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BITTER VICTORY

CinemaScope Only

U.K./1957 103 mins. B&W/Scope \$45.00

Directed by Nicholas Ray - Screenplay by Gavin Lamber, Paul Gallico, Ray and René Hardy, from the novel by Hardy - Cinematography by Michael Kelber - Edited by Leonide Azar - Music composed and conducted by Maurice LeRoux and Performed by Le Orchestre National Radiodiffusion Français - Produced by Paul and Janine Graetz for Transcontinental Films, S.A./Robert Laffont Ltd./Columbia Pictures. Players: *Richard Burton, Curd (Curt) Jurgens, Ruth Roman, Raymond Pellegrin, Anthony Bushnell, Sean Kelly, Christopher Lee, Alfred Burke, Andrew Crawford, Raoul Del'Fosse, Nigel Green, Sumner Williams, Ronan O'Casey, Christian Nelson, Harry Landis, Fred Matter, Raymond de la Rocca, Josef de Bi Tagne, Joe Davray.*

P.Q.: Our CinemaScope prints are from the full-length British negative. The U.S. release (including all "flat" prints) only ran 82 minutes.

A commando Major (Jurgens) and a Captain (Burton) carry their rivalry over Ruth Roman into a raid against Rommel's African spy headquarters; when Jurgens permits Burton to be bitten by a deadly scorpion, the latter, in a fever of death, saves the life of his tormenter, entrusting him also with a farewell letter to Roman, creating an ironic, bitter moral victory for the dead Burton over the living Jurgens. Ray directs this searing film in relentless style creating his own comment on war as he had previously done in America concerning the forces of law and order: ". . . you are not obliged to save the wounded!"

"But . . . that's not war, sir."

"Isn't it?"