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CREDIT MUST BE GIVEN TO DAVID J. MARCOU AS AUTHOR

ANOTHER FAMOUS JAMES CAMERON-DJM

How would you like to have the same name as the maker of the best disaster movie of all time? You say that would be scary. Well, another famous man was named James Cameron, before the American director of “Titanic” was born. He was James Cameron, the British reporter.

The British James Cameron was born on June 17, 1911 in London. The son of a Scottish lawyer-author and his Scottish wife, young James was raised in England and France. He never graduated from high school. But he did teach himself well, after leaving school when he was 15. He began his journalism career as a news messenger boy in Manchester. James’ father wanted him to become independent, and that’s just what the boy became.

Young James wanted to be an artist, and he always drew well. But writing is what his bosses needed and that’s what he gave them. In the 1930s, he wrote stories about blood and guts for Scotland’s Sunday Post. Then, during World War II, he worked for the Daily Express, once the world’s biggest newspaper. He helped make special maps so readers could follow the war better. On the Express, he worked with Elizabeth O’Conor, an artist who would become his second wife. Elma Murray Cameron, his first wife, died giving birth to James’ first child, in 1939.

World War II (1939-45) was not easy on the Camerons or the British. Food and supplies were hard to get, and most young men were drafted. Doctors kept James out of the Army, but he and his family still suffered. They breathed easier when the war ended in August of 1945.

After working as chief overseas reporter for the Daily Express from 1944-50, Cameron quit. One of the Express' sister-papers had unfairly linked a war minister to a Soviet spy. That made Cameron angry. Before he knew it, he was working for Picture Post magazine, which was modeled after Life magazine from 1938-57.

He was sent to South Korea in August of 1950, to cover the Korean War (1950-53), with photojournalist Bert Hardy, who knew how to tell stories with pictures. With United Nations help, U.S. President Harry Truman had sent soldiers in, after North Korea attacked the South in June of 1950. Truman's "Police Action" was the first war in which U.N. troops fought. The British pair stayed there six weeks, and wrote and photographed two of their best photo-stories, about that war.

In early September of 1950, Pusan was the only Korean city held by U.N. Forces. One day Cameron and Hardy saw a sad sight in that southern port. Hundreds of men were squatting in puddles of old rain, tied up, and wearing almost no clothes. They tried to scoop a drink. South Korean guards beat them with rifle butts. The prisoners were being loaded onto trucks, taken away, and shot, the reporters thought.

The partners made notes and pictures, then went for help. But no one else would aid the prisoners, including the U.N. Command and the Red Cross. These men – aged 14 to 70 – were "political prisoners". They were South Koreans with "the wrong ideas". And none of them had been tried in court. Cameron and Hardy sent in their photo-story soon afterward.

At about this time, U.N. General Douglas MacArthur had a great idea. He wanted to attack Inchon, the western port near the Southern capital of Seoul. On Sept. 15, 1950, U.N. troops, helped by ships and planes, attacked Inchon. No one knew why, but the press boat led the way. Hardy was the first man to climb over the 15-foot-high sea-wall on Blue Beach, because he needed pictures before dark. Cameron and the U.S. First Marine Division followed. It was a great Allied victory.

“Inchon” covered nine pages of the Oct. 7, 1950 Picture Post and won many prizes. Cameron and Hardy were proud of that photo-story. So was Sir Tom Hopkinson, the magazine’s editor. But the Pusan report was never printed by the magazine, because Picture Post’s owner, Sir Edward Hulton, stopped the presses on it. Hulton said that photo-story would have given “aid and comfort to the enemy”. Because of that, Hopkinson was fired.

Cameron quit work at Picture Post in early 1952. Then, he wrote a famous story, “The King Is Dead”, for another paper, when King George VI died. It was a nice story about a good King, from a writer who did not generally think much of Kings and Queens.

Next, Cameron was chief overseas reporter for the News Chronicle, a very good paper that went out of business in 1960. And he was a founder of an anti-nuclear group in 1958, because he had seen an Atomic-bomb test in the Bikini Islands in 1946. That test had really scared him. For the rest of his life, he fought against Army and nuclear buildups.

In 1965, Cameron went to communist North Vietnam. His reports for The New York Times put the Vietnam War (1965-73) into focus. He later wrote a book on that war, called **Here Is Your Enemy**. He said he was just trying to show that human beings lived in North Vietnam, too.

Later, Cameron was a writer for The Manchester Guardian, one of the world’s greatest papers. There, he wrote a story on a 16-year-old friend named Nicky, who had just died of a brain sickness. Nicky’s useful life made Cameron happy thinking about the teenage boy.

That great journalist also produced two TV series for the BBC – “One Pair of Eyes” and “Cameron Country” -- about his travels as a reporter.

When James Cameron died in January of 1985 from a chest infection, Labour Party Leader Michael Foot called him “the greatest journalist of his age”. Cameron also had been friends with Pandit Nehru, Studs Terkel, Malcolm Muggeridge, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, and

Charles Collingwood. Collingwood and Terkel were American journalists. Muggeridge was a British writer. And the other two great men you've heard about before.

Also, Cameron once had a lively meeting with Brigitte Bardot, the great French beauty. You can read about that in his life-story, **Point of Departure**. Other good books by Cameron are **1914**, **The African Revolution**, and **The Best of Cameron**.

The British reporter's third wife (he divorced Ms. O'Connor) was Moneesha Sarkar. He married her in 1971. She is an Asian Indian who remarried and moved back to India after Cameron's death. The reporter had three children, and he loved them all dearly.

Cameron lived in hard times, but always tried to do what was right. He was an enemy of hatred, public nudity, and greed. And he had his own "vision", in which Truth was the most important thing. In World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, he took strong stands against Evil. And, in the end, he lived a life that might someday be made into a good movie.

Maybe the American James Cameron will make a movie yet, about the great British reporter who had his name first. It would not be a disaster movie showing people drowning in the Atlantic Ocean. The director of "Titanic" shouted, "I am the King of the World," when he won his Oscar in 1998. If he made a movie about the reporter James Cameron, he could say, instead, "There went a friend and reporter of Kings, Presidents, Women, and Warriors. There went a good role model for children and adults."