

## Action In Filming Leads To Bruises

By Howard Strickling

**I**N A small clearing near a remote railway track outside Kingston, Jamaica, two men stand toe to toe and hammer blows at one another. The fight takes place in complete silence, broken only by muttered oaths as the flailing punches strike home.

Encircling the fighters stand two movie crews, their hand-held cameras whirring as they capture every move and counter-move, every blow struck and parried. Then suddenly the fight is over. One of the men is thrown violently to the ground and pinned there by the other. The two men hold their positions for a minute or two, and then smiling amiably at one another stand slowly up, dusting the red Jamaican earth from their soiled army uniforms. "Cut," calls the director, Jack Cardiff. "Jimmy, Rod, that was just fine. Now do you think we could do it again, just once more?"

To movie stars Rod Taylor and Jimmy Brown, the request to "do it just once again" came as no surprise. For in the world of motion pictures, the unusual is often the expected, the expected almost always the unusual.

The scene the two men had just completed was only one of perhaps 30 or 40 others, just as violent, fight sequences called for in the script of the currently filming adventure drama "Dark of the Sun" which stars Taylor, Brown and Yvette Mimieux. The story is set in the Belgian Congo during the recent civil war and tells of a band of mercenary soldiers, led by Taylor and Brown, who are detailed to rescue a party of

terrorized civilians from rebel hands.

But what is really extraordinary about the fight scenes is that Taylor and Brown have insisted, on every single occasion, on doing the scenes themselves without the usual complement of trained stunt doubles. "I am having to 'live' this role for many, many months," says Taylor, "and that means every facet of the man's life. If this means fighting his fights, then that's exactly what I intend doing. It would be an insincere performance if I allowed someone else to take over for me. Besides, I really do enjoy the violent sequences. Gives me an opportunity to let off a little steam!"

Happily both Brown and Taylor are well-equipped to take the knocks. Taylor, at 6 foot and 200 pounds, is a former Australian boxer of note. He has a proportioned physique which he keeps in shape by regularly working out with weights and medicine balls.

Brown, as has become apparent over the years, is one of the finest all-round athletes ever to set foot on the N.F.L. gridiron, six foot 2 inches and 240 pounds of muscled sepia mahogany made him one of football's most feared and respected players ever. Since quitting pro football he has maintained his old standard of fitness.



A fight scene between Jim Brown and Rod Taylor is captured on film.