of an Indian's moment of horror.

Seems many of the scenes call for the cast, including Ryan, to wear full-length black hair a-la Indian.

After the day's work, makeup girl Jean Gorton began ceremoniing the hair pieces for storage. She stopped a big bona fide Sioux, declaring, "I'll take your hair now."

The fellow was last seen disappearing toward his tent, clutching his own treasured locks and muttering something about Hollywood scalpers.

(Dorch American Newspaper Alliance)

GARY COOPER JANE WYATT
In "Task Force," starting today at the Stanley

MARTA TOREN
In "Sword in the Desert," now playing at the Century

JOAN GREENWOOD STEWART GRANGER
In "Saraband," at the World

The Talk Of Hollywood

By Hedda Hopper

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Sept. 30.—Dudley Nichols has written an original for Twentieth titled "Summit Pass," a super-duper Western which will star Richard Widmark. You'll be nazy about this, he thinks to Producer Sam Engel got Darryl Zanuck's okay on this one when he was in France this summer.

Paul Hollister's in town collaborating with Dave Ford on the life story of one of our greatest actors, none other than Edwin Booth. This will be written for the screen, and Edwin Booth's brother, John Wilkes, and Abe Lincoln will be characters in it. I can think of only one actor to fill Booth's shoes—Lawrence Olivier. Were Jack Barrymore alive, I would name him.

Henry Wilcoxen leaves for England to play the vicar in "More of Mrs. Miniver." In this one he'll have a bigger and better role. Montgomery Clift cooled on his Swiss Guard role, and it's been red to a WAC lieutenant. A wacky note.

Jerry Lewis, who used to be an $18-a-week usher at New York's Paramount, received seven grand for his present engagement at the same place.

Charles Bickford's all lit up. He acquired the American rights to a French cigarette lighter that uses butane gas instead of lighter fuel.

30 X-Rays And Still Uncertain

BILLY DeWOLFE had 30 X-rays but his M.D. still doesn't know what ails him. He returns to the hospital in ten days for another check up. He was voted by Miss Spanner and her nurses at the Cedars the most co-operative patient in the hospital. Said Billy "I never thought I'd be on the end of that poll."

Besides the night clubs he was set for, he's been offered Ray Bolger's role in the London company of "Where's Charlie?"

Jimmy Stewart's been married a month, and during this time he and his bride have traveled 30,000 air miles. Before taking off for Hawaii, they waited at the airport for four hours; then were told the plane wouldn't take off until next morning.

Friends drove them home and said they'd be by to take them to the airport the next A.M. Friends phoned the following morning and the maid said, "They're in Honolulu." Pals had a heck of a time getting the maid to check and wake them up. Jimmy's next picture will be "Harvey."

Lloyd Bacon's police dog, Danelle, is being trained to bite Lucille Ball tightly in "Fuller Brush Girl." The dog has been told that, if she gives a good performance, she'll be introduced to Lassie when the picture ends.

Gene Fowler's ready to do the life of Red Skelton.

Henry Ginsberg stayed over in Chicago to catch Danny Thomas at the Chez Paree. Says Henry, "He's only terrific."

McCrea 'Less Free' As An Independent

JOEL McCREA did "Stars in My Crown" and "Outriders" for Metro. The studio wants him for third, and they also want to put him on her contract. "But," says Joel, "after twenty years in the business I want to pick my own stories. However, I've had a stomach full of independent production.

Mrs. Bob Crosby's due for a major operation at St. Vincent's.

Jo Stafford opens her concert tour at South Bend, Ind.

Dietetic Note

Hollywood, Cal.—Burl Ives, appearing in "Sierra," eats orchid leaves instead of lettuce on his sandwiches and a special supply must be maintained for him at the commissary.

He consumes a pint of honey a day for quick energy and drinks goat's milk "just for my general health." The ballad singer weighs 282 pounds and claims he's never had a sick day in his life.

(North American Newspaper Alliance)

Built-In Lingerie Advocated By Hollywood Designer

Hollywood, Cal. (AP)—Dresses with built-in underwear are Marusia's latest enthusiasm.

