

## W3085 WE WERE SOLDIERS (USA, 2002)

**Credits:** director/writer, Randall Wallace ; story, Hal Moore.

**Cast:** Mel Gibson, Jesu Garcia, Mark McCracken, Madeline Stowe.

**Summary:** War film set in the U.S. and South Vietnam in the early 1960s. Lt. Col. Hal Moore (Gibson) is the commander of the First Battalion, Seventh Cavalry. As part of the Pleiku Campaign of late 1965, Moore's battalion is sent to Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley. It is an area known to be occupied by North Vietnamese troops and nicknamed "The Valley of Death" since a defeat suffered there by French forces more than a decade earlier. Moore and his men are rapidly surrounded by 2,000 NVA troops in an area about the size of a football field. What follows will become the first major American engagement of the Vietnam War. Heroism is the order of the day as Moore's men refuse to yield, despite heavy casualties. American air and artillery support stem the North Vietnamese attacks.

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