**V7490 VOLUNTEERS (USA, 1985)**

**Credits:** director, Nicholas Meyer; writers, Ken Levine, David Isaacs; story, Keith Critchlow.

**Cast:** Tom Hanks, John Candy, Rita Wilson, Tim Thomerson, Gedde Watanabe.

**Summary:** Comedy film set in contemporary Thailand. Lawrence Bourne, 3rd (Hanks) is a spoiled rich kid who gets in over his head with his bookie. After his father refuses to help him out, Lawrence escapes his angry debtors by jumping on a Peace Corp flight to Southeast Asia, where he is assigned to build a bridge for the local villagers with American-As-Apple-Pie WSU Grad Tom Tuttle (Candy) and the beautiful and down-to-earth Beth Wexler (Wilson). What they don’t realize is that the bridge is coveted by the U.S. Army, a local Communist force, and a powerful drug lord. Together with the help of At Toon, the only English-speaking native, they must fight off the three opposing forces and find out what is right for the villagers, as well as themselves. Identified as a Vietnam film by Lanning in *Vietnam at the movies*. The CIA, Air America and the Special Forces are depicted as supporting the opium trade. “U.S. military personnel are portrayed as corrupt, idiotic warmongers” (Lanning, p. 344)


Carr, Jay. “‘Volunteers’ the comedy we’ve been waiting for” *Boston globe* (Aug 16, 1985), Arts and film, p. 44.


Denby, David. [Volunteers] *New York* (Sep 9, 1985), p. 79. [Reprinted in *Film review annual 1986*]


Fiorillo, C. M. “Volunteers” *Films in review* 36 (Nov 1985), p. 554. [Reprinted in *Film review annual 1986*]

Goldstein, Patrick. [Volunteers] *Los Angeles times* (Aug 16, 1985), Calendar, p. 4. [Reprinted in *Film review annual 1986*]


Lally, Kevin. “Volunteers” Film journal 88 (Sep 1985), p. 36.
   [Reprinted in Film review annual 1986]
   [Reprinted in Film review annual 1986]
   [Reprinted in Film review annual 1986]
   [Volunteers] [director’s comments] Screen international n. 511 (Aug 24, 1985), p. 78.
   [Reprinted in Film review annual 1986]

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