

**“Lessons Learned Student Papers”** The US Army Maneuver Center of Excellence has several student papers written by combat veterans about many of the incidents portrayed in the movies <http://www.benning.army.mil/library/content/Virtual/Donovanpapers/wwii/index.htm>

**Films about the War in Europe:** Title (year released) {subject} References:

“A Walk in the Sun” (1945) {U.S. infantrymen, including Texans in the 36th Infantry Division, land in Italy and conduct a dangerous patrol.} Based on Harry Brown,. *A Walk in the Sun* [novel, 1944]

“The Story of G.I. Joe” (1945) {U.S. war correspondent Ernie Pyle accompanies American Army soldiers in Italy and writes about their experiences.} References: Based in part on Ernie Pyle, *Brave Men* [journalist’s book, 1944].

“Battleground” (1949) {American soldiers fight in the Battle of the Bulge, Ardennes Forest, 1944, the biggest American land battle of World War II.} References: Check Battle of the Bulge; Bastogne; books on soldiers; 101st Airborne Division; Ardennes campaign; also episodes in *Band of Brothers* HBO

“Go For Broke!” (1951) {Japanese American men enlist in the American Army and serve with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team against the Germans in Italy.} Check books by Broom, Daniels, Hayashi, Smith, and Yoo in “Home Front” references; memoirs by soldiers in the 442nd RCT.

“To Hell and Back” (1955) {A Texan, Audie Murphy, serves in the 3rd Infantry Division in Italy and France, 1943-45.} Based on Audie Murphy, *To Hell and Back* [memoir, 1949].

“The Young Lions” (1958) {A German soldier and two American Army soldiers, one of whom is Jewish, fight the war in Europe.} Based on Shaw, Irwin. *The Young Lions* [novel, 1948]. See also Deborah Moore, *G.I. Jews*

“The Longest Day” (1962) {Allied forces conduct ‘Operation Overlord’ and land in Normandy on ‘D-Day,’ 6 June 1944.} Based on Cornelius Ryan, *The Longest Day*

“Hell is for Heroes” (1962) {American Army infantrymen attack into Germany through the Siegfried defensive line, in 1944.}

“The Bridge at Remagen” (1969) {American Army units attempt to cross the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine River into Germany in 1945.} Based on Ken Hechler, *Bridge at Remagen* [

“A Bridge Too Far” (1977) {Including Americans led by Gen. Matthew Ridgway and Gen. James Gavin, the Allies launch ‘Operation Market-Garden,’ a huge airborne assault in Holland in 1944.} Based on Cornelius Ryan. *A Bridge Too Far*;

“The Big Red One” (1980) {A squad of American Army soldiers in the 1st Infantry Division campaigns from North Africa to Germany.}

**Films about the War in the Pacific:** Title (year released) {subject} References:

“Wake Island” (1942) {U.S. Marines defend Wake Island in 1941-42.}

“Guadalcanal Diary” (1943) {U.S. Marines land on the Japanese-held island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in 1942.} Based on Richard Tregaskis,. *Guadalcanal Diary* [journalist’s book, 1943]

“Gung Ho” (1944) {Trained by Evans Carlson, Marines conduct a raid on a small Japanese-held island [Makin?].}

“Back to Bataan” (1945) {Americans defend the Philippine Islands, 1941-42.}

“Objective Burma!” (1945) and/or “Merrill’s Marauders” (1962) {Elite American infantry conduct raids in Burma.} References: *Merrill’s Marauders* [unit history]; James Hopkins, *Spearhead* [memoir]; Charlton Ogburn, *The Marauders* [memoir]

“Sands of Iwo Jima” (1949) {U.S. Marines assault the Japanese-held atolls of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands and Iwo Jima in the Bonin Islands.}

“Halls of Montezuma” (1951) {U.S. Marines assault a large Japanese-held island [Okinawa?] in 1945.} References: E. B., Sledge, *With the Old Breed*

“The Naked and the Dead” (1958) {In 1942 American Army units campaign to take the Japanese-held island of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.} Based on Norman Mailer. *The Naked and the Dead* [novel, 1948]

