

# 'CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE'

By DAVE SIPLE  
 With United Artists' release of "The Charge of the Light Brigade," Tony Richardson has re-achieved the heights he reached in "Tom Jones." The direction is superb. It is at once stimulating, vigorous, and coherent (a rare combination). The acting is, on the whole, very good. Trevor Howard dominates the film as the stiff, egotistical, and snobbish Lord Cardigan. Mr. Howard portrays the 'elan Cardigan's egomania which at times borders on insanity. Personally, we would have preferred to see Richard Attenborough cast as Lord Cardigan, but can find no real faults in Mr. Howard's acting.

David Hemmings demonstrates very well why he has achieved star status: he is an excellent actor. Mr. Hemmings is superb as the young, idealistic Captain Nolan, the "new breed" of soldier which the pompous Lord Cardigan detests and tries to destroy.

John Gielgud gives an excellent performance as the senile, bumbling, hopelessly inept Commander-in-Chief. His mismanagement of the war would be ludicrous, were the results not so tragic.

Vanessa Redgrave gives a fine performance as the wife of Captain Nolan's best friend. But Mr. Richardson

skillfully keeps the characters subordinate to the story. "The Charge of the Light Brigade" is far from a vehicle for its famous cast. It makes a very profound statement about war: the nature of it, the way it is viewed by various segments of society, and the futility of it. The parallels between the Crimean War in 1854 and the war we are fighting in 1969 are astounding. We shall not belabor the point, but suggest that the reader glance at any daily newspaper, and then see this film.

We have noticed a trend in recent years to subtlety in the use of color film. With the trend toward naturalness, the handlers of the medium are seemingly trying to atone for the garnish excesses of early Technicolor. No longer is the audience assaulted by bright, vivid colors; the softer, muted shades now abound. This is true also the "The

Charge of the Light Brigade," though somewhat excessively. At its best (for example, in displaying the slums of London) it is an excellent artistic device which underscores the characters. At its worst (for example, in the love scene between David Hemmings and Vanessa Redgrave), it was so "washed-out" in appearance that one received the impression that the film was badly developed. This is, however, the

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# WESLEYAN LIBRARY RECEIVES GENERAL ASSEMBLY BULLETINS

The Wesleyan College Library is now receiving both daily bulletins and weekly summaries concerning actions taken by the 1969 General Assembly of North Carolina. This is a legislature service offered by the Institute of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Briefly, the daily bulletin lists both public and local bills and resolutions introduced in the General

Assembly, indicates which senator or representative introduced each bill, gives the number of

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## 'APO' Story cont'd.

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North Carolina. They have also joined the Nash County Fireman's Association and the Benevolent Brotherhood.

Last week the firemen took part in an examination given to all members of Stoney Creek Fire

Dept. and Rescue Squad. This test enabled them to check their knowledge of equipment and fire fighting techniques.

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