

Document Citation

Title	A Yank takes a right turn on the Burma Road
Author(s)	Louise Levitas
Source	<i>New York PM</i>
Date	1942 Jan 29
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	A Yank on the Burma Road, Seitz, George B., 1942

A Yank Takes a Right

Turn on the Burma Road

PM Reviews ✓

P.M. 1/29/44

A YANK ON THE BURMA ROAD, an MGM picture at the Criterion, with Laraine Day, Barry Nelson, Keye Luke and Sen Yung. Screenplay by Gordon Kahn, Hugo Butler and David Lang. Directed by George B. Seitz.

This is a movie with its heart in the right place, entertaining the customers—and never mind the fancy camera angles. Though it's called *A Yank on the Burma Road*, and is the first movie to have Pearl Harbor in its dialogue, it understands, above all the implications, how to be a good adventure story. It starts smack in the middle of a shooting spree and never slows down until its final shooting spree against the China-invading Japanese.

Not that the story pattern is any novelty. There have been other movies about the Burma Road, and other romances like the one you'll find here. Where this movie shines is in its topical hero, Joe Tracey (Barry Nelson), a Manhattan cab driver who wins ephemeral fame by kayoing a couple of Mad Dog killers. Besides the vaudeville turns and other incidental gravy usually enjoyed by such one-day heroes, Joe's rewards include the well-paying job of ferrying trucks to China along the Burma Road.

To a wise guy like Joe, the Burma Road is no different from Broadway, except maybe a little more torn up. Japanese lines don't stop him any more than a red light does on Times Square. When a dame pops up in Rangoon, looking for a flag-up lift to Chungking, Joe makes a play for her just as he

might for a dame hooking a free ride to Brooklyn. (And here the soundtrack treats you to his and her down-to-earth stream of consciousness, as they spar.)

A movie so honestly constructed doesn't have to do any flag-waving or make any speeches. It just happens that Mr. Tracey is the spit and image of an average American. So it's all the more satisfying for the rest of us Yanks when he gets hunk with the Mad Dog killers of the Burma Road.

—LOUISE LEVITAS.