



## World War II Movie List

*Battle of Britain* 1969 - G -132 mins.

After the fall of France during World War II, Britain stood alone awaiting the arrival of German forces. Against overwhelming odds, intrepid flyers of the RAF Fighter Command held the skies against Hitler's Luftwaffe and won a battle that changed the course of the war and history. In the words of Winston Churchill, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." (Netflix)

*Bridge Over the River Kwai* 1957 - PG -162 mins.

Director David Lean's sweeping epic is set in a Japanese World War II prison camp where British POWs are forced to construct a railway bridge as a morale-building exercise. Yet the real battle of wills is between "play by the rules" British colonel Nicholson (Alec Guinness), who is dedicated to the project, and his American rival (William Holden), who vows to destroy it. The POWs' whistling work theme became legendary (Netflix).

*Das Boot* 1982 - R - 282 mins.

Nominated for six Academy Awards, this edge-of-your-seat German-language triumph follows the trials of a German U-boat crew during World War II. Upon its restored re-release in 1997, an hour was added to the original film, which surprisingly augmented its impact. It also played as a six-hour German miniseries. In all its forms, the realistic and gripping battle scenes and palpable human struggle make *Das Boot* a critical hit (Netflix).

*Empire of the Sun* 1987 - PG - 152 mins

Jim, a British schoolboy living in Shanghai is separated from his parents in a panicked mob when the Japanese invade China at the beginning of World War II. Jim is eventually imprisoned in a work camp where he befriends an American hustler (John Malkovich) in this film about survival and courage based on J.G. Ballard's highly-regarded best-seller, drawn from Ballard's own childhood experiences at Lunghua during World War II (Residence Life Cinema).

*Flags of our Fathers* 2006 - R - 132 mins.

From director Clint Eastwood comes this riveting World War II drama that recounts the story of six soldiers instantly immortalized when they were photographed raising the American flag atop Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi. Based on the book of the same name, the film reconstructs the events that preceded and followed the snapshot that came to symbolize the U.S. troops' triumph and America's indestructible spirit. Ryan Phillippe and Barry Pepper star (Netflix).

*Grave of the Fireflies* 2004 Animated - NR - 88 mins.

Named Best Animated Feature at the 1994 Chicago International Children's Film Festival, this film proves that not all anime tales are pixie-dust fantasies or brutal sci-fi standoffs. Orphans Seita (voiced by Tsutomu Tatsumi) and Setsuko (Ayano Shiraishi) fight for survival in post-World War II Japan, but society is harsh. Soon, they come to the somber conclusion that they can neither escape the hardships of war nor find enough food to survive (Netflix).

*The Great Escape* 1963 - NR - 172 mins.

Director John Sturges's Oscar-nominated adventure classic follows the true tale of a group-escape attempt from one of Germany's toughest prisoner-of-war camps. Hundreds of Allied POWs join Roger "Big X" Bartlett (Richard Attenborough), Danny "The Tunnel King" Velinski (Charles Bronson) and Virgil "The Cooler King" Hiltz (Steve McQueen) -- who tries to jump a barbed-wire fence on a motorcycle -- in a quest for freedom (Netflix).

*Life is Beautiful* 1998 SUBTITLED/Italian - PG13 - 116 mins.

In this poignant tragicomedy, a clever Jewish-Italian waiter named Guido (Roberto Benigni, who won an Oscar for his role) is sent to a Nazi concentration camp during World War II, along with his wife (Nicoletta Braschi) and their young son (Giorgio Cantarini). Refusing to give up hope, Guido tries to protect his son's innocence by pretending that their imprisonment is an elaborate game, with the grand prize being a tank. Benigni also directed (Netflix).

*Letters from Iwo Jima* – 2007 - R - 140 mins.

As tens of thousands of Allied troops push further inland, the Japanese troops defending Iwo Jima during World War II prepare to meet their fate in this Clint Eastwood-directed Oscar nominee for Best Picture, a companion piece to his hit film *Flags of Our Fathers*. Japanese Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe) knows his men are outnumbered and, with no hope of rescue, that most will eventually die in battle -- or end up killing themselves (Netflix).

*The Longest Day* 1962 - G - 78 mins.

This film is a vivid, hour-by-hour recreation of the allied invasion of France, which marked the beginning of the end of Nazi domination over Europe. Featuring a stellar international cast, and told from the perspectives of both sides, it is a fascinating look at the massive preparations, mistakes, and random events that determined the outcome of one of the biggest battles in history. Winner of two 1962 Oscars, it is a truly great war film.

*Patton* 1970 - PG - 171 mins.

A critically acclaimed film that won a total of eight 1970 Academy Awards - including Best Picture. Patton is a riveting portrait of one of the 20th century's greatest military geniuses. One of the Oscars went to George Patton, the only Allied general truly feared by the Nazis. After D-Day, he led his troops in an unstoppable campaign across Europe. But he was rebellious as well insightful and his own volatile personality was the one enemy he could never defeat.

