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STEEL HELMET, THE, U.S.A., 1951

Certificate: A. Distributors: Exclusive. Production Company: Lippert. Produced, directed and written by: Samuel Fuller. Photography: Ernest W. Miller. Editor: Philip Cahn. Art Director: Theodore Holsopple. Music: Paul Dunlap. Leading Players: Gene Evans (Sergeant Zack), Robert Hutton (Pte. Bronte), Richard Loo (Sgt. Tanaka), Steve Brodie (Lieut. Driscoll), James Edwards (Corp. Thompson), Sid Melton (Second G.I.), Richard Monahan (Pte. Baldy). 7,589 ft. 84 mins.

A topical war drama of the Korean conflict, telling of a lost pairol in the jungle trying to contact the main force of the U.S. Army. They are ambushed by snipers and eventually find their way, accompanied by a native boy ("Friend, South Korean!"), to a temple where they take refuge and set up their radio transmitters. Spied upon by a "Red" major they eventually take him prisoner and Zack, the tough sergeant, shoots him when he laughs after the death of the Korean boy. They are besieged by the enemy, many of the patrol being killed, but finally there is an advance on the whole front in which the few survivors join. Quickly made, with the accent on its topicality, The Steel Helmet is inevitably a rough job. Much of the film bears evidence of having been shot in the studio, and the jungle sequences in particular fail to ring true. The approach to war is tough and bloodthirsty. Suitability: A. II.

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