

# War Film Excludes Negro Soldiers

## Part Negro Played At Bastogne Not In "Battleground" Film

BY ROBERT ELLIS (ANP) — Out at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios in Culver City these months, they're working very hard making a movie called "Battleground" and the story of and behind this movie is some story.

"Battleground" is about and going to be dedicated to the soldiers of the Army who held Bastogne, Belgium against six German crack divisions for nine days during the Christmas season of 1943. Popularly known as the "Battle of the Bulge" and highlighted in every American's memory by Major General MacArthur's "Nuts" answer to the German demand for surrender, Bastogne is already down in the history books as one of the greatest examples of human courage. Bastogne is to the Army veterans of Europe what Iwo Jima and Saipan are to Pacific ex-GIs, what El Alamein means to Britishers, what Stalingrad means to Russians, what war cost a lot of money to make and also how movie studios shy away from war after a war — it looks like "Battleground" is going to be the symbol of the American contribution to Victory in the last war and as this symbol, "Battleground" will play movie houses the world over.

## WOULD CHANGE OLD MAN RIVER

Another distortion is fed to the world. Another warped, twisted lie goes out. This is the price we pay for Jim Crow.

There were a few other troops in Bastogne, from the 28th, the 18th, and other divisions. Pirosh didn't know these men, didn't involve them too much in his screenplay.

He introduced a song, "Scandalized My Name," which he said was dedicated to the international bourgeois press on the basis of his experience since coming to Europe for the April conference of Partisans for Peace in Paris. The refrain of the song is "I gave my brother my hand—he scandalized my name—you call that a brother's no-no-no."

## A BUSY MAN

CHICAGO, Ill. — Al Benson, disc jockey is one of the busiest men in show business. Benson, who has one of the biggest followings in the windy area, has taken over the Beige Room at the Pershing Hotel, and will book top Negro names and acts with a chorus-lined show.

## NITELIFE IN N. Y.

BY ALVIN MOSES POETIC JUSTICE NEW YORK (ANP) — Following her acquittal on the west coast for alleged opium possession, Billie Holiday swishes into a \$4,500 a week assignment. Jazzers, often made the brunt of caustic criticism by unthinking ecumenists and magazine writers because of their supposed tendency to interpret the law (the judges' business) and not the pertinent facts, rendered what we thought was a fair and studied verdict in the Holiday case. We hope that "Lady Day" is permanently cured of the dreaded dope habit as Ebony Magazine's lead story in this month's issue implies. At her best, the amusement world knows Billie as a shapely tawny-skinned singer with hard gestures, reminiscent of Alberto Hunter and Pearl Bailey at their best which in our humble note book is par-for-the-course (to borrow a golfing slogan).

HARLEM VIGNETTE Listen my people, other races and other nationalities have nobly outlived the scars and soul-suffering of proscribed living as life in "Our Harlem" most certainly is. We say this to remind you of the few who in some way find "escape gaps" that permit them to seemingly rocket into the stratosphere of a better-way-of-life, such as: clean and well-built homes minus the presence of ubiquitous rats; neighbors of other racial groups who grow to respect and understand them with closer relationships; sudden riches (sweepstakes, local lotteries, etc.) and job screening that permits the efficient and trained to land into livable economic brackets. Ponder for 30 seconds with me over this pulsating tale that reached my desk from the flosser of my faithful Hunter, College operative, Lorell, who stated reasons we'll list simply as K-76.

"He's a nice sort of guy with a fetish for sport clothes that shine God's rainbow itself. While his nose is not exactly as long as the antlers in the 'Breadst' Starr cartoon (N. Y. Daily News) he is everybody's business from dawn until sleeping time. In some game of chance this "skin brother" came into overnight possession of a sum in excess of five grand (\$5,000) and the blood-pressure raced to a high of 350-plus. The burning passion of his life as it seems to be that of spunky neighbors-in-Harlem of mine, was to own a shiny new Cadillac automobile. I Tsk, tsk, tsk, as writer Brete Harte says "truly the ways of truth are far stranger than the whimsies of fiction. The lad goes to a dealer and presto-change, the money flows from his hands and the next thing we know the brother sits in a black-long caddy parked at the sidewalk. But not for long days, he enjoy his "Midsummer Night's Dream," a car moves alongside and what goes for lay and order (probably hoodlums) take over the scenery by fast.

As our alert operative told us lurid details with appropriate gesticulations in her bhinitate manner, we thought long on the evils that go hand-and-glove with "Get-Rich-Quick-Wallington" ambitions. As the yarn spins on, the foolsh-o-ne was waltzed back into the dealer's headquarters and placed in a light that brought back the 5-cent coin with gusto and dispatch. The usual racketeer "hush-hush" text came into play with the result that the gullible one was exactly \$4,000 and one-shiny cadillac poorer when he again reached his Harlem starting off point. Yes, many are the tales that have their beginning and ending within the light little capsule known as Harlem, the city-within-a-city — the home of half a trillion souls whose history in many instances remains unparaded and undeciphered.