"When bra and slip are part of the dress," says the Polish designer, "there is no problem of finding appropriate underclothing to match the gown."

These are chiefly cocktail or dinner frocks, intended for dry-cleaning.

Just Back From France

Marusia, who clothes such screen attractions as Paulette Goddard, Ann Russell, Dinah Shore, Mrs. Ray Milland and Joan Fontaine, has just returned from a style-viewing trip to France.

"Prices are much too high in Paris," she reported. "Wives of many designers can't afford the creations of their husbands. Americans buy them."

Designs, too, are much too extreme, in Marusia's opinion. "French women don't mind having yards of material billowing around them because they aren't figure-conscious like American women.

Matrons Are Style Leaders

"Of course, fashions aren't created for young girls with nice figures. The matrons are the style leaders."

Marusia leaves soon to show her fall and winter line of dresses in key American cities. She travels with one model. Sometimes Marusia shows all her dresses herself.

"I can model about 40 dresses in 45 minutes," the vivacious blonde claimed, "because all are the same in type, with long zippers."

MARIO LANZA KATHRYN GRAYSON
In "That Midnight Kiss," at the Valencia

RENE LEFEVRE
In the French film, "Naked Fury," at the Little

AMUSEMENTS

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LORD CALVERT COFFEE 1 lb. Bag 54c

KING SYRUP 1½-lb. Jar 21c 2½-lb. Can 30c

Libby's SAUERKRAUT 2 Cans 29c

RITTER'S PORK & BEANS 2 Jars 25c

WASHINGTON SELF-RISING FLOUR 2-lb. Bag 20c 5-lb. Bag 45c 10-lb. Bag 86c

dial DEODORANT SOAP Bar 25c

20 MULE TEAM BORAX 1-lb. pkg. 17c BORAXO 8-oz. can 17c

WOODBURY FACIAL SOAP 4 Bars 31c

When It's Clorox Clean It's Hygienically Clean Qt. 17c CLOROX Free from Caustic

IVORY SOAP PURE AND MILD MED. BAR 8c LGE. BAR 14c

NEW Soilax LOOK-NEW POUR SPOUT on TOP! 25c CLEANS ALL

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AMUSEMENTS

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Dr. Phyllis and Company in ASYLUM of HORRORS and FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER

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CENTURY UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONALS NOW OPEN 10:30 Dana ANDREWS Marta TOREN Stephen McNALLY "SWORD in the DESERT" Color by TECHNICOLOR

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GAYETY Balto. & Holliday MU. 9338 THE HUMAN HEAT WAVE BLAZE FURY 1st TIME in BALTO. STARTS TODAY CONT. MATS. 12 to 5 EVES. 8:30 MAX COLEMAN MARY MURRAY APRIL STARR BOB LEE CHORUS BY BETTY JANE GIRLS

2 BIG SHOWS SATURDAY EVE. 8 & 10 P. M.

MARYLAND FRANKLIN Nr. HOWARD Phone SA 4570 TONIGHT—8:30 P. M. $1 to $2.50 plus tax Mats. Tomorrow & Sunday $1 & $2 plus tax A GAY COMEDY SYLVIA SIDNEY • JOHN LODER DIRECT FROM BROADWAY "O Mistress Mine" STARTS TUES., OCT. 4— EVA LeGALLIENNE in "THE CORN IS GREEN" With Richard Waring Eves. $1 to $2 plus tax. Mat. $1 to 1.50 plus tax SEATS NOW FOR ALL PERFORMANCES—MAIL ORDERS

KEITHS LEXINGTON PARK AVE. Paramount presents LANCASTER • HENREID BLAIR RAINS • LORRE HAL WALLIS SAM JAFFE CONNIE CALVERT "Rope of Sand" Coming To Keiths Tues. ROBERT MONTGOMERY ANN BLYTH "Once More, My Darling" ANN SOTHERN JANE CORN TIMES Open to 4 A. M. ROSLYN "Amazon Quest" Tom Neal plus "Guest In The House"

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