

PATTON... He Prayed for Foe's Destruction

(Catholic Press Features)

New York — The thought of imploring God's help to destroy enemy troops may strike some people today as somewhat primitive, but the new film, "Patton," based on the World War II exploits of Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., dramatically illustrates that such a military tactic was an important one for the soldier known as "Old Blood 'n' Guts."

In the film, Patton (played by George C. Scott) is leading his Third Army armor units in a desperate drive to rescue U.S. troops at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944. Snow, rain and fog has prevented badly-needed air cover from getting through.

The film then goes on to depict an incident described by Gen. Paul D. Harkins, who was deputy chief of staff to Patton and chief

technical adviser on the film:

"On or about the fourteenth of December 1944, Gen. Patton called Chaplain (Col. James) O'Neill and myself into his office in Third Headquarters at Nancy (France). The conversation went something like this:

"Gen. Patton: 'Chaplain, I want you to publish a prayer for good weather. I'm tired of these soldiers having to fight mud and floods as well as the Germans. See if we can't get God to work on our side.'

"Chaplain O'Neill: 'Sir, it's going to take a pretty thick rug for that kind of praying.'

"Gen. Patton: 'I don't care if it takes the flying carpet. I want the praying done.'

"Chaplain O'Neill: 'Yes, sir. May I say, General, that it usually isn't a customary thing among men of my pro-

cession to pray for clear weather to kill fellow men.'

"Gen. Patton: 'Chaplain, are you teaching me theology or are you the chaplain of the Third Army? I want a prayer.'

"Chaplain O'Neill: 'Yes, sir.'

Chaplain O'Neill wrote the prayer—and it was printed on a card that was sent as a Christmas greeting by Gen. Patton to his troops.

Continued Gen. Harkins in recalling the event:

"Whether it was the help of the Divine guidance asked for in the prayer or just the normal course of human events, we never knew; at any rate, on the twenty-third, the day after the prayer was issued, the weather cleared and remained perfect for about six days. Enough to allow the Allies to break the backbone of the Von Rund-

stedt offensive and turn a temporary setback into a crushing defeat for the enemy."

Shortly afterward, Patton called for Chaplain O'Neill, greeted him with hand outstretched and said, "Chaplain, you're the most popular man in this Headquarters. You sure stand in good with the Lord and soldiers."

Patton then proceeded to pin a Bronze Star medal on the chaplain.

"Patton" has been received well by most critics, who have found it neither pro nor anti-war but an intriguing study of a warrior. The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures classified the film "A-2," unobjectionable for adults and adolescents, despite "the violence and frequent profanity which are perfectly plausible in context and, in fact, necessary."

In its review of the film, NCOMP said:

"While 'Patton' accurately mirrors the World War II mentality, such a presentation would have been unthinkable in the forties, when human beings were usually etched in monochrome.

"In their screenplay . . . Francis Ford Coppola and Edmund North have brilliantly captured the essence of a human paradox: Patton the poet who can stand by a Carthaginian ruin and rehearse the Third Punic War as if he had been there, Patton the puritan who tears a cheesecake photo from a barracks wall, Patton the defied who shoots his pistol at the Nazi planes that dare fly over him, Patton the God-fearer who believes in a Deity that would grant him fair weather for killing Germans, Patton the coward-hater who can tenderly pin a Purple Heart to the pillow of a wounded soldier and then strike an enlisted man for weeping publicly."

As I See It

"It's Still a Beautiful Land"

By Pat Costa



For those of us who tend to doubt from time to time that America is the majestic and the beautiful and the wild and the serene, an ABC news documentary "This Land is Mine" should have dispelled any doubts.

The colorful documentary produced by Lester Cooper emphasized the glorious, capping the camera in the face of existing pollution and general ugliness.

The result: the surviving beauty of the American landscape from Big Sur in California to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts; from the earth tones of the Grand Canyon to the dry clarity of New Mexico.

Narrated by actor Robert Culp, the film had tributes from people who called these various places home. Some of them would have done the film more good, by remaining silent, notably actress Kim Novak, whose gush about Big Sur was inarticulate, a farmer from Kentucky's blue grass country and a transplanted Easterner now making his home in Arizona.

Only a resident of Jackson's Hole, Wyoming, seen against the backdrop of snow-covered mountains, managed to communicate his very real feel for the land, pointing out that if heaven was not like his present home then he didn't want to go there.

As one who has traveled New York up, down and across over and over again, I would love to see a local channel or some other facility, either commercial or government, give the same treatment to this State.

Not only would it make a great piece for tourist promotion, but what an education in appreciation for school youngsters.

Among programs of interest to watch for in the coming days is Channel 21's auction, which should be at its midway point as this column goes to press.

