F5445 FIGHTING MAD (PHILIPPINES, 1977)
(Other titles: Death force; Fierce)

Credits: director, Cirio H. Santiago; writer, Howard R. Cohen.
Cast: James Inglehart [credited as Iglehart], Carmen Argenziano, Leon Isaac Kennedy [credited as Leon Isaac], Jayne Kennedy.

Summary: Action/adventure/revenge melodrama set in the Philippines and Los Angeles in the early 1970s. A trio of American NCOs – Morelli (Argenziano), McGee (Isaac), and Doug Russel (Inglehart) - smuggle a load of heroin from Vietnam to the Philippines in one casket among a load of bodies they are escorting home. They rendezvous with Philippine gangsters at sea and sell their cargo. On the boat trip back, Morelli and McGee turn on Russel (because he does not want to participate in their long term criminal plans), stabbing him and throwing him overboard. Russel washes ashore, barely alive, on an island inhabited by a pair of Japanese soldiers who believe they are still fighting World War II. The Japanese mend his wounds and teach him martial arts and sword fighting. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Morelli and McGee are conducting an aggressive and successful campaign to take over the local rackets. McGee also puts a move on Russel's wife (Kennedy). Russel is eventually found by the Philippine military and returns to Los Angeles. There he learns what his ex-partners have been up to and begins a campaign of revenge, slicing up various gangsters with his samurai sword. When his wife and son are kidnapped by the gangsters, Russel comes to their rescue in a final showdown with his erstwhile betrayers.

Book of video lists 1988, (p. 213)
Devine, Jeremy M. Vietnam at 24 frames a second [GB] (p. 120)
Lanning, Michael Lee. Vietnam at the movies [GB] (p. 217)
Weldon, Michael. The psychotronic video guide New York : St. Martin’s Griffin, 1996, (p. 204)
Williams, Tony. “Fighting mad” Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 198)