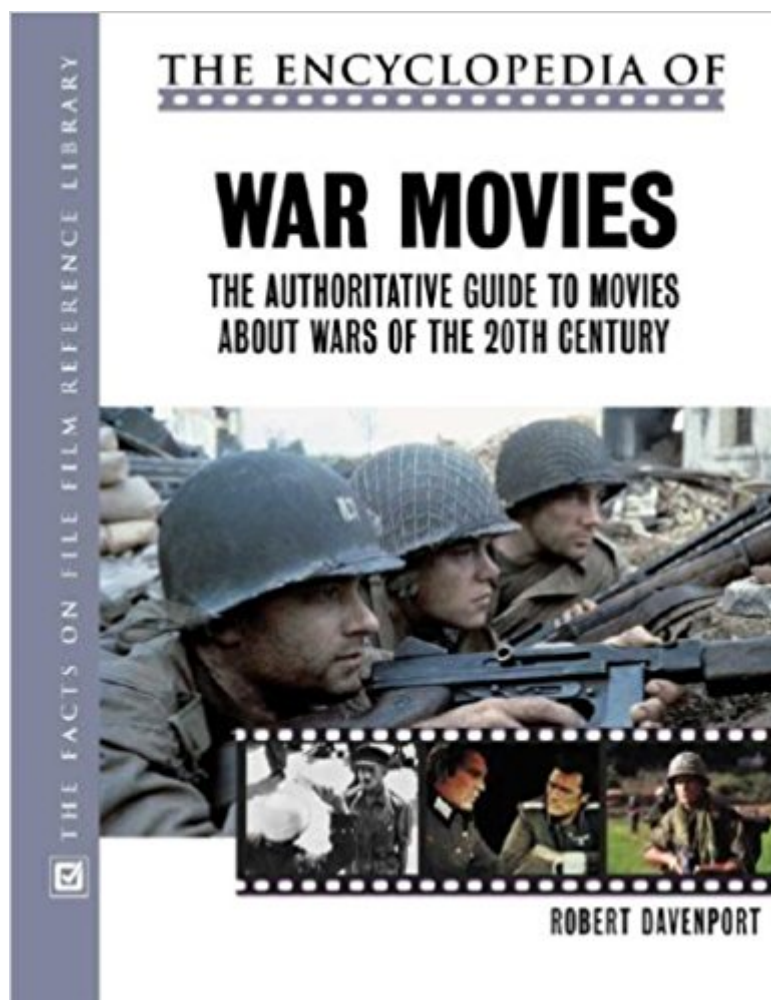The book was found

The Encyclopedia Of War Movies: The Authoritative Guide To Movies About Wars Of The 20th-Century (The Facts On File Film Reference Library)

Synopsis

This reference book includes more than 800 entries and features early silent films as well as blockbusters. Each entry provides production credits, a synopsis, an account of interesting facts about the movie and historical facts about the military service of those involved in filming.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

War films have been a staple of the movie business since its beginning, and as Davenport points out, "the same period of creative mechanical invention that brought about the movie camera...also unleashed on civilization the machines that signify modern warfare: the airplane, the machine gun, the tank." A Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve who served as technical advisor on Pearl Harbor, Davenport presents an overview of more than 800 movies that have helped build the war movie genre into such an indispensable Hollywood commodity. For each film, Davenport gives essential cast and crew information and a brief screenplay summary. Most originally, for some of the films he also includes information about how the screen version of the war differs from the actual historical battle. Organized alphabetically, the book covers blockbusters like 1986's Platoon and 1957's The Bridge on the River Kwai, as well as lesser-known films, such as 1942's The Devil with Hitler. Understandably, some films get more coverage than others (e.g., Davenport writes only two lines on the plot of 1963's Face In the Rain, but spends a few pages on 1970's Patton). Although other books exist on the topic, Davenport's is the most up-to-date and should please war movie aficionados. 48 b&w photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an

out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

War is an important theme in American movies. Interestingly, one of the earliest films was the 1898 title Tearing Down the Spanish Flag, which quickly found an audience. However, this book contains American films dealing only with twentieth-century wars. It should also be noted that the selection is not exhaustive but reflects the author's own preferences. His background includes military and legal experience, and he was a technical advisor for Pearl Harbor.More than 800 movies are covered, with entries generally ranging from one-sixth of a page to a couple of pages in length. Treatment seems a bit uneven (e.g., Pearl Harbor is given only a one-sentence plot summary, but more than 20 lines are devoted to describing the plot of the 1971 film Murphy's War). Beyond basic citation information, entries often include cast lists. Typically, one paragraph describes the plot, and another covers the actual battle or war effort. If the movie is based on a book, those details are given. About a quarter of the entries include interesting facts about the production, military service details of the actors and directors, famous quotes, awards, and technical or historical mistakes (e.g., visible sound equipment, continuity details, and date-specific factual errors). Sometimes the author notes the historical accuracy--or inaccuracy--of the film. About 50 black-and-white photos accompany the text.A bibliography and index conclude the volume. The book would have benefited from having an index of movies listed according to the war being treated as well as a chronological listing. The detailed information reflects the author's extensive knowledge and research. For this reason alone, the volume is a worthwhile addition to war movie literature. High-schoolers and adults will enjoy browsing this reference. RBB

If your like me and love war movies/history this book is a fantastic find! Its big, beautiful, well written with tons of 'tidbits' of info about hundreds & hundreds of films I've seen and own and others I will seek out as a result of this book . It has some surprising omissions (no Gettysburg?) but that picky note aside if you love Guns of Navarone, The Longest Day etal you will love this book. Plus, look at the bio of the Author who has a resume of achievement that will blow your mind.