P. S. to the coming census, Uncle Sam (Internal Revenue) will know all about cadillac purchasers and don't say I didn't tell you much in advance.

SPEAKING OF CAPSULES Recently it was my extreme pleasure to see an issue of MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL'S publication, "The Capsule," a monthly digest put out by the hospital to stern and wish, it were possible, to pass it along to you in this very space word-for-word — that is how good we feel it is. Mt. Sinai is expanding all the time and, as many of my readers know, since 1932 it has stood high in the field of hospitalization, medical care and surgery in this great city. Dr. Martin R. Steinberg is director and in this particular issue we noted with much satisfaction how his prolific pen touched on the all-important matter of hospital cleanliness. He created Mrs. Margaret Van Brunt, executive housekeeper, for her overall vigilance in this connection. He did not fail to give credit to the many employees who daily strive to eliminate "unsightliness" in what he so touchingly refers to as "The House We Live In." Among Mount Sinai's PG students in cardiology we learned of its "League of Nations" enrollment.

Dr. Ginnat Abaogulu from Istanbul, Turkey; Dr. Bright Kes Bose, Calcutta, India; Dr. Karl Braun, Jerusalem, Palestine; Dr. Mortimer J. Blumenthal, Brooklyn, on-you-edges; N. Y.; Dr. Maximilian C. Voegtli, Rosario, Argentina; Dr. Ching Yunio, Solonika, Greece; and Dr. Joseph Dwyer, Lebanon, Asia. These pro gentlemen form a mighty nice "espasle" down to earth, interesting, informative, and above all well edited.

ADDENDA After a heavy day at the office we recommended an evening at the nice spot named "Pop City" — the place designed to titillate teenagers with the latest varieties of be-op. While I am not at this writing a devotee of Be Bop, a sense of humor and desire to play after a hard day's work motivates this plug for the spot where Artie Shaw recently laid a symphonic-musical-egg. Savannah Churchill, sautty-singing and easy to look at, packed them in at Leo Brecher and Frank Schiffman's Apollo theatre on west 125th Street a fortnight ago.

King Cole and his merry men received a \$4,000 offer for a one-nighter at the Olympia theatre in London, England for July 4. A round-trip-plane ride with the usual pick-up-the-check goes with the offer — not bad, not bad at all we thought. ADOLP



## Dorothy Maynor Not Up To Usual Artistic Level

BY DELORES CALVIN NEW YORK CITY — The moment Toni Harper placed into the New York office of her agents, one of its admiring assistants picked her up, held her in the air and surely said "How is my little sweetheart?" Toni frowned up to her trilled curls and pronounced defiantly, "Put me down. What do you think I am?"

It was then that Gale Agency realized they had a bombshell from California. And from that moment on Toni was demanding (and getting) the most wonderful array of painting the town any little eleven-year-old could hope for.

Protesting midnight broadcasts, a necessity to advertise her Carnegie Hall concert, she won out by falling asleep from exhaustion. Her mother had to judge her to say "goodnight" to thousands of air listeners over Fred Robbins' show. Toni spent every free day at Coney Island, a little girl's dreamland, where she used sheer nerve to ride the horrible looking "Torpedo" and "Bobsled" and came out screaming with thrills. She ate so much frozen custard and candy that people showed her agents that she's also adept and quick to learn. By watching Leroy Hill put stencils on a mimeograph machine and run off copies, Toni proceeded to put on 12,000 copies of press books for other Gale stars. She accomplished this feat in a big apron tied around her waist and a determination to see it through.

Of Toni's Carnegie Hall concert there is much comment. We thought first Toni had would've filled the bill as a much cooler piper to welcome a brand new talented child. For with the musical season over and nothing but pop in view on nearby Broadway, Toni was nearly "drowned out" in huge Carnegie — even on a Saturday night.

We found the concert itself most entertaining with "Three Bears," "Three Blind Mice" and "Waiting For The Train" (all with much originality added) the best of the first set. But heartfelt and soulful "I Know The Lord Will Make A Way." His passionate phrasing and young trembling voice won for him a tremendous applause, quite a few "Amens" and an encore to which he didn't respond because of hoarseness.

Mrs. Thekla Bunkers, blind gospel singer of Durham, sang two selections, "What Could I Do" and "Didn't It Rain?" The Selah Singers' rendition of "Dark Hours of Distress" evoked much participation from the audience. In fact, the song became a sermon for a few minutes when the Selah's Parker jumped from the stage and circulated among the audience preaching the lyrics. At one time during this song the audience turned its attention to a lady who had begun to shout in the balcony.