*Pearl Harbor* 2001 - PG13 - 183 mins.

Set during the time of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, two friends (Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett) are caught up in the events that draw the United States into World War II. One of them enlists with the U.S. Army Air Corps and the other flies for the British Royal Air Force, but they both find themselves in love with the same woman (Kate Beckinsale).

*Saving Private Ryan* 1998 - R - 169 mins.

As U.S. troops storm the beaches of Normandy, three brothers lie dead on the battlefield, with a fourth trapped behind enemy lines. Ranger captain Tom Hanks and seven men are tasked with penetrating German-held territory and bringing the boy home. Steven Spielberg and Janusz Kaminski paint a harrowing picture of the price of war and heroism (Netflix).

*The Thin Red Line* 1998 - R - 170 mins.

Director Terrence Malick's lyrical retelling of James Jones's novel about the bloody 1942 battle for Guadalcanal was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture. With narration from Pvt. Witt, the company becomes a tight-knit group as they face the horrors of war to hold onto a key-positioned airfield -- and their own sanity.

*The Tuskegee Airmen* 1995 - PG13 - 106 mins.

During the Second World War, a special project is begun by the US Army Air Corps to integrate African American pilots into the Fighter Pilot Program. Known as the "Tuskegee Airman" for the name of the airbase at which they were trained, these men were forced to constantly endure harassment, prejudice, and much behind the scenes politics until at last they were able to prove themselves in combat (Amazon.com).

### **Additional WWII Movies**

*A Midnight Clear* 1992 – R - 107 mins

Set in 1944 France, an American Intelligence Squad locates a German Platoon wishing to surrender rather than die in Germany's final war offensive. The two groups of men, isolated from the war at present, put aside their differences and spend Christmas together before the surrender plan turns bad and both sides are forced to fight the other.

*Anne Frank: The Whole Story* 2001 - TV Movie - 189 mins.

Based on Melissa Muller's book, Anne Frank goes beyond the story you already know and paints a portrait of Anne both before and after she went into hiding. Get to know the high-spirited and popular girl before the war, and experience the challenges of the brave people who risked their lives trying to keep her safe. Also explores the mystery of who betrayed the Frank family and what happened next.

*Band of Brothers* 2001 - TV Miniseries - 705 minutes (10 parts)

They depended on each other. And the world depended on them. The TV miniseries based on renowned WWII historian Stephen Ambrose's nonfiction book about an Army rifle company that parachuted into France on D-Day.

*Battle of the Bulge* 1965 - NR- 169 mins.

In December 1944, Nazi forces launch an expertly planned counteroffensive against Allied troops in Belgium. The brilliant strategist behind the attack is German Col. Martin Hessler (Robert Shaw), whose campaign may be thwarted by the dogged efforts of American intelligence officer Lt. Col. Daniel Kiley (Henry Fonda). Robert Ryan, Telly Savalas and Charles Bronson co-star in this gripping retelling of one of the crucial battles of World War II (Netflix).

*The Caine Mutiny* 1954 - NR - 125 mins.

Humphrey Bogart is heartbreaking as the tragic Captain Queeg in this 1954 film, based on a novel by Herman Wouk, about a mutiny aboard a navy ship during World War II. Stripped of his authority by two officers under his command (played by Van Johnson and Robert Francis) during a devastating storm, Queeg becomes a crucial witness at a court martial that reveals as much about the invisible injuries of war as anything. Edward Dmytryk (*Murder My Sweet*, *Raintree County*) directs the action scenes with a sure hand and nudges his all-male cast toward some of the most well-defined characters of 1950s cinema. The courtroom scenes alone have become the basis for a stage play (and a television movie in 1988), but it is a more satisfying experience to see the entire story in context (Tom Keogh).

*Enemy At The Gates* 2001 - R - 131 mins.

While the Nazi and Russian armies hurl rank after rank of soldiers at each other and the world fearfully awaits the outcome of the battle of Stalingrad, the celebrated Russian sniper, Vassili Zaitsev quietly stalks his enemies one man at a time. His fame, however, soon thrusts him into a duel with the Nazi's best sharpshooter, Major Konig, and the two find themselves waging an intense personal war while the most momentous battle of the age rages around them (Movie-Collection.com).

*The Final Countdown* 1980 - PG - 92 mins.

It is 1980 and the USS Nimitz puts to sea off of Pearl Harbor for routine exercises. After encountering a strange storm and losing all contact with the US Pacific Fleet, nuclear war with the Soviet Union is assumed and the USS Nimitz arms herself for battle. However, after encountering Japanese Zero scout planes and finding Pearl Harbor filled with pre-World War II battleships, it is realized that the storm caused the ship to travel back in time: to December 6th, 1941.

*For the Boys* 1991 - R - 145 mins.

