

## Anthropoid

(2016, 2 hours)

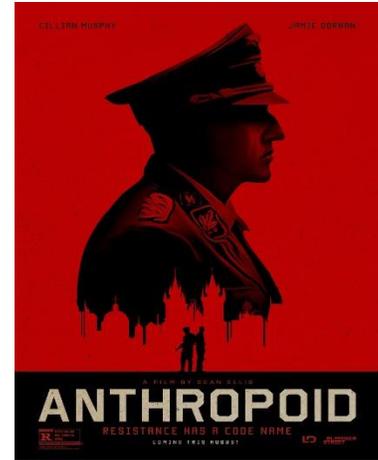
Directed by Sean Ellis

Starring: Jamie Dornan and Cillian Murphy

Rated R for violence and some disturbing images.

*Anthropoid* is a historically based retelling of the story of Operation Anthropoid, the WWII mission sponsored by the Allies to assassinate SS General Reinhard Heydrich in Prague. The operation was carried out on May 27, 1942, sanctioned by British Special Operations and the Czechoslovak government in exile.

The movie is a dramatic telling of the story of two paratroopers who set out to carry out the assassination of the man who many have attributed the starting plan for the “Final Solution”, the execution of millions of Jews on the continent of Europe.



It is a touching and inspiring story – but also intense. While a search of the historical situation will reveal, Heydrich died a few days after the assassination plot; the movie does not end on a high note. In fact, it is a little discouraging and sad to see the demise of those who attempted such a heroic act.

There is the villain, Heydrich himself. But there is also a villain in the form of a person who was a part of the Czech underground who betrayed the movement and the paratroopers and ended up revealing details about the plot which led to the deaths of the men who were involved.

Heroes are present throughout the movie in the persons who were willing to undermine the imposed Nazi government in Czechoslovakia. From the woman who sheltered the paratroopers in her home and her son, tortured for the information he had about them, to the members of the Czech underground who cooperated with the assassination plot, to the paratroopers themselves, the movie abounds with men and women who are willing to die for what they believe.

During the movie, one of the paratroopers quotes Shakespeare in saying, “Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once.”<sup>1</sup> The men and women who died for the cause of preventing a great travesty lived and exemplified these words.

The result of the assassination attempt ended with Heydrich dying a few days later and the Nazi government implementing a harsh retribution, killing thousands as a reprisal for his death. The movie reflects this at the narrative at the end. It is an emotional, intense, and sad ending.

I found *Anthropoid* a powerful and meaningful movie. It reminded me of the cost of war to defeat fascism and of the heroics of a generation that are often ignored.

If you served in the military, helping to defeat such evil, to you, I say "Thank You!"

---

<sup>1</sup> “Anthropoid”, Internet Movie Database, accessed August 31, 2016, [http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4190530/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4190530/?ref=mv_sr_1).