

DEBORAH KERR

Deborah Kerr is now carrying her brilliant motion picture performing to a third continent, for the filming in the heart of Equatorial Africa of H. Rider Haggard's classic adventure story, "King Solomon's Mines." The Hollywood safari to the Dark Continent for the Technicolor filming is itself an adventure that promises possibly the most exciting experiences of her life to the star, even though she once flew over German lines while on an entertainment tour of Allied forces during World War II.

Born in Helensburgh, Scotland, September 30, she is the daughter of Arthur Kerr-Trimmer, civil engineer. Her father died when she was fourteen and she moved with her mother and brother to Alford, Sussex, and continued her education at Northumberland House School, Bristol.

Even as a child Deborah used to yearn for a dramatic career of some kind when she grew up. Though no member of her family was connected with the theater outside of her aunt, Phyllis smale, who conducted a dramatic school in Bristol, it was obvious that Deborah had talent.

Deborah soon decided to devote her entire time to her aunt's dramatic school. She also began to study dancing and was seen in a curtain raiser for a local show. She won a scholarship to the Sadlers Wells Ballet School. During the next year her skill at the art of the ballet grew rapidly. At 18 she set out for London. Through a friend she had been given a small role in the Open Air Theater Season in Regent's Park. Later, she combined repertory work with war work. One day, when lunching with a girl friend, she was introduced to a producer who asked her to read for the part of the Salvation Army girl, Jenny, in George

Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara," which he was then preparing for film production. She won the role. It was a small one but her performance was outstanding.

Following this she appeared in "Love on the Dole," "Penn of Pennsylvania," "Hatter's Castle," and "The Day Will Dawn" with Hugh Williams.

Her opportunity came in 1942 with "The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp," which in America won her new fans.

In 1944 she co-starred with Robert Donat in the M-G-M London production, ^{"Vacation from Marriage"} ~~"Perfect Strangers,"~~ directed by Sir Alexander Korda, ~~and soon in America as "Vacation from Marriage."~~ Prior to this she had appeared on the London stage with Donat and Edith Evans in the successful revival of Shaw's "Heartbreak House."

Two other films followed, "I See a Dark Stranger," released in this country as "The Adventuress"; then "Black Narcissus," her last before coming to America under full-time contract to M-G-M.

Miss Kerr's Hollywood debut was opposite Clark Gable in "The Hucksters," with "If Winter Comes," Walter Pidgeon's co-star, following. Both performances established her even more firmly as a foremost actress of the screen.

She returned to England for the filming of the dramatic "Edward, My Son," opposite Spencer Tracy, at M-G-M's British studios, and later starred in the gay romantic comedy, "Please Believe Me," in Hollywood, just prior to her departure on the 12,800-mile trip to Africa.

In January of '45 Deborah joined a company in which she played opposite Stewart Granger in "Gaslight" to entertain the troops in Europe, and it was while on this trip, stopping in Brussels, that she met Sqdn.-Ldr. Anthony Charles Bartley, D.F.C., whom she later married. Bartley is the eldest son of Sir Charles and Lady Bartley and one of the Battle of Britain pilots cited for

bravery. Her return to England was an especial treat for her family. With her was her 6-months-old daughter, Melanie Jane, a true Hollywood product.

The actress, whose name rhymes with "star," has red-gold hair and green-blue eyes. She is possessed of a keen sense of humor, ready wit and personality which makes her popular with her fellow workers and excellent company at all times.

She plays the piano quite well, reads a great deal, is keenly interested in Georgian architecture, loves to attend concerts and the theater and is quite an authority on the ballet. She writes verse and songs and thinks that if the Fates had not been so kind to have made it possible for her to be an actress, she would have taken up writing seriously.

STATISTICS

Born, Deborah Kerr-Trimmer, Helensburgh, Scotland, September 30, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kerr-Trimmer. Educated: Helensburgh schools and Northumberland House School, Bristol. Height, 5 feet, 7 inches. Hair, red-gold. Eyes, green-blue. Occupation: Actress. Married to Anthony Charles Bartley, D.F.C., eldest son of Sir Charles and Lady Bartley, November 28, 1945, at St. George's Hanover Square Church, London, England. Daughter, Melanie Jane, born December 27, 1947.

STAGE: George Bernard Shaw's "Heartbreak House," London, 1943; "Gaslight," 1945, for British troops in Europe.

SCREEN: "Major Barbara," 1940; "Love on the Dole," "Penn of Pennsylvania," 1941; "Hatter's Castle," "The Day Will Dawn," 1942; "The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp," 1943; "Perfect Strangers," "Vacation From Marriage," 1944; "I See A Dark Stranger" ("The Adventuress"), 1945; "Black Narcissus," 1946; "The Hucksters," "If Winter Comes," 1947; "Edward, My Son," 1948; "Please Believe Me," "King Solomon's Mines," 1950. "Quo Vadis," 1951. *Vadis, 1951.*