

'At the Front' Shows U. S. Winning in Africa

The widely heralded film report of the U. S. forces in North Africa, made by Col. Darryl F. Zanuck and a detachment of Army and Navy photographers, is now at the 46th St. Embassy and several of the first-run theaters. It is called *At the Front*.

The fighting scene in the film gives you a precarious eye-witness view from a commanding hill of a victorious U. S. attack near Tebourba in which Nazi tanks are seen being hit and disabled, and Nazi gun emplacements blasted out of existence. The cameramen who made these scenes had gained a hill far ahead of the U. S. batteries, and overlooking the right flank of the Nazi positions. As our cameras pick up the action, the Nazi tanks have started to retreat. As they go, one is hit and spun around, then destroyed by a direct hit. Another is apparently disabled. Then the American guns get the range on a Nazi battery concealed in a thatched structure, and blow it out of the picture.

The film also shows a Nazi air raid on the harbor town of Bone during U. S. unloading operations. Some shots show the townspeople calmly taking shelter, while anti-air batteries go into action. Many of the bomb hits seem mighty close to the cameramen, and one sequence shows Zanuck himself making shots of bomb hits with a hand camera. He is not identified by name. Shots of dog-fighting in the air during the bombing are thrilling to watch, but unless you're an expert spotter of airplane types, you can't tell who is who, and certainly not who is winning.

The whole film is in Technicolor, which at times under the brilliant desert sun makes it hard on the eyes. The Technicolor has a field day, however, feasting on the striking blue and red uniforms of the French guards accompanying French North African officials, *At the Front's* only touch of humor is a shot of a lanky Navy officer astride a very low-slung mule. The officer, as you can see if you are a fancier of Hollywood characters, is Lt. Comdr. John Ford, who filmed *The Battle of Midway*.—J. T. M.



MARCH 23 1943

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