

## **It's official: *ZULU* is the Forces' favourite war film**

How do you really find out which is the best war film ever made? Forget asking a film critic, go straight to those who should know. A survey conducted by British Forces Broadcasting Service Television (BFBS TV) has shown that the most popular war film of all time amongst the British Forces worldwide is the 1964 classic *ZULU*\*

These results illustrate that the British Forces have a very different idea as to what makes a great war film in comparison with the general public. When the British people voted for Channel 4's 100 Greatest War Films, in 2005, *Zulu* was only voted 8th. Similarly, *The Cruel Sea* (1952) was placed 41st by the general public but was ranked 7th by the British Forces.

It's a tribute to *Zulu*'s iconic status that the vast majority of those serving on the frontline in Afghanistan today were not even born when it was made. *Saving Private Ryan* (1998) and *A Bridge Too Far* (1977) were ranked second and third respectively.

General Sir Mike Jackson, former Chief of the General Staff, was torn between *A Bridge Too Far*, *The Longest Day*, and *Saving Private Ryan*. Whilst the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jonathan Band, chose *Tora! Tora! Tora!* which didn't make it into the Top 20. BFBS TV will be showing the top three films on consecutive nights from 1st February.

\* The top 20 war films as voted for by the British Forces are as follows:

1. *Zulu* (1964)
2. *Saving Private Ryan* (1998)
3. *A Bridge Too Far* (1977)
4. *Full Metal Jacket* (1987)
5. *The Great Escape* (1963)
6. *Platoon* (1986)
7. *The Cruel Sea* (1953)
8. *The Longest day* (1962)
9. *Enemy At The Gates* (2001)
10. *Ice Cold In Alex* (1958)
11. *We Were Soldiers* (2002)
12. *Black Hawk Down* (2001)
13. *Apocalypse Now* (1979)
14. *Das Boot* (1981)
15. *Kelly's Heroes* (1970)
16. *Schindler's List* (1993)
17. *Cross of Iron* (1977)
18. *The Dam Busters* (1954)
19. *Where Eagles Dare* (1968)
20. *Battle of Britain* (1969)

BFBS TV delivers its channels via DTT transmitters in most areas of Iraq and Afghanistan, so that service personnel can watch TV anywhere that there is a power source, rather than being limited to a communal TV in a mess tent. British Forces can watch BFBS TV via an inexpensive freeview style box in their own tent or on their laptop with a USB stick.

BFBS TV is part of UK Forces charity the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC), providing TV, Radio, Cinemas, SSVC audio-visual shops and CSE live entertainment to British troops throughout the world.