



Only the battle scenes are realistic in this movie

Another Vietnam film? *Hamburger Hill* is hell

Hamburger Hill
Paramount Pictures
review by David Gates

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the movie theatres, out comes yet another Vietnam film. In the wake of the superb *Platoon* and the equally good *Full Metal Jacket* comes *Hamburger Hill*, a movie which comes up short.

Hamburger Hill is based on the true battle of a strategically crucial hill in South Vietnam's Ashau Valley in the spring of 1969. It focuses on a single platoon, and there is really no main star. They battle the fear of death, the North Vietnamese, and their own country which shows no appreciation and even hostility towards the soldiers. We follow the platoon throughout the ten-day siege and watch them as they grow closer together.

Hamburger Hill's main problem is the dia-

logue. The movie does succeed in being realistic, especially in the battle scenes. However, the dialogue fails terribly in telling the viewer just what is going on. It is impossible to figure out who is who — many of the characters were not given names — and this confusion for the viewer hinders the possibility of getting involved in the movie.

Particularly awful was the scene featuring a GI and a Vietnamese whore in a hot tub. The GI who previously had only uttered grunts and swears suddenly became Aristotle when the war was mentioned. "Our war?! We're fighting for democracy!" he philosophized.

However, *Hamburger Hill* is able to save itself through superb field shots by director John Irvin, some segments of great acting, good special effects and also a tremendous soundtrack of music from the late 1960s which adds much to the film.

Find somewhere to hide from this movie

Nowhere To Hide
Alliance Releasing
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by Dragos Ruiu

Story, stupid: Female Rambo's marine husband bites it when he discovers a coverup by the manufacturer of a helicopter. Manufacturer's thugs kill everyone in an attempt to get Rambolina. Finally, after Rambolina and pals (now dead) shoot many thugs, thugs kidnap Rambolina's son. She gets really pissed off. Audience wonders just how soon this film will be over.

Characters: unconvincing.

Lines: stilted.

Acting: non-existent.

Plot: a three year old can predict it.

Directing: pathetic.

Interest: none.

Budget: non-existent.

Really, this film sucks!

It looks like it would have been better off shot on video. The scenes all look like they were done on the first take. Even the supposedly advanced helicopters are inane: Jet Rangers with black plastic tubes tied on by tape which are supposed to be rocket launchers. You can still see the tape for chrissakes.

Oh, did I mention that the rocket tubes fire video-game photon torpedoes — but not until the action-packed conclusion. After all, those special effects cost at least a few cents.

There is no redeeming value to this movie at all. It is not even a classically bad movie like something on the order of *Plan 9 from Outer Space*. It's just plain bad. There is no reason to see it, much less make it. You can't even call it a violence exploitation film because the violence was too expensive to put in.

I wish I wasn't obligated to write a review about it. The less said the better.



Amy Madigan as the Rambo-esque heroine in a really bad movie.

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