

DVD press release



The COI Collection – Films from Britain Volume Three: They Stand Ready

Following films on crime and policing, fashion, design and architecture, the third release in the BFI's DVD series of historical films made by the Central Office of Information takes a look at Britain's Armed Forces.

To help paint a positive picture of life in the Services, the COI produced morale-boosting documentaries, propaganda items and numerous recruitment films aimed at men and women, which placed emphasis on escaping the hum-drum of daily life. Join the Services, they say, and a world of opportunity awaits you!

Viewed today, many of these films offer a fascinating snapshot of mid to late twentieth century Britain; some reinforce decades of prevailing social mores and others reflect changing social attitudes. All show skilful and imaginative filmmaking and are both informative and wonderfully entertaining.

Among the highlights of the 23 films spanning 1946-1985 included in this 2-disc set are: *Victory Parade* (1946) in which troops from all over the British Empire arrive in London to celebrate victory over the Nazis; *They Stand Ready* (1955), a look at the vital role of National Service; *Suez in Perspective* (1957), where the Suez Crisis is given a positive spin; *Routine Adventure* (1965), about the RAF's role in Aden; *When You Wake Up* (1974), a recruitment film for schoolgirls which attempts to lure them into the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC), typing skills an advantage; *HMS Sheffield* (1975) and *Tornado* (1985), big boys' toys on the high seas and in the skies. See page 2 for complete film listing.

Special features

- *Egypt Today: The Anglo-French Aggression Against Egypt* (1956), a very different story is told in this Egyptian response to British Suez propaganda
- Illustrated booklet with comprehensive contextualising film notes and essays

Interview opportunities

BFI experts can talk or write about these films. The COI can be contacted directly.

About the COI

Established in 1946, the COI was a successor to the wartime Ministry of Information and was responsible for producing thousands of films that celebrated Britain, its people and their achievements. The COI film collection is preserved by the BFI National Archive in collaboration with COI and The National Archives (TNA).

Release date: 19 July 2010

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD882 / E

UK / 1946 - 1985 / b&w, and colour / English, optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 264 mins / DVD-9 x 2 / original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)
BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Filmstore
Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

Press contact: Jill Reading, BFI Press Office

Tel: (020) 7957 4759 or e-mail jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Images are available at www.image.net

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Disc One

Victory Parade (1946)
Men of the World (1950)
Eagles of the Fleet (1950)
Out of the Groove (1950)
They Stand Ready (1955)
Suez in Perspective (1957)
Musicians in the Making (1958)
Military Policeman (1961)
Ten Foot Tall (1964)
Winged Horizons (1965)
Egypt Today: Anglo-French Aggression Against Egypt (1956)

Disc Two

Voyage North (1965)
Routine Adventure (1965)
Army Summer of 1968 (1968)
Exercise Enterprise (1968)
Best of Both Worlds (1971)
Community Relations Officer (1974)
When You Wake Up (1974)
Ark Royal (c.1970)
HMS Sheffield (1975)
Tornado Trailer (1985)
Royal Navy Amazon (c.1980)
Tornado (1985)

About the BFI

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archive, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you. To find out more go to www.bfi.org.uk

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