

Movie review

Uncommon Valor

an exciting, gripping adventure war movie

by **TERRY DUPUIS**
Hollywood discovered the Vietnam War in 1978, and hasn't been able to leave it alone since that time. Up until that year the subject was considered too controversial and too risky a subject to tackle for a large-budget commercial movie. About the only movie to deal with the subject at all was John Wayne's hawkish 1968 production of *The Green Berets*. 10 years later America was finally ready to explore that whole era in a series of uncompromising and mature motion pictures.

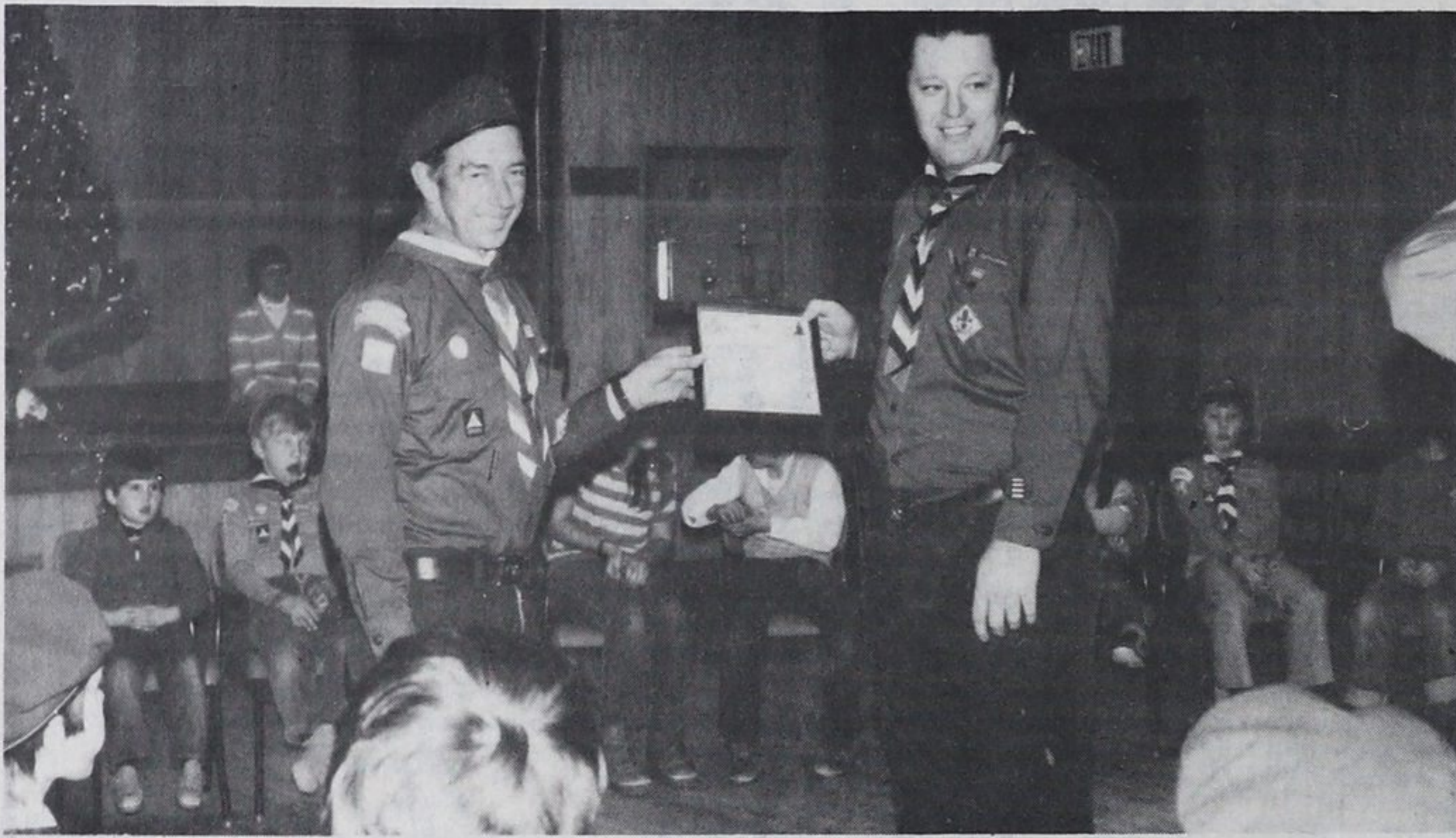
The cinema finally came to grips with this national nightmare in such well-received films as *Coming Home*, *The Deer Hunter* and *Apocalypse Now*. Other Vietnam related movies included *Go Tell The Spartans* and *The Boys in Company*. The spectre of Vietnam continues to haunt occasional movies, such as the recent case of a new adventure movie called *Uncommon Valor*. Actually only the movie's prologue takes place during the war in Vietnam. Then the story moves into the modern day.

