

Edited for Television

'Tour of Duty' not an average TV war show

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In the third week of looking at worthwhile shows at the bottom of the ratings, like "Moonlighting" and "Almost Grown," I now turn to "Tour of Duty" (CBS). I only hope that it doesn't suffer the same fate as the other two shows. "Almost Grown" has been gone from the schedule for two weeks and "Moonlighting" is in the shop until April.

"Tour of Duty," a war drama, premiered in 1987, in the death slot opposite Bill Cosby. While there, it didn't do as badly as "Our World" or "A Fine Romance," which is currently running there. It fared well enough, and because of a fairly strong demographic base — the male viewer — it was allowed to return. So advertisers had a place to sell beer, motor oil and insurance. But it didn't return until midseason when it replaced Mary Tyler Moore and Dick Van Dyke's lackluster new efforts. During the first of the season "Tour of Duty" got some much-needed R & R, and came back in better shape (now on Tuesdays at 8 p.m.)

The first season followed the success of "Platoon" and had the same basic premise: following a bunch of grunts through the hell of Vietnam (shooting is done on location in Hawaii). We were introduced to college boy Lieutenant Goldman (Stephen Caffrey). He was fresh off the plane trying to use textbook tactics in an unconventional war. Luckily for Goldman, there was Sgt. Anderson (Terence Knox), who in the early episodes was said to be from Chapel Hill, but that may have been changed after the show's retooling in its second season. Zeke Anderson is the seasoned combat veteran who had just re-upped for his third tour of duty. Early tension between the sergeant and the lieutenant has given way to the friendship and admiration each has for the other. As Goldman matured, so too did Anderson in being able to recognize the lieutenant as his superior.

The first year saw the hardened and often callous Anderson trying to instill fear and courage in his new, hand-picked platoon. However, he has evolved — he can still be a killing machine when he needs to be, but he hasn't lost his sense of humor. He often takes things in stride but he can also understand how psychiatrist Dr. Seymour (Betsy Brantley) feels after her first kill.

Anderson, as well as the lieutenant, is unhappy with the way the war is being fought. One recent episode dealt with the problem of crossing the border into Cambodia. The privates could not understand why they couldn't fight them there if the enemy was in Cambodia. The lieutenant often has to mediate between combat and the politics of fighting from

Washington. Producer Zev Braun sympathizes with the soldiers and often seems to make the political statement that we should have been fully committed to the war.

The second season finally got out of the jungle and into Saigon or a stable camp. The hard-to-digest "Platoon" borrowings have been mitigated by bits of "M*A*S*H" and "China Beach" that have entered the new and improved "Tour of Duty." It's a good thing the producers realized that an unlimited number of things can happen to you in combat but there are only so many interesting stories or ways to develop a character. Anderson's desire to stay in the army is

tempered by his new wariness of the system. "Congratulations," he tells Dr. Seymour. "You just discovered how to deal with the Army. Yell at them."

No longer is every episode a continual struggle of life vs. death or good vs. evil. The storyline follows the main members of the platoon wherever they may be. Some may be in a helicopter trying to get a story for reporter Alex Devlin (Kim Delaney); others may be drag racing jeeps at the camp or ferrying gray market medical supplies. Sometimes the war seems to serve as merely a backdrop for the romance of Goldman and Devlin, or a card game for Pvt. Taylor (Miguel A. Nunez Jr.). But you can bet that the war will

intrude and Devlin will be lost in an unsafe refugee camp or Taylor will end up gambling with the Viet Cong.

The character study sometimes becomes too intense, too drawn-out or too cliched when the show must rely on acting. It has a good base but these are no Shakespearean actors. Delaney and Brantley are often too rigid in their characterizations of the only recurring women on the show. They seem uncomfortable in showing more than one side even when the producers seem to be writing for just that. When Dr. Seymour is trying to come to grips with shooting one of the enemy, her outflow of emotions just

doesn't seem to work, even as Sgt. Anderson attempts to pull them out of her.

