T7600  LA 317e  [i.e. TROIS CENT DIX SEPTIEME] SECTION
(FRANCE, 1964)
(Other titles: Platoon 317; Sangre en Indo-China; Three hundred seventeenth section; Three seventeenth platoon)

Credits: director/writer, Pierre Schoendoerffer.
Cast: Jacques Perrin, Bruno Cremer, Pierre Fabre, Manuel Zarzo.
Summary: War film set in Laos in May 1954. Follows a French/Laotian platoon during May 1954 (two months before the armistice) as they withdraw through the jungle after the fall of Dien Bien Phu. They are slowly annihilated by ambushes and disease. The film captures the inarticulate anguish and solitude of each man by focusing on a veteran Alsatian sergeant (who fought in the German army in World War II) and a young French officer fresh from military school. Their impersonal, hierarchical and sometimes hostile relationship develops into an unlikely friendship. Both the director Pierre Shoendoerffer and the photographer Raoul Coutard were veterans of the Indochina war.

Daniel, Joseph. Guerre et cinema [GB] (p. 365-7, 405)
Dembrow, Michael (see under Farrell, Alan)
[317e section] [Interview with Schoendorffer] Cahiers du cinema 168 (Jul 1965), p. 54.

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