Film review assignment

Once in a generation, the film industry pulls together its corporate resources in order to pay homage to significant event of US history. Even in our digital world, the important lessons of the past, those which have formed our nation, need to be brought back to the silver screen in order to remind us of our heritage, and of the price we have paid in order to earn the leadership position which the US holds in the world community. Saving Private Ryan is such a movie.

Saving Private Ryan is, at its heart, a fictional account of a real life soldier. Private James Ryan was one of 4 brothers involved in the European theater. His 3 older brothers were all casualties of the D-Day invasion, and the war department did want to bring him home to his family. However, the real live Ryan wandered into an allied command center a few days after the invasion. He was not the object of a search party, and did not directly cause the conflict of man vs. mission portrayed by Tom Hanks as Captain . Rather, his story became the backdrop to create the images which were built for the silver screen. His BIs stHis His sotry His story 5h5s 1f23a-1f23sa1f23sa1f23-sa1f23-sa1f23-sa1f23-sastory allowed director Steven Spielberg to tell a much larger story of the bravery and humanity of the men who fought and died in order to establish the D-Day beachhead, and begin the ending of a War which was consuming the world.

This cast for this film was lead by Tom Hanks, and with few cameo appearances by other strong leads, the rest of the cast was filled by relatively unknown actors. This approach to this film is an accurate reflection of the war itself, with a few strong men leading squads of unknown, nameless GI's across the European continent. The film covered the first few days of the D-Day landing and march inland, and is masterfully told. The

battle scene on the beach is gruesome, and what may have been previously unknown to this generation, as realistic of a recreation of the D-Day landing as has been created. The soldiers found that they were stepping into a 'meat grinder' or a 'firing squad. The mission of was to take the beach, and move inland, and the American fighting man had been trained to accomplish its mission. However, the movie is much more than gun fighting, and grenades. The film begins with an image of James Ryan as an old man, walking through the cemetery at Normandy on the 40'Th anniversary of the landing. He is trailed, somewhat intrepidly by his family at a distance. His presence as an elder man is evidence of the sacrifice which is painted across the acres of green rolling hills. White crosses and Jewish stars are arranged in need rows as far as the eyes can see. As the viewer soon learns these are more than masonry crosses to the elder Ryan. These were men, giving their lives for his. They lived through the most difficult of circumstances in order, not to become victorious and create an empire for their host country, but to secure freedom and liberty for those who were being crushed under the Nazi war machine. At the same time that their efforts fleshed out a clash of political wills, their fight was not one of country against country. They fought man against man. They fought across hills and country side and at other times building to building, and hand to hand. The men who lived through, and those who lost their lives in this great conflict, truly earned the monachre the 'greatest generation.'

Saving Private Ryan is a masterfully directed and produced movie. The film won numerous awards and has replaced its predecessor The Longest Day as this countries tribute to the WWII effort and generation. As a movie goer, this movie escorts the viewer past the years which separate our generation from

the efforts of these brave men, and help today's citizen understand the

sacrifice of average men gave us the opportunity to live free today, and their

efforts, as individuals and as an army, should never forgotten.