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STORY

As an officer in the Union Army, under the command of General Sheridan (J. Carroll Naish), Lt. Col. Kirby Yorke (John Wayne) was obliged to burn the plantation of his Southern-born wife (Maureen O'Hara). She refused to forgive him and they have been estranged for fifteen years. During that time he has not seen his son, Jeff (Claude Jarman, Jr.)

Col. Yorke has thrown himself whole-heartedly into fighting the Indian Wars in the West—a lost cause since the U.S. and Mexican governments have agreed that their respective military forces will not cross the Rio Grande under any circumstances. This enables the Apaches to raid, torture, kill the whites, then escape across the border to a remote Mexican village "somewhere in the interior."

The situation is at a stalemate when General Sheridan arrives at Col. Yorke's headquarters, on a routine inspection. Yorke is supposed to whip the Apaches into submission in order to make the Southwest safe for settlers, but the border sanctity set-up and the shortage of troops have him licked.

Thus, at the worst possible time, Yorke's son, Jeff, having been flunked out of West Point, enlists in the army and is assigned to his father's command as an ordinary trooper.

When young Jeff gets into a fight with a tough soldier, Troopers Tyree (Ben Johnson) and Boone (Harry Carey, Jr.), Sergeant Quincannon (Victor McLaglen) and Dr. Wilkins (Chill Wills) come to his rescue.

Then Mrs. Yorke arrives at Fort Starke and, flaunting her charms before Yorke's love-starved eyes, she tries to obtain his agreement to young Jeff's discharge. Jeff and his father both hold out against her but she embarrasses them by taking her place among the enlisted men's wives and mothers on "laundresses' row."

Eventually, war settles the family differences. A fresh attack by the Apaches leads General Sheridan to give Col. Yorke informal permission to cross the border and smoke the Indians out of their hideout. They both know it will mean court-martial for Yorke, even if he defeats the Apaches, but the general promises to hand pick the members of the court.

The mission succeeds and the Apaches are taught a lesson. Jeff acquits himself admirably and by so doing cuts loose from his mother's domination. The colonel, as "punishment," is sent to the Court of St. James as U.S. Military Attache. This pleases his wife immensely. They are reconciled and the trip to England serves as a second honeymoon.

Credits

Directed by.....John Ford
Screenplay by.....
.....James Kevin McGuinness
Based on a Saturday Evening
Post Story by.....James Warner Bellah
Musical Score.....Victor Young
Songs: "My Gal Is Purple", "Foot-
sore Cavalry", "Yellow Stripes"
.....Words and Music Stan Jones
"Aha, San Antone".....
.....Words and Music Dale Evans
Photographed by.....Bert Glennon, A.S.C.
2nd Unit Photography.....
.....Archie Stout, A.S.C.
Art Director.....Frank Hotaling
Film Editor.....Jack Murray
Assistant Director.....Wingate Smith
Technical Adviser.....
.....Major Philip H. Kieffer, U.S.A. Ret.
Sound.....
.....Earl Crain, Sr.-Howard Wilson
Costumes Designed by.....Adele Palmer
Uniforms by.....D. R. Overall Hatswell
Set Decorations.....
.....John McCarthy, Jr.
.....Charles Thompson
Properties.....R. Dudley Holmes
Special Effects.....
.....Howard and Theodore Lydecker
Makeup Supervision.....Bob Mark
Hair Stylist.....Peggy Gray
Optical Effects.....
.....Consolidated Film Industries

Cast

Colonel Yorke.....JOHN WAYNE
Mrs. Yorke.....MAUREEN O'HARA
Trooper Tyree.....BEN JOHNSON
Trooper Jeff Yorke.....
.....CLAUDE JARMAN, JR.
Trooper Boone.....HARRY CAREY, JR.
Dr. Wilkins.....CHILL WILLS
General Sheridan.....J. CARROL NAISH
Sgt. Quincannon.....
.....VICTOR McLAGLEN
Deputy Marshal.....GRANT WITHERS
Capt. St. Jacques.....PETER ORTIZ
Capt. Prescott.....
.....STEVE PENDLETON
Margaret Mary.....KAROLYN GRIMES
Lieutenant.....ALBERTO MORIN
Sergeant.....STAN JONES
Heinz.....FRED KENNEDY
and SONS OF THE PIONEERS

RCA SOUND SYSTEM

A REPUBLIC PICTURE

An Argosy Production

John FORD and Merian C. COOPER

Running Time: 105 Minutes

Musical Score

"MY GAL IS PURPLE"—"FOOTSORE CAVALRY"

"YELLOW STRIPES"

By Stan Jones — Pub. by Robert Music Corp.

"CATTLE CALL"

By Tex Owens — Pub. by Forster Music

"AHA, SAN ANTONE"

By Dale Evans — Pub. by Hill & Range Songs, Inc.

"ERIE CANAL"—"TLL TAKE YOU HOME AGAIN KATHLEEN"

"DOWN BY THE GLEN SIDE"—"YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW"

(Traditional)