

# 'Castle Keep' Stages War In Fairy Tale Setting

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY  
LIVONIA  
That's what Martin Ranshoff has done in his latest production, "Castle Keep," currently playing in Livonia's Mai Kai Theatre.

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tion, "Castle Keep," currently playing in Livonia's Mai Kai Theatre. The film is adapted from the book of the same title and tells the story of eight U.S. Army members waging a battle to stop the Germans. Location of the battle is a 10th century castle in Belgium. And that's the rub.

AS CASTLES are expected to be this structure is filled with art treasures. One of the eight soldiers is a captain—who in civilian life is an art critic. Next in command is a musician who attended divinity school, but

whose present duties are those of an Army Lieutenant. The enlisted men are type cast true to the Hollywood image of GI Joe and the entire group is commanded by a one-eyed major nicknamed "The Buffalo."

Burt Lancaster appears as the major, while Patrick O'Neal and Tony Bill carry the roles of captain and Lieutenant. For an added bit of spice to a young, beautiful countess (Astrid Heeren) and an impetuous count (Jean Pierre Aumont). They want to save the castle.

The captain wants to save not only the castle, but the art treasures. The major wants to stop the Germans. What about the rest of the soldiers? They merely want to live and the war has caught up with them.

IT'S A dandy battle when it comes complete with pouring gasoline into the moat and setting it on fire—thus killing some of those nasty Germans. One of the escape tunnels is also blown up by using not only the hidden art treasures, but

a contingent of the enemy force. There's another escape tunnel and that's kept open for one lowly private—who flees on orders—and saves the countess. All the ingredients are present for a war film. But it's something more than just a war film.

Maybe it's the release date and all the present dissent to the Vietnam War, but all of a sudden World War II isn't pictured as the great patriotic battle of the age as is usual in "war" films.

It's an anti-war film.

THE MAIN criticism that can

be leveled at the film is the episode approach to the story with an attempt to blend the entire product together in coherent form by use of camera techniques.

It's a technique that's appearing in more and more novels, but with the difference that in a novel the author uses chapter headings to tie everything together.

"Castle Keep" is a film for just about everyone. Burlan-

There are lots of gory battle scenes. There's some sex thrown in and because of the manner in which the view points are expressed the peace mongers can enjoy the film.

It all adds up to good box office. It's not good or even adequate cinema art, but it's good box office.

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