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Kent Sommer-Edstrøm has a Cand. Mag. in History and Cultural Encounters from the University of Roskilde, Denmark and a B.A. in History and Nordic Languages from the University of Volda, Norway. He wrote his Cand. Mag. dissertation on how disclosure of atrocities and war crimes affected movie making about the Second Indochina war, during both the war years and the years afterwards. Main historical interests are the cold war, and movies, literature and pop culture from 1945 to 2000, a subject he is highly knowledgeable and passionate about.

War movies and commemoration – How movies can function as tools for remembrance

This paper asks the question how war movies can function as tools for remembrance, and to what extent they can be viewed as valuable commemorative pieces for war veterans.

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the co-existence between pop culture and history, and how war movies can be viewed in a historical and cultural context.

The paper has focused on movies from the Second Indochina war, given the long history of movie making about the subject, and the amount of movies made about the war.

From the *Green Berets* (1968) to *Da 5 Bloods* (2020) the Vietnam War has been able to amaze, terrify and shock moviegoers for the last fifty years, and continues to be a somewhat relevant pop cultural phenomenon.

The paper has through analyses of movie reviews, first-hand accounts and literature about the war sought to gain an understanding on how veterans view the depiction of soldiers in combat on film, and how they feel represented by them.

The paper has shown how war veterans feel a connection to these movies, and, albeit not every movie has the same historically correct depictions of the battlefield how they still manage to bring out emotions in the viewer, either good or bad. As depictions of war the movies can give the veteran a feeling of representation by triggering a sense of familiarity with the actors, set and locations on the screen. This in turn can bring out old memories and long forgotten feelings in the viewer, thus providing a valuable, sometimes catharsising experience for the veteran.

Considering this it can be concluded that war movies inherit both historical value and pop cultural significance, and as such can be used commemoratively by veterans.