With the help of the singer and dancer Dixie Leonhard, US-Entertainer Eddie Sparks wants to bring some fun to the soldiers during World War II. Becoming a perfect team they tour from North Africa to the Pacific to act for "the boys." Later they continue their work but when the author Silver gets involved, Dixie turns away from Eddie.

*The Guns of Navarone* 1962 - PG - 157 mins.

A British team is sent to cross occupied Greek territory and destroy the massive German gun emplacement that commands a key sea channel. Two powerful German guns control the seas past the Greek island of Navarone making the evacuation of endangered British troops on a neighboring island impossible. Air attack is useless so a team of six Allied and Greek soldiers is put ashore to meet up with partisans to try and dynamite the guns.

*The Hiding Place* 2005 – PG - 156 mins.

Corrie and Betsie ten Boom are middle-aged sisters working in their father's watchmaker shop in pre-WWII Holland. Caught hiding Jews in their attic, they are sent to a concentration camp, where their Christian faith keeps them from despair and bitterness. Betsie eventually dies, but Corrie survives, and after the war, must learn to love and forgive her former captors (Amazon.com).

*In Harm's Way* 1965 - NR - 176 mins

Acclaimed director Otto Preminger's star-studded World War II epic focuses on the direct effect the Pearl Harbor attack had on military lives. After a failed counterstrike on the Japanese, Capt. Torrey (John Wayne) gets shore duty, finds love with a nurse (Patricia Neal), reconciles with his son and is finally sent back to sea. The troubled Cmdr. Eddington (Kirk Douglas) complicates matters as Torrey faces the most important battle of his career (Netflix).

*Memphis Belle* 1990 - PG13 - 106 mins.

Ten of America's brightest young talents star in this panoramic and riveting tale of the young crew of the American B-17 Flying Fortress, which flew 25 heart-pounding missions over Nazi-occupied Germany during World War II.

*Midway* 1976 - PG - 132 mins.

A sprawling war film, *Midway* stars nearly every actor who wasn't in *A Bridge Too Far*. Charlton Heston, Toshirô Mifune, Robert Mitchum and Henry Fonda are among the familiar faces depicting the American and Japanese forces in a naval battle that became the turning point of the Pacific war. Using some real wartime footage, *Midway* provides an exciting view of a gigantic battle.

*My Dog Skip* 2000 – PG - 93 mins.

An only child, ignored at school and uncomfortable with girls, Willie Morris looks up to and confides in next-door neighbor Dink Jenkins, the town's star athlete, who goes off to war. On Willie's ninth birthday he is given Jack Russell terrier puppy that the delighted Willie names Skip. With Skip's canine help, Willie starts becoming "one of the boys." Then unexpectedly, Dink returns home. But the dark truth soon emerges: Dink, when confronted by the realities of war, went AWOL. In trying to reconcile his hero worship of the Dink with his disappointment in

the soldier, Willie begins to contend with the complexities of war and human conduct. Based on a true story.

*Sands of Iwo Jima* 1949 - NR - 109 mins.

In a role that defined John Wayne in the American mythos, the Duke plays Sgt. John Stryker, a tough-as-nails Marine charged with turning recruits into fighting men during World War II. Both Stryker's troops and his peers question his harsh methods, but the resolute Sarg turns a deaf ear. Director Allan Dwan's Academy Award-nominated war drama is punctuated with real combat footage, and the flag-raising scene on Mount Suribachi hypnotizes.

*Schindler's List* 1995 (Black & White) - R - 193 mins.

Based on a true story and adapted from Thomas Keneally's 1982 award-winning book, a German businessman (Liam Neeson) overcomes unbelievable odds to protect and rescue more than 1100 Jews from Auschwitz in this World War II epic drama of faith and survival (Residence Life Cinema).

*The Summer of My German Soldier* 1978 - TV Movie - 100 mins.

Patty Bergen is a teenager in a Jewish family living in the American South during World War II. When her town becomes host to a prisoner of war camp, a young German soldier escapes. Patty ends up harboring him from his captors, and, in the way of many adolescents, falls in love with him. Patty knows what she is risking to help him, but in his company she feels important, special, and respected as she has never been. In the end, his regard lifts her self-esteem and helps her to face the heartbreaking events to come. – from Amazon.com

*Twelve O'Clock High* 1949 - NR - 132 mins.

This gritty World War II action drama is seen as one of the most realistic portrayals of the heroics and perils of war. Convinced an air force commander is at the breaking point, Brigadier General Savage takes over his struggling bomber group. Kind and understanding, he adopts a crushing discipline to revitalize the demoralized troop. At first resentful and rebellious, the flyers gradually change as Savage guides them to amazing feats. But the stress of command soon takes its toll and the weary general reaches his own breaking point.

*White Light, Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki* 2007 - NR - 86 mins.

Through the powerful recollections of atomic bomb survivors, this new film by Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Steven Okazaki presents a deeply moving look at the painful legacy of the first -- and hopefully last -- uses of thermonuclear weapons in war.