It continues nightly through Friday from 6 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Among items to be bid upon are college courses offered by University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, Nazareth College, Alfred Uni-

versity, Roberts Wesleyan College and others.

To give you a sampling of the wares, Nazareth, for example, has given the auction two full courses in the 1970 summer session, each worth \$150, to be selected by the successful bidder.

Nazareth also donated a \$60 pre-college art program designed to show high school students a realistic picture of a college program in art. Two workshops will also be auctioned off, one in plastics worth \$75 and the other an electronic music workshop worth \$90.

Another show worth watching will be the Tuesday, April 21, morning program of Eddie Meath seen weekdays on Channel 10. On that day between 8 and 8:20, Meath will interview members of the Lay Council of Adoptive Parents, which seeks to inform the public about hard to place children.

Among those scheduled to appear are several sets of parents who have adopted children of racially mixed backgrounds.

'Revolution' Slated For Channel 8

Sunday, April 26, 1:30 p.m., "Frontiers of Faith" will present "God and Caesar" (part four), subtitled "Revolution and Religious Liberty," on WROC, Channel 8. This concludes the four-week series on NBC.

"Revolution and Religious Liberty" will offer a panel discussion with author and editor of The Critic, Philip Scharper as moderator. Guests will be Mr. Ross Flanagan, Director, the Quaker Project for Community Conflicts, and the Rev. Dean Kelley, Director for Religious and Civil Liberties, National Council of Churches.

According to Mr. Scharper, "rapid radical change, revolution, is a massive fact in our modern world and the waves of revolution are dashing against every one of our institutions. The church has not been exempt."

Is Dad Really a Ding-a-Ling?

(Catholic Press Features)

New York — Once, fathers only had to worry about TV situation comedies making them out to be perfect boobs — but now the boob tube has a new weapon: the commercial.

Such a commercial shows a fussy, easily-irritated husband trying out a new brand of pudding his wife has dared to put before him. He eats, while she fearfully stands aside.

Another commercial for a rice brand features the same haughty, hard-to-please husband and the almost terror-stricken wife standing by as he eats, awaiting the verdict that will lead either to the divorce court or a lifetime of marital bliss.

In the showbusiness paper, "Variety," a regular column devoted to TV commercials recently tore into a commercial for General Electric flash-cube bulbs for adding to the "father-is-a-dope" repertoire.

"General Electric has a spot for flash cubes in which yet another Dopey Dad has his incompetence revealed before his children by dear, loving, know-it-all Mom," the "Variety" column began.

"Pop is trying to take an indoor picture. Mother is just standing there trying to look pretty and interesting without too much success. The children wish they were somewhere else. Suddenly Mumsey turns out to know more about photography than Margaret Bourke-White (the famed 'Life' photographer).

"It is she — dear old Mater — not the goof who owns the camera and is doing her a-favor by photographing her and her kids, who has all the poop on the GE Blue Coat Flash Cube with the Green Dot. She even bought some.

"Did she then give them to poor, dense Dad when he started to take her picture? No. She kept them hidden till she was sure Poppa, the nut, had blown a couple of exposures because his flash cube didn't work. Then, and only then, did she run and get the surefire ones that only an utter lunatic can mess-up with."

"The real danger," concluded "Variety," "of all these 'put-down-Pop' commercials is, as they continue, they will convince all those feminists, who are demanding equality with men, to give up in disgust because who would want to be equal with such a bunch of ding-a-lings?"



Hoping for Approval

Shirley Booth (TV's "Hazel"), playing the Mother Superior, and Al Freeman Jr., playing the Sidney Poitier role, seem to be looking for some outside help for their new Broadway musical, "Look to the Lilies," based on the popular novel and film, "Lilies of the Field."

The musical, which opened

Easter Sunday, was greeted by most critics as a "pleasant" entertainment — a verdict that would ordinarily kill most productions — but it was expected to survive on the strength of Miss Booth's unanimously-acclaimed performance and the support of audiences seeking family entertainment on the Broadway stage. (CPF Photo)

Dallas U. to Have Campus in Rome ...

Dallas — (NC) — All sophomores at the University of Dallas will be expected to spend one semester studying at the institution's new campus in Rome, Italy, beginning in the 1970-71 school term.

Dr. Donald A. Cowan, president of the diocesan sponsored university, said a spacious facility belonging to the School Sisters of Notre Dame was made available to the university.

He said tuition, board and

room fees in Rome will be no more than the regular fee here and special group transportation rates have been arranged.

BUDGET MENU

This week day oven dinner might find favor with your family and your food budget: Meat loaf, baked potatoes, glazed carrots, vegetable salad and canned cling peach halves baked with orange marmalade.