

Jimmy Stewart Plays Real-Life Role He's Portrayed in Pictures

By VERNON SCOTT
United Press Hollywood Writer

Hollywood — Shy, stammering Jimmy Stewart played the real-life role today he's portrayed so many times on the screen—the nice guy who gets a rough deal, but comes through like a champ anyhow.

The lanky actor's friends say Jimmy would have made brigadier general without a hitch if he weren't a famous movie star.

They yelled "foul" when his promotion was hung up by the Senate Armed Services committee this week.

But not Jimmy.

"I'll continue to do my best," he said, referring to his colonelcy in the Strategic Air Command.

"I was very honored to receive the nomination for this promotion by President Eisenhower and the Air Force," Stewart added, and then he clammed up, just as he has in movies when the script threw him a curve.

The actor's friend and agent, Bernie Williams, says Jimmy pulled a two-week tour of active duty with the reserve this year and last—which is all the Air Force requires.

Jimmy himself admits he has been through transition and familiarization with B-47s and

B-52s—the two SAC standbys, and both jets. During his last tour, less than a month ago, Colonel Stewart had 25 hours flying time in B-52s.

According to Jimmy, his re-

cent training has been directed at fulfilling the job of deputy commander of operations in the event of mobilization day—a task that involves movement of all aircraft throughout the glob-

al command.

At the height of his film career when he was chosen best actor of 1940 for his role in "The Philadelphia Story," Jimmy junked his \$3,000-a-week

movie salary to become a buck private. In those days they were paying \$21 a month.

He weighed less than 157 pounds when he reported to the draft board and was turned down for being underweight.

A few months later he fattened himself up by 10 pounds and was called into service in March 1941, eight months before Pearl Harbor. Jimmy rose rapidly in the ranks of the Army Air Corps. He had held a civilian flying license since 1935.

Without hoopla or fanfare, Stewart went about doing his duty—20 combat missions and 18 months in the European war theater.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for lead-

ing his squadron of bombers on a Feb. 1945, raid on Brunswick, Germany, aircraft factories. He also was awarded the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster.

Jimmy is as highly regarded in his native Pennsylvania as he is in Hollywood. The 49-year-old son of an Indiana, Pa., hardware store owner, Stewart once was suggested as the Democratic gubernatorial candidate of the state.

But win or lose, general or no, Jimmy Stewart isn't fretting about the current hubbub in Washington. He and his family are vacationing on his ranch in Northeastern Nevada.

If anybody wants an argument, they're barking at the wrong movie actor.

TOPS ANTE

Buffalo, N.Y. — Traffic violators in Buffalo reached into their pockets for \$386,892.95 in fines in 1956, easily topping the previous high ante to the city's coffers. Records showed that speeding was the highest single offense, with violators contributing a total of \$112,487.

THREAT PAYS OFF

Niles, Mich. — Judge Thomas W. Cain's threat to jail for drivers who failed to heed parking tickets paid off. Officers said an estimated 85 delinquent motorists jammed the police station to pay fines.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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STORM CLOUDS AND CURVATURE of the earth are graphically shown in this stratospheric shot by Major David G. Simons as he soared 19 miles along the rim of outer space for 32 hours. Storm clouds gave him some concern. (International Soundphoto)

DRAMATIC SAVINGS STARTS MONDAY
SEE Page 3, Section 1

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