As a fan who has watched well over a hundred and fifty war movies, I appreciate author Robert Davenport's extensive work to capture in a single volume Hollywood's catalog of films set in 20th Century wars. It is definitely a fine resource.Like most film guides, each film entry in the book begins with production data such as the year of release, the studio, producer, director, and cast. There's a brief description of the film's plot, often followed by Interesting Facts, Mistakes, Quotes, and

Awards.The treatment of the film entries is uneven and reflect the author's own interest in the film or history portrayed, and probably the access the author had to movie. The more famous and notable films tend to get significant coverage, where many of the lesser known films have little more information than one might expect in any movie guide (which is likely where it came from).There is a great deal of useful information and trivia to whet the appetites of war film and military history fans like me. But this is where the irregular attention to detail has its drawbacks -- the more details one adds to a volume, the greater the likelihood error or significant omission. Editing was not very thorough, so for example, the plot description of the 1938 Jimmy Stewart movie "The Shopworn Angel" starts with "During World War I, Gary Cooper . . ." when Cooper is not in the film, which a simple check of the cast listing immediately above it would verify. (The author has listed EVERY cast member in each movie, and alphabetically, which not only unnecessarily lengthens the book, but makes it more difficult to pick out the film's stars.)More importantly for me were the occasional errors in historical fact. For example:- The Interesting Facts listed under "The Devil's Brigade" (1968) state that the brigade ". . . went on special missions to destroy hydroelectric stations in Norway and northern Italy and oil fields in Romania," when in fact, the 1st Special Service Force never fought in Norway or Romania, let alone destroy hydroelectric stations and oil fields.- In the 3.5 pages dedicated to "Saving Private Ryan" (1998), the author notes as a Mistake "In the scene with Gen. George C. Marshall the general is wearing the general staff lapel insignia. Generals wear no branch lapel insignia at all. Their staff officers wear general staff insignia." That would be true under current Army uniform regulations, but every photograph of Gen. Marshall taken during WW2 shows that he did in fact wear general staff insignia as was the regulation and custom of that period.- The description of "Pearl Harbor" (2001) -- a movie in which the author was professionally in production -- is a mere single sentence: "Two best friends, U.S Army aviators, love the same woman as they fight World War II." It is followed by 13 Interesting Facts -- all referring to movie production trivia -- but no Mistakes, despite the fact that film historian Larry Suid, PhD found and published over 30 historical errors.- In the entry for "Flying Tigers" (1942), the author mistakenly writes under Interesting Facts that the American Volunteer Group (AVG) "disbanded in April 1942 (the time of the Doolittle Raid.)" Actually, the AVG was disbanded on July 4, 1942. But more importantly, the movie has a glaring error: the portrayal of the AVG going into aerial combat with the Japanese before Pearl Harbor, when in fact they were still forming on December 7, and did not see their first combat until December 20, 1941 -- the author apparently didn't catch this.These are but a few of the errors that I have found. There are also a number of signficant films that are missing from the book, inclunding A Guy Named Joe; Tigerland; The Clock; See Here, Private Hargrove (and its sequel

What Next, Corporal Hargrove?); Saboteur; The Courage of Lassie; The Canterville Ghost; Miracle at Morgan's Creek; Last Train to Madrid; and Hail the Conquering Hero. These omissions are noteworthy considering the many forgettable B-movies and obscure minor films that are listed in the book.This book is obviously a subject that author feels passionate about (as do I), and I retain my copy as one of my war film references. It is informative and even entertaining, but it is not authoritative as the subtitle claims due to the uneven treatment of the films and many factual errors.

Product as described and shipped fast.

Truthfully I was quite surprised by the somewhat wonkish aspect of this publication: More text is devoted to location/cast members than a film synopsis. Entries are comprehensive in terms of film titles but very wildly with respect to data -- some possessing bare minimum while others (such as Indiana Jones & The Temple of Doom[!]) go on and on. And while I don't mind the identification of a film flub or two, there are films with upwards of forty flubs identified. Seriously, this is major wonk material -- of interest by and large to wonks only. I would only recommend this publication -- which I had high hopes for -- to those seeking specific types of information. N-e-x-t.

Since I am a fan of military films and war movies, I grabbed this book right away. I was pleased to see that the author included many details of each film in addition to production notes and trivia on many of them as well. As a film collector, this book will be a great resource for researching military films and their history. It will be appreciated by anyone who has served in the military as well as film students or film enthusiasts.

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