

Hollywood Oscars Have Gone to War

By PETER FURST

HOLLYWOOD, Mar. 8.—This year's Academy Awards Dinner, the second one since Pearl Harbor and more than likely the last for the duration, was held in the Ambassador Hotel's Coccoanut Grove with more than 1200 members of the film industry and press present to watch Hollywood's last fling at grandeur-as-usual. The war however, instead of the stars, turned out to be the real theme of the evening.

Mrs. Miniver, MGM's big war picture of '42, ran away with most of the evening's prizes, such as best acting, best supporting acting, best screenplay, best picture of the year, best directing, best photography.

In most cases the presentations were beautiful and moving, as when Teresa Wright, nominated for her performance in *Mrs. Miniver*, accepted her Oscar. She was so sincere in her emotion that she brought tears to the eyes of even the hardboiled Hollywood press. Or when James Cagney took his Oscar and said: "You are only as good as others think you are, or as bad. I am very grateful that you think I was good enough."

Greer Garson's speech had tears in it, too. It was in her own words, "practically unprepared."

Bob Hope, as in the past, acted as master of ceremonies, but unfortunately did not put in his very welcome appearance until after three hours of almost endless speeches, by which time the audience needed a definite stimulant. Hope was it. Commenting on the shortage of Hollywood leading men, the comedian had this to say: "Imagine Hedy Lamarr waiting to be kissed while Lewis Stone plugs in his heating pad."

Irving Berlin, whose successful all-soldier show, *This Is the Army*, is now being produced by Warner Brothers, was called upon to present the musical awards. He wanted to know why, but soon found out when he had to present an Oscar to himself for the year's best song, *White Christmas*.

"Oh, well," said Berlin to Berlin, "you are a nice kid and you deserve it."

Said Bob Hope, in winding up an impressive, if long, evening: "Don't forget to tip your waiters. You never know who is on your draft board."

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