

" CHARLES BRONSON; ONE TOUGH DUDE "

BY PAT/SALTY

PEOPLE THINK THEY KNEW (OR KNOW)
ABOUT CHARLES BRONSON.

WRONG ONCE AGAIN, SHERLOCKS.

SO SIT BACK, GRAB YOURSELF SOME
POPCORN - OR A COLD ONE AND A

ROLLED ONE - AND LEARN A FEW
THINGS FROM SALTYS INFINITE SOURCE;

HE WAS BORN CHARLES BOCHINSKY,
IN PENNSYLVANIA, BACK IN THE 1920'S.

TO POLISH AMERICANS WHO LIVED AND
WORKED AS COAL MINORS, HE HIMSELF
WORKED IN THE COAL MINES IN

PENNSYLVANIA UNTILL HE GOT DRAFTED
INTO THE ARMY AS A YOUNG MAN
DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

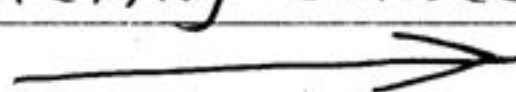
HIS BUDDYS IN THE ARMY REMEMBERED
HIM AS CHARLIE FROM PENNSYLVANIA,
AS THE ONLY GUY OUT OF ALL OF THEM
WHO NEVER COMPLAINED OR BITCHED
OR GRIPEED ABOUT ARMY LIFE DURING
THE WAR IN EUROPE.

BECAUSE YOUNG CHARLES BOCHINSKY
(LATER, BRONSON) HAD LIVED HIS WHOLE
LIFE IN THE COAL FIELDS OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN SUCH PAINFULL GRINDING POVERTY



(2)

THAT - TO HIM - ARMY LIFE - EVEN IN WARTIME - SEEMED (IN COMPARISON) TO BE A LIFE OF LUXURY. ITS TRUE. CHARLES BRONSON WOULD TELL HIS FELLOW ARMY BUDDYS; "WHAT'S THERE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT? I HAVE WARM CLOTHES AND SHOES WITHOUT HOLES IN THEM, I GET 3 SQUARE MEALS A DAY AND ALL THE SMOKES I WANT - YOU GUYS HAVE IT MADE AND DON'T EVEN KNOW IT!" THIS IS WHAT CHARLIE BRONSON WOULD TELL THEM. IT USED TO MAKE THEM LAUGH. BUT TO YOUNG CHARLIE BRONSON IT WAS OF COURSE JUST THE PLAIN TRUTH. ANYTHING WAS BETTER THEN WHERE HE HAD COME FROM, AND - ONCE OUT OF THAT EXISTANCE (COURTESY OF A WORLD WAR) BRONSON VOWED THAT - NO MATTER WHAT - HE WAS NEVER, EVER GOING BACK, TO THE LIFE OF POVERTY & HARDSHIP OF A PENNSYLVANIA COALMINER SUCH AS HE AND HIS FAMILY HAD ALL BEEN. SO WHEN THE WAR ENDED HE - LIKE MANY FORMER G.I.'S - TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HARRY TRUMANS GENEROUS G.I. BILL TO TAKE CLASSES. ACTING CLASSES.



(3)

PEOPLE LAUGHED.
HE DIDN'T CARE.
HE STUCK IT OUT YEAR AFTER YEAR
AS A STARVING ARTIST ACTOR THROUGH
THE LATE 1940'S AND 1950'S, TAKING
WHATEVER ROLES HE COULD GET,
DOING WHATEVER MANUAL LABOR JOBS
HE COULD ~~DO~~^{DO TO} SUPPORT HIMSELF (HE WAS
ALWAYS STRONG AND IN GOOD SHAPE).
YOU CAN STILL CATCH SOME OF HIS
MINOR ROLES IN 1950'S HORROR MOVIES
AND WHATNOT; HE STILL HAD HIMSELF
LISTED IN THE CREDITS AS "CHARLES BUCHINSKY"
BACK THEN. HE EVENTUALLY CHANGED HIS
LAST NAME TO "BRONSON" (LESS ETHNIC).
HIS BIG BREAK ~~CAME~~ AS AN ACTOR
FINALLY CAME ABOUT - AFTER ALMOST
15 YEARS OF CONSTANT TRYING! -
IN 1960 WITH "THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN"
(WITH STEVE MCQUEEN, YUL BRENNER,
JAMES COBURN, AND ELI WALLACH).
HIM AND MCQUEEN AND COBURN GOT
TOGETHER TWO YEARS LATER IN 1962'S
"THE GREAT ESCAPE" IN WHICH CHARLES
BRONSON PLAYED THE CHARACTER OF
DANNY THE "TUNNEL KING" (A ~~PERSON~~,
POLISH P.O.W. WHO HAD BEEN →

(4)

~~Before~~ A POLISH COAL MINOR BEFORE THE WAR) THE ROLE WAS NOT A STRETCH - TO PUT IT MILDLY.

CHARLIE BRONSON WAS NO MARLON BRANBO, TO PUT IT KINDLY, AND HE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE, EITHER.

LIKE MANY - LIKE MOST - ACTORS HE BASICALLY JUST PLAYED HIMSELF.

A HARD WORKING TOUGH GUY TYPE WHO SAID WHAT HE THOUGHT AND NEVER SAID ALL THAT MUCH.

A SIMPLE MAN WHO COULD EXCELL AT FOCUSING ON ONE GOAL AND WHO WOULD ATTAIN IT COME HELL OR HIGH WATER THRU PERSISTANCE AND TENACITY.

THAT WAS CHARLES BRONSON - GODS CREATURE.

THAT WAS WHO AND WHAT HE WAS.

WHAT YOU SAW IS WHAT YOU GOT.

HE WENT THRU LIFE WITH A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER AND AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX (NOT AS HANDSOME AS, NOT AS EDUCATED AS, ETC.)

BUT HE USED IT AS MOTIVATION TO DRIVE HIMSELF UPWARDS AND ONWARDS BY SIMPLY NEVER GIVING UP - EVER - NO MATTER HOW

MANY OBSTACLES, NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE SAID, NO MATTER WHAT ODDS HE HAD AGAINST HIM.

GOD REST HIS POLISH SOUL, WHEREVER HE IS - XXX