It was not until after the Flood Gate Quartet and the Boy Wonder had again filled the audience with the spirit, that the announcement was made that Mahalia Jackson would not appear on the evening's program. It was because of money problems that she had returned to Chicago after being in the city and making many appearances with the Selah Jubilee Singers, most of the week. The only visible audience disapproval of her failure to appear was the departure of about two dozen individuals immediately following the announcement.

## Down Melody Lane

GODFREY HITS DAR The lily white DAR was hit, and hit hard, over a nationwide radio hookup by Arthur Godfrey. The Daughters were denounced by Godfrey for the anti-Negro policy they enforce at Constitution Hall in Washington, D. C. He attacked this policy and its enforcers, because the DAR had refused to let him put on his show in the Hall, because one of his acts, the Maybloss quartet, contained two Negroes, James Lewis and Nat Dickinson.

Godfrey told his nationwide audience: "We can't do the show in this capital because the DAR, this nation's capital because the DAR, God bless 'em, they won't let me bring my Negro entertainers into our nation's capital in Constitution Hall. So nuts to the DAR! We're putting it on in the Army down there."

"Every time I think of that Ku Klux Klan outfit, I get inside I just go nuts. It just makes me white. Of all the shameful things in our nation's capital, for heaven's sake the 'Citadel of Democracy.'"

The show was to help raise funds for Attorney General Tom Clark's drive to prevent juvenile delinquency. I think that the Attorney General should also investigate delinquency in the ranks of the DAR, and perhaps that some of the money would have been useful in fighting delinquency among the daughters of the DAR.

HOT LIPS PAGE IN PARIS For a whole week the safe Page was jammed. The audience got its kicks from such jazz stand-outs as Hot Lips Page, and his trumpet, Don Byas, tenor sax; George Johnson alto sax; and Big Chief Moore, trombone. The Charlie Parker quintet had the boppers on the edges of their seats. The trumpets of Paul, Bill Coleman, Roland Greenberg, Alvin Erlich, Jimmy McPartland, and Miles Davis blasted away simultaneously to make a lot of noise on "Lucky Be Good."

MOTEN ON DISCS The first disc by Bus Moten, talented pianist and versatile song stylist, has just been released by Capitol records. It is a collection of the artist, her mother, in plain cotton, was standing in the doorway with abiding eyes, hopped around with electricity. "Oh so we'd see to her. We liked your daughter." And when we did, she...

ARMSTRONG GOING OVERSEAS Louis Armstrong All Stars have been scheduled for almost a year overseas. The group will spend four or five months in Europe, and several months on a tour of South America. The troupe, reportedly traveling at a very high salary, will include Jack Teagarden, Cozy Cole, Barney Higgard, Earl Hines, Arvell Shaw and possibly Velma Middleton.

BEST SELLERS The best selling records for the week are: RIDERS IN THE SKY, SOME ENCHANTED EVENING, AGAIN, FOREVER AND EVER, BABY — IT'S COLD OUTSIDE, I DON'T SEE ME

WINS APPLAUSE AT CARNEGIE NEW YORK (ANP) — A large audience applauded generously the beautiful performance of the Ruby Magby Creative Dance group, held at Carnegie hall last week. Featured dancers of the group were Deleena Boyd, William Davidson, Gary Randolph, Jeanne Norris, Francis Jones, Delores Boyd, Deirdre Jones, Gwendolyn Robinson, Yvonne Carter, and Theora Boyd.

AMBASSADOR Now Playing! Betty Grable in "THE BEAUTIFUL BLONDE OF BASHFUL BEND" in TECHNICOLOR — WITH — Cesar Romero Olga San Juan Starts SUNDAY! FRED ASTAIRE GINGER ROGERS IN "The Barkleys of Broadway" in TECHNICOLOR

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Lincoln RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA SUNDAY AND MONDAY, JUNE 26-27 Ray Milland, Florence Marly IN SEALED VERDICT COLOR CARTOON NEWS OF THE WORLD TUESDAY, JUNE 28 George Raft, Queenie Smith IN NOCTURNE SCIENCE REEL ODDITY SUBJECT MOVIE TONE NEWS WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE 29-30 Tyrone Power, Alice Faye IN Roses Of Washington Square COMEDY SUBJECT WORLD NEWS EVENTS AND CHAPTER 7 SON OF ZORRO FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 1-2 DOUBLE FEATURE! JOHNNY MACK BROWN IN Ragtime Cowboy Joe AND BILLY HALOP, ANN TODD IN Dangerous Years ALSO CHAPTER 6 DEVIL HORSE