

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 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)

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