

Movie Review

"Never Surrender" (DVD) 2016

The Ed Ramsey Story

Executive Producers: Raquel R. Ramsey and Steven C. Barber

Director: Matthew Hausle

Writer/Editor: John Travers

Narrator: Josh Brolin

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Ed Ramsey is one of the U.S. Army's mostly forgotten dynamic warrior-leaders of World War II. If you have read The Doomed Horse Soldiers of Bataan or The Twilight Riders—stories of the 26th U.S. Cavalry (Philippine Scouts)—then you know he led the last horse-mounted charge of the U.S. Cavalry. Additionally, if you have read Lieutenant Ramsey's War you know his exploits leading Filipino guerilla forces as they fought against the Japanese occupation forces. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by General Douglas MacArthur for his actions.

This movie describes how he was molded to be a courageous and take-charge officer in the face of the hell of war. It is his life story, from beginning to end, as told by his family and friends (American, Filipino, and Japanese), schoolmates, fellow soldiers, business associates, and others.

Ramsey, born 9 May 1917 in Carlyle, Illinois, grew up in El Dorado and Wichita, Kansas. He and his older sister, Nadine, were very close. She was ambitious, smart, and wanted to be a pilot. His mother had been a teacher but became a dermatologist and business owner to be able to afford to send her children to college. His father, whom he loved and admired, worked in the oil fields which took him away from home most of the time. Around 1929, when Ed was 12, his father's mental state began to change, and he suspected his wife of cheating on him which led to fighting and him pulling a shotgun on her. He was arrested and jailed where he committed suicide.

Ed, without his father to be his role model, had pain and suffering. He became defiant and was close to becoming a juvenile delinquent. He hung out with bootleggers and developed a passion for moonshine and women. By age 16 he was a tough guy, able to take care of himself in a fight, and earning extra money teaching young men how to foxtrot. He was an expert dancer which attracted girls and women.

Like every loving mother, Ed's sought a way to channel his development away from the evil temptations that surrounded his life. Knowing Ed loved horses, she enrolled him in the Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA) which had Cavalry and through which he could develop his character foundation and his love of horses. Per Ed, he "snapped it up in a hurry." The military discipline at OMA gave Ed the opportunity to be someone. He learned he was a natural leader, as he was not controlling, could handle any situation, and that people looked up to him for direction. And, he got to ride horses! Ed discovered polo and that it fit his character. Polo is fast, furious, aggressive, dangerous, risky, and exciting. It required teamwork between the horse and rider while developing a special bond between the horse and rider. He became an expert polo player. And he learned that as a cavalryman his horse was his "battle buddy." When he graduated from OMA he was commissioned a second lieutenant of Cavalry in the Army Reserve.

Ed's leadership in combat was nothing but amazing. After the war, he pursued a career in civilian industry where his leadership was again displayed. He was compassionate and forgiving. He demonstrated his compassion for the Filipino soldiers who served alongside U.S. soldiers during the war by persistently and successfully fighting for them to receive their promised benefits

from the U.S. Government. His success in the business world was international and reflected his forgiveness as his career included living with his family and working in Japan for five years where he made many friends among the Japanese people which demonstrated his forgiving characteristic. And, he was the father to his children that he did not experience himself.

I could go further about Ed's life, but I will leave it for you to see the movie from which I believe you will be equally amazed at the life of this man. I recommend "Never Surrender" as it covers the life of a remarkable man.

[Ed. The "Never Surrender" DVD is available from USCA for \$19.95 + shipping. Please call 405-422-6330 to order.]