Uncommon Valor opens with a skirmish in which Americans are under fire by the Viet Cong. The Americans are trying to make it to the rescue helicopter. When one of the soldiers is shot and falls, one of his buddies stops to carry him. The result is that both men don't quite make it to the helicopter and are captured by the Viet Cong. Move ahead to many years later. It turns out that Gene Hackman is an army major, and it was his son who had been captured while trying to help his buddy. The buddy's father is portrayed by Robert Stack in the role of a wealthy industrialist. Both men are convinced that their sons as well as a number of other young American soldiers are still prisoners in a prison camp. Unable to get any satisfactory results from the American government, the two men decide to effect their own rescue mission. Stack finances an expedition which is to be led by Hackman. They hire some of their sons' ex-army buddies. What follows in *Uncommon Valor* is a rigorous training program for these men,

as they rehearse the dangerous rescue operation which they are planning. *Uncommon Valor* is very much in the tradition of such war movies as *The Dirty Dozen* and *The Wild Geese*, in which a motley crew of men is disciplined into performing a daring military operation behind enemy lines. In the tradition of these earlier films, *Uncommon Valor* has an absorbing story line, some good characterizations and many well-done action scenes. Gene Hackman's major is reminiscent of Lee

Marvin's role in *The Dirty Dozen*. He is a tough, no-nonsense leader who gains the respect of the men under his command. Hackman's motivation is deeply personal, however; his primary concern is the rescue of his son whom he is convinced is still alive. Apart from Hackman and Stack, most of the cast in this film is made up of unknowns, but they all play their roles convincingly. The director is Ted Kotcheff who confirms his ability with action scenes. Last year he made the wildly successful

Sylvester Stallone actioner called *First Blood*. These seem to be his type of movie, rather than silly comedies such as *Who Is Killing The Great Chefs Of Europe?* Another thing I appreciated about *Uncommon Valor* is that it is not as explicitly brutal as *First Blood* was. I don't expect a war movie to be antiseptic, but some war pictures in recent years have been unnecessarily gruesome. *Uncommon Valor* is an exciting and gripping adventure action movie which you can watch and enjoy without losing your supper.



SCOUTING AROUND

by **HARRY BROWN**
First Midland Group tells of fulfilled days ahead. There is to be a toboggan party Jan. 28. The boys will be brought to the junction of Old Penetanguishene Road and the bypass to Highway 12, just east of 93. Cars will park here or drop the boys off at 1:30 p.m. Party will last until 4:30 p.m. and includes snacks, weiners and hot chocolate. Should be a fun day for all. Coming next is a District event. The District Snowfrolics are on Feb. 5 in Wyevale Park. This event is open to all Beavers, Cubs, leaders and parents. Refreshments are included for all participants. The annual 1st Midland Father and Son Banquet takes place on Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Parish Hall. They enjoy a fabulous roast beef dinner with vegetables and dessert; all you have to be is a member or parent of First Midland. Coming are preparations for the 6th annual Kub Kar Rally on March 4. Location is St. Theresa's High School, and registration must be in advance, by Feb. 20, no later, to John Baker. Honours and Awards announces the presentation to Doug Reynolds, Troop Scouter, 1st Wyebridge, of his Gilwell Parchment, denoting his completion of the part 2 training of the Wood Badge and his membership in the First Gilwell Park Troop, World Wide. Congratulations, Doug, and welcome to the Troop. Doug Reynolds, right, John Baker, left, district Commissioner did the honours.

ELMVALE — PIZZA PARLOUR



TUESDAY SPECIAL!

Buy a 12", 14" or 16" pizza and get another FREE with same ingredients.

TAKE OUT ONLY
322-1300

Special valid until April 1, 1984

MOVIE GUIDE

ROXY THEATRE MIDLAND 526-5791

Starts Fri. 7:15



ALSO

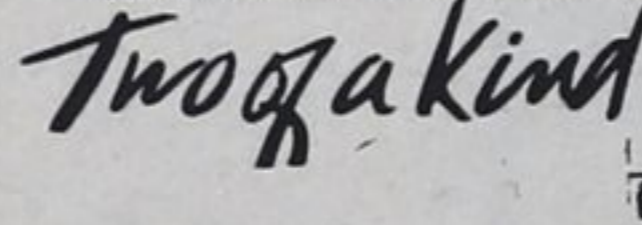
CHRISTINE

Sat. Matinee KRULL

PEN TWIN PENETANG 549-2953

Pen 1 Starts Friday 7 and 9

JOHN TRAVOLTA OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN



Sat. Matinee 1:30- TWO OF A KIND

Pen 2 Held Over! 7 and 9



There's more to do in snow than ski.

HOTDOG
...THE MOVIE



Now Appearing

January 19, 20, 21

Fireworks

January 26, 27, 28 Legend

PALACE TAVERN

Main St., Elmvalle LICENSED LLRO

The Inn is THE Place for weekend entertainment
Appearing Jan. 19, 20, 21 in the FlagDeck
'NIGHTLIFE'

For your enjoyment in Starlight
'Kurt Walters' NO COVER CHARGE
Now Happy Hour prices Thurs. & Fri. 7 to 1 a.m.
INN AT BAY MOORINGS
213 Fox St., Penetang 549-3163

A meal at the BAVARIAN HOUSE is always a treat!

Whether you're planning a night out for dinner...or perhaps just a quick businessmen's lunch, you'll find the menu, the atmosphere and the service at the Bavarian House will make it an occasion long remembered!

We feature delicious **DAILY Specials**

Priced from **\$5.95**

Having a birthday or Anniversary? **PHONE AHEAD...THE CAKE IS ON US!**

1983 DISCOUNT CARDS STILL VALID FOR 1984

For Reservations Phone 534-3202

Bavarian House

OF MIDLAND TAVERN

Featuring home-made German and Canadian Cuisine
Located 2 miles past Martyrs' Shrine, off Hwy 12

•Open Daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Closed Mondays