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The GREEN SHEET—March 15, 1957
★ MEN IN WAR (UA)

Producer: Sidney Harmon. Director: Anthony Mann. Photography: Ernest Haller. Music: Elmer Bernstein. Source: Screenplay by Philip Yordan. Based on the novel "Combat" by Van Van Praag. Leading Flayers: ROBERT RYAN, ALDO RAY, Robert Keith, Philip Pine, Vic Morrow. 104 min.

PLOT: An American infantry platoon, cut off from its battalion, takes a hill held by Korean communists in an effort to get back to the Army lines.

ESTIMATES AGREE WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS:

This black and white film, showing one platoon's two-day action, projects all of the intensity and horror of war. Inching their way through mined fields, and barren, rocky terrain, crawling with snipers, the hopeless men fight against panic, deadening their fear by shifting all responsibility to their exhausted Lieutenant. Based on a Van Praag novel, the screenplay by Philip Yordan, has excellent photography, pertinent incidental music, and good performances by an all-male cast. The sparse dialogue, the moments of unearthly stillness, the figures and foliage that barely seem to stir but are alive with treachery—all build up terrific tension. The writers have given us some original and interesting people: an immobile, shell-shocked Colonel and the tough Sergeant who cares for him with devotion and tenderness; the humane Lieutenant whose loyalty goes to his men and who hates the Sergeant as a killer; the Negro, a fine man and a courageous soldier, and all the well defined minor characters. This is a study of war—its power intensified by Anthony Mann's superb direction, a drumbeat score, and a fine cast headed by Robert Ryan, Robert Keith, Aldo Ray and James Edwards.

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DAR, GFWC withholds star rating and rates this picture

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