



FILM: **THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE**

FDG RATING: 3.1 ☺☺☺○○

Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

Guy Ritchie: *director, co-writer*

Henry Cavill: *actor, Gus March-Phillips*

DATE: June 23, 2024

DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE**

Directed, co-written and co-produced by Guy Ritchie, *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* is a 2024 spy action comedy film that focuses on the 1942 Operation Postmaster and depicts real events and individuals involved.

In late 1941, during World War II, the United Kingdom struggled to halt Nazi Germany's attempts to take over Europe. London was regularly being bombed. With their supply and aid ships constantly sunk by German submarines, Brigadier Colin Gubbins, with the indirect backing of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, prepared to initiate Operation Postmaster, an off the books black-ops sabotage mission intended to disrupt the Nazis' U-boat resupply operation. Gubbins enlists Gus March-Phillips to recruit a small group of rogue, highly skilled soldiers to strike against German forces behind enemy lines and destroy the Italian supply ship *Duchessa d'Aosta* and two tugboats attached to it.

The top-secret combat unit uses unconventional techniques which one discussion participant said reminded her of a Rambo movie. A bit cartoonish trying to be like a James Bond film, was another comment. Lots of gratuitous violence in the opinion of another discussion participant. Others disagreed explaining that they liked the over-the-top action and exaggeration which kept them continuously engaged. It was an historically horrible episode that the film, in a way, didn't take seriously. Kill the bad guys summed it up, according to another discussion participant. A favorite part was when the Nazis "get it". More positive reactions pointed to the introduction of the characters, all misfits, wonderfully flawed with extreme eccentricities adding a bit of comic relief. A critical reaction was to the portrayal of the Germans as dull witted, roaring stereotypes who presented no challenge at all, virtually begging to be killed.

Ultimately successful, the team delivers the boats to a British fleet outside Lagos, but they are arrested. While waiting to be court-martialed, they are saved and recruited by Churchill as part of his 'Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare', as their actions have not only severely damaged the Nazis' naval strength, but also have allowed the United States, which recently entered the war following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, to join the European theatre.

Those who liked all the extreme action gave the film high marks but others weren't impressed resulting in a polite 3.1 on our scale of 1 to 5. (5 is the best.)



See you at the movies!

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