



## **Fury (2014)**

(Brad Pitt, Shia LeBeouf, et al)

Deep into Nazi Germany, a Sergeant Tank Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Division (aka 'Hell on Wheels' Division) and several of his troops engage in several missions with the enemy. Their Sherman Tank (nick-named 'Fury') whilst inferior to the German Tiger Tank (within the Panzer Corp) in terms of armour, is led by a courageous, tough talking, and experienced leader.

Brad Pitt has a similar style at first to his Inglorious Bastards role with his Nazi hating tongue; but we can see differences in this role and for me that makes this performance much smoother. Shia LeBeouf and his catchy/entertaining roles in Transformers seems all grown up and playing a serious role; so once we get over the absence of wise-cracks and understand he is serious, we can blend him into the movie seamlessly – good job LeBeouf.

Watch the official trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OGvZoIrXpg>

To tell a story adequately we often see a seasoned expert coupled with a green novice and this movie is no different – how many times do you see a cop movie with a 20 year veteran teamed up with a new recruit or someone fresh out of the academy? Answer: lots. This is because the novice can grow through this 2.5 hour film; he can ask questions of the experienced Sergeant and he can be taught the ways of the world; in this case: tank fighting and the killing of Nazi's. Hey we all have to start somewhere.

Pitt's character has a serious dislike for Waffen SS (Schutzstaffel known as a Defence Corp or Protection Squad) and this is demonstrated throughout the film. The scenes have all dark colours of military browns and greys; what we would imagine war colours to be like in the Rhine in those days; coupled with images of war dead. Scenes of a bulldozer moving decimated bodies and tank tracks pushing bodies further into the mud delivers a powerful picture to the viewer.

The last battle is one for the ages – the Tank Commander and his men against the seasoned Protection Squad of the Nazi's. The movie teeters on balance between glorifying war and protesting it; I'm not sure which way really it was heading with that premise and I think that was one of the strengths of this film – leave the viewer to ponder and think on its meaning.

This is a great war movie where the Director has tried to do something different with the battle scenes and imagery of war; it's refreshing story-telling and

# Death Railway

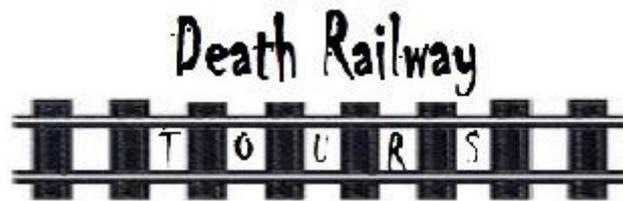
## TOURS

angles give it 'believability'; as does the timeline at the end of the film when the SS are circling.

A couple of tid bits from the movie:

- The Assault Rifle carried by Brad Pitt is a German made Sturmgewehr 44 also known as a StG 44.
- Wardaddy's pistol is a Smith & Wesson M1917, issued primarily in WWI to supplement the standard issue Colt M1911, which was in short supply. They were also issued on a limited basis to second-line and non-deployed troops during WWII.
- The weapon 'Wardaddy' referred to as a "grease gun" in the final battle scene was a M3 submachine gun.
- The Sherman tanks seen in this movie were considered the weakest of tanks at that time period. However, the L55 M1A2 76mm gun mounted on Fury was capable of penetrating the front armour of the Tiger tank at ranges up to 700 meters, further if HVAP ammo was used. Also, since the side armour of a Tiger is actually thinner (60mm vs 80mm) than the rear armour, an experienced tank commander would fire at the side armour of the Tiger, given the chance.





References:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2713180/>

Wikipedia