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Assault to Murder Count Lodged on Audie Murphy

Burbank, Cal. (UPI) Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II, was booked today by Burbank police on a charge of assault to commit murder.

The 46-year-old Murphy, who appeared in a number of movies after his return from the war, also was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and assault and battery, according to Lt. William Smith of the detective bureau.

The victim of the alleged attack was David Gofstein, 51, a dog trainer who has a kennel in Burbank. The incident occurred on May 18, but Murphy was not taken into custody until Wednesday night after Gofstein identified him as one of two men who attacked him.

According to Burbank police, Gofstein said that he had got into an argument over the fee he was charging a woman whose dog he was training. Gofstein said Murphy and the other man came to his home and beat and kicked him severely.

During the alleged attack a shot was fired, police said, but Gofstein was not hit. He was taken to St. Joseph Hospital and later released after treatment of injuries to the head and upper body.

Murphy was to be arraigned later Thursday in municipal court.

Murphy, the Texan from Farmersville who received the Medal of Honor among his awards, killed or captured

240 German soldiers, as a soldier during World War II. In recent years, he had been broke and deep in debt.

Murphy began a movie career after his discharge from the Army. His decorations also included two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Legion of Honor.

Murphy made his film debut in "Beyond Glory" and "Texas, Heaven and Brooklyn," but he couldn't shake the soldier image, appearing in one picture after another which exploited his war record.

His biggest money-maker was "To Hell and Back," a biography of his war experiences.

He had two unhappy marriages. His first, to actress Wanda Hendrix, ended in divorce, and then he separated from his second wife, Pamela, six months ago.

He told an interviewer a year ago, "I feel like a prostitute who is a little over the hill. I get all kinds of promotional offers for movies, but instead of my usual price of \$100,000 per picture, they offer me \$20,000 and a percentage of the profits you never see.

"But I'm too tough for this damned town. It can't break my heart."