“Flags of Our Fathers” (2006) {In 1945 U.S. Marines land on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima.}

#### **Films about the Air War:**

“Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo” (1944) {Led by Gen. James Doolittle, Americans launch a bombing raid on Tokyo in April 1942’}

“Command Decision” (1948) {The U.S. Eighth Air Force carries out an air bombardment of Germany.} Based on William W. Haines, *Command Decision* [novel, 1946]. Beirne Lay, *I’ve Had It* [memoir, 1945; reprint title, *Presumed Dead*];

“The War Lover” (1962) {The U.S. Eighth Air Force carries out an air bombardment of Germany.} Based on John Hersey, *The War Lover* [novel, 1959];

“Memphis Belle” (1990)\* {The U.S. Eighth Air Force carries out an air bombardment of Germany.} Should be contrasted with wartime documentary film “Memphis Belle” [1944].)

“Red Tails” and/or “The Tuskegee Airmen” (1995) {Black pilots fight racism at home and overseas while establishing a combat record against the Axis.}

#### **Films about the Navy:** Title (year released) {subject} References:

“They Were Expendable” (1945) {American patrol-torpedo [PT] boats enter combat during the early weeks of the war in the Pacific}

“Operation Pacific” (1951) {Plagued by technical problems with their torpedoes, U.S. submarines attack Japanese ships.}

“The Caine Mutiny” (1954) {In the Pacific, the erratic behavior of a ship’s captain tests the patience of his junior officers.} Based on Herman Wouk, *The Caine Mutiny* [novel, 1951].

“Run Silent, Run Deep” (1958) Based on Edward Beach, *Run Silent, Run Deep* [novel, 1955];

**Films about the Home Front:** Title (year released) {subject} References:

“Saboteur” (1942) {After being accused of sabotage, a worker in a California aircraft plant stumbles across a web of foreign agents.}

“The Human Comedy” (1943) {Family and friends in a small California town deal with the war—but without much comedy.} . 11

“Tender Comrade” (1943) {Five servicemen’s wives support the war by sharing rent on a house, rationing food, and finding jobs in war industries.}

“The Fighting Sullivans” (1944) {After growing up in Iowa, the five Sullivan brothers enlist in the Navy.}

“The House on 92nd Street” (1945) {German spies in New York City seek America’s atomic secrets.}

“The Clock” (1945) {An Army soldier falls in love with a girl while on a two-day pass in New York City.}

“A Soldier’s Story” (1984) {The murder of a black soldier at an Army post in the South reveals America’s racial tensions.}

“Swing Shift”\* (1984) {Women go to work in an aircraft factory in California.}

“American Pastime” (2006) {Removed from their homes and sent to a Federal government internment camp, Japanese Americans endure racism, humiliations, and hardships, but also play baseball.}

**Films about Veterans Returning Home:** Title (year released) {subject} References:

“Pride of the Marines” (1945) {After being badly wounded, a heroic Marine faces rehabilitating from wounds and returning to civilian life.}

“Till the End of Time”\* (1946). {Returning to the U.S.A., three veterans, including two who were wounded, begin to adjust to civilian life; \*released the same year as and should compared/contrasted with “The Best Years of Our Lives.”}

“Crossfire” (1947) {In Washington, D.C., Army veterans reflect stereotypes of anti-Semitism and problems adjusting to civilian life}

“The Men” (1950) {Wounded veterans, including some in wheelchairs, recover in a Veterans Administration hospital in California.} s

“Bright Victory” (1951) {Blinded in combat, a wounded Army veteran begins rehabilitation and social adjustments in a hospital in the States.}

“Man in the Gray Flannel Suit” (1956) {An Army veteran gets a job in New York City and adjusts to life in the suburbs—but experiences flashbacks to the war.}

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- Bartov, Omer. *Hitler's Army*. (R)
- Bergerud, Eric. *Touched with Fire: The Land War in the South Pacific*.
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Muirhead, John. *Those Who Fall*. [B-17 pilot]

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