



The Dirty Dozen

Main Facts

- Made: 1967
- PRODUCTION COMPANY: MGM
- Directed by: Robert Aldrich
- Written By: Nunnally Johnson
- Starring: Ernest Borgnine, Lee Marvin, Jim Brown, Charles Bronson
- Genre: War/Action

Major Plot Points

- A Major with an attitude problem and a history of getting things done is told to interview military prisoners with death sentences or long terms for a dangerous mission; To parachute behind enemy lines and cause havoc for the German Generals at a rest house on the eve of D-Day. (IMDB)

Financials

- Budget: 5,000,000 (Estimated)
- Money Made: 45,300,000
- Special Costs: No extra costs

Quotes

- Major John Reisman: Well, I can't think of a better way to fight a war.
- Victor R. Franko: Hey! What's the matter with you? You think I want to die? Ha! If you think that then you don't know Victor Franko.
- Major John Reisman: You've seen a general inspecting troops before haven't you? Just walk slow, act dumb and look stupid!
- Maggot: It's judgment day, sinners! Come out, come out wherever you are!

Historical/Cultural Significance

- Based during World War II
- Made shortly before the start of Vietnam, made to reinforce commitment of military, particularly the soldiers themselves. Don't be a hippy, be a soldier.

Filming Information

- Filming location(s): Various locations around England
- Advances made in film: None
- Source Material: Based on the novel by EM Nathanson, same name. Based on a real group called the Filthy Thirteen.

Composition/Music Notes

- Mixture of music from various songwriters, including John Philips Sousa and Frank De Vol.

Inane Trivia

Charles Bronson was so angry with Lee Marvin for constantly turning up dead drunk that he threatened to punch the star.

Production on the film ran for so long that Jim Brown was in danger of missing training camp for the up-coming 1965-1966 football season. As training camp and the NFL season approached, the NFL threatened to fine and suspend Brown if he did not leave filming and report to camp immediately. Not one to take threats, Brown simply held a press conference to announce his retirement from football. At the time of his retirement, Brown was considered to be one of the best in the game and even today is considered to be one of the NFL's all-time greats.

Charles Bronson's character says his father was a coal miner from Silesia (an area of Poland known for its coal mining). In real life, this is true. Bronson's (real name: Charles Buchinsky) father was a coal miner from Lithuania, and Bronson himself worked in the mines as a boy in Pennsylvania.

Accolades

- ◉ **Won**
Oscar
- ◉ Best Effects, Sound Effects
John Poyner
- ◉ **Nominated**
Oscar
- ◉ Best Actor in a Supporting Role
John Cassavetes
- ◉ Best Sound
- ◉ Best Film Editing
Michael Luciano