

Three Kings 1999

Contributed by Arun Babu
 Friday, 19 June 2009
 Last Updated Saturday, 20 June 2009

Direction: David O. Russel Producers: Michael Hertzberg, Edward McDonnell, Charles Roven & Paul Junger Witt Distribution: Warner Bros Music: Carter Burwell Genre: War, Drama, Action, Humour Cast: George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Ice Cube, Spike Jonze, Cliff Curtis, Nora Dunn, Jamie Kennedy
 Three Kings in a war movie that is covered in humour and takes a dig at the US Army, Saddam Hussein and other war mongers. The movie is based on the incidents that takes place at the fag end of the First Gulf War.

Three Army officers find a map from a prisoner during the first Gulf war in 1991. They guess that it was the map to where Saddam hid the Kuwaiti gold bullions stolen from Kuwait. Now Major Archie Gates (George Clooney) get in to the scene and ask for the map and proposes the army men to go on a private mission to Iraqi Barracks and retrieve the gold in a Humvee. Nobody in the army knows about this secret mission.

Using President George Bush's cease fire order, they could easily find the gold with out any blood shed. They find some prisoners in the Iraqi bunker and during the raid the prisoners are led outside. Now the Iraqi soldiers have not much problem in handing over the gold. Instead they help to get it on a truck from there. But they told that americans should not interfere in the arrested prisoner who are rebels with Saddam Hussein.

Problem happens when they find a young Iraqi woman shot dead in front of her helpless husband and daughter. Now Gates make a small change to their plan of stealing the gold and shows the honor of a soldier. They plan to help the prisoners from the Cruel Iraqis. Now their truck and humvee get attacked by the Iraqi soldiers.

Sergient First Class Troy Barlow (Wahlberg) is captured by the Iraqis while the others are saved by the rebels. The soldiers then tie up with the rebels in exchange of their attempt to get back Troy. The film is extremely dramatic as the soldiers who plan to steal gold for themselves secretly gets changed and vow to fight for the helpless. They distribute the gold with the refugees and help them to cross Iran border.

When the US Army finds about this, they get at the border and just when the prisoners were about to cross the border, they stops it. Now Gates offer the rest he have to the american soldiers so as to faciliitate the crossing.

Private First Class Conrad Vig (Jonze) is depicted as a bloody army man with the three kings. He is not in the three because he has a bad attitude. He praises Troy about a kill he has done eventhough Troy does not like it. He is an irritating guy making some noise. He is afraid of close and hard shooting. Gates assures him that he got to fight his fear by indulging in what he fears the most. He survives good gun fights but is killed by an Iraqi soldier hidden in the bush. He loves Troy very much. Vig did not like saving the refugees.

Troy is casual guy out in the army to fetch some good money. His wife has just delivered a boy. When captured in the iraqi bunker, he is shown to call the emergency defence force number and the operator hung up telling him to be more specific. This takes a dig on the us defence force. He then calls his home and tell about his location to her and tell her to convey that to the army in the US.

Troy is wired around his ear and electrical circuit is made during his interrogation. Captain Said (Said Taghmausi) is an Iraqi intelligence officer who tell him about the rogue attitude of the americans. Said's son and wife were killed in the bombing by the americans. He forces Troy to drink engine oil. When Gates rescue Troy, Troy does not kill Said. Because Said had said that he did not approve Kuwait invasion. Troy felt sad over him having losing his kid. In such scenes the movie shows us the cruelty of the war. He is shot in the shootout in which Vig is killed. Now Gates pin an apparatus that helps clear the air from his punctured lung to survive till medical attention is met after the bullet wound.

Staff Sergeant Chief Elgin (Cube) is the other cool soldier in the Three kings. His is brave and his intelligence has helped the team from different dangers in the battlefield. He also approves what his Major tells about saving the refugees.

Gates is another cool soldier who is shown trading sex with a journalist, Cathy Daitch (Greer), for news in the introduction scene. Eventhough he is after the gold he travels to the good path by initiating to help the helpless. Cathy Daitch is the bad journalist and Adriana Cruz is the one showed as a good one. Adriana is a spirited one and brave to work in the frontier. She is shown crying finding ecological and wildlife damage in the desert.

Altogether this movie is a good drama. Utimately the rest gold is returned to Kuwat and the kings are discharged honourably due to the reporting of war journalist Adriana Cruz. Kerala box rating for this movie is 7.0 out of 10.0 points.

Three Kings DVD

Three Kings Trailer