Likewise, Delaney is very good when she is a serious reporter, but seems to carry that over too much in the love scenes with Lt. Goldman, while Caffrey is able to exhibit both sides of his character.

"Tour of Duty" is an interesting view of a war that few of us know anything about. It's a story of people coping with an extraordinary situation with ordinary feelings. From the sniper who turns on his own people to the tough soldier who is frightened and opens his M-16 up on a rat, "Tour of Duty" involves the audience in a war but also in the people who reluctantly fight it.



Just A Taste!

RESTAURANT GUIDE



AMERICAN

Hams

310 W. Franklin 933-3767.
Famous for our home-made chips and fries, deli style subs and sandwiches, burgers and homemade soups. Wide selection of imported beers along with yard and half yards of beer. Ten foot wide TV screen. Open 11A.M.-1A.M. Monday through Saturday, 11A.M.-midnight Sunday. ABC permits. Mastercharge, Visa and American Express.

LUNCH

Columbia Street Bakery and Coffeehouse

107 N. Columbia St (next to Copytron) 967-9150. Homemade soups, salads, sandwiches, spinach turnovers, and more. ("Best chili in town." -Anon.) Plus fresh muffins, pastries, brownies, cookies, breads. Beautiful birthday cakes. With fresh-roasted coffee, cappuccino, teas, juices.... Informal atmosphere, reasonable prices. Open all day through late evening, everyday.

GREEK

Mariakakis Restaurant and Bakery

Famous in Chapel Hill since 1963, offers a variety of famous Greek pastries and breads made fresh daily in its on-premises bakery. Pizza is the restaurant's trademark but many authentic Greek dishes are offered along with sandwiches, home-

made barbecue, chicken, seafood and 60 brands of domestic and imported beers and 25 wines.

INTERNATIONAL

Marco Polo International Restaurant.

Chefs from Italy and China prepare fabulous dishes from the finest provinni veal, stuffed clams, to szechuan shrimp. Thailand chicken and spicy Indian curried dishes, pleasing the most critical palate. Come for a casual lunch or delightful dinner. The average price of our 100-item dinner menu is about \$8.00.

Cisco, Charlie and Chang

As the name suggests, our menu offers a delectable variety of international cuisines. Mexican, Oriental and Cajun American specials make your dining experience unforgettable. Popular entrees include a mesquite chicken sandwich, New Orleans Cajun seafood gumbo and orange beef. All ABC permits including domestic and imported beers. Deck or inside dining.

CAFÉ

Colonel Chutney's

Your kind of place. Serving fresh seafood, prime rib, grilled steaks and chicken, gourmet burgers, super salads, soups, homemade desserts and lots of fun. The best late nite menu available 7 nights a week until one am at reasonable prices. Relax with us! Just a block from campus, 300 W. Rosemary St. 942-7575.

MAGICAL

Brass Rail

Come enjoy "Magic at Your Table" on Friday and Saturdays at The Brass Rail, 1301 E. Franklin St. 933-1323. Steaks, grilled seafood and chicken dishes served in an elegant atmosphere provide for a special evening that won't kill your budget.

PIZZA

Sal's Pizza

Wide variety of Italian specialties featuring succulent daily specials served with salad for just \$3.15. All day specials include Monday spaghetti and eggplant, Tuesday lasagna and cheese ravioli and Wednesday manicotti. Thursday night's pizza buffet is just \$4.15. Sal's has all ABC permits and offers a variety of wines and beers.

University Pizza

Original Hand Made Pizza (thinner crust) and Pan Pizza (thicker crust) are both available for delivery. A 33 minute delivery guarantee makes UP the best delivery deal in town. Nightly from 10P.M. until 2A.M. there are late night specials on both 12" and 16" pizzas. Call for more details. 968-9999.

ITALIAN

Il Palio Ristorante

There is no spectacle in all of Europe like The Palio in Siena, Italy. In Chapel Hill there is no finer dining than that at The Siena Hotel. Il Palio serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Its highly trained chefs prepare magnificent Italian cuisine that is served by attentive staff in an elegant setting.