

THE MARINE FLY HIGH

Year: 1940
Country: United States
Genre: Action
Duration: 1 h 08 min.
Black and white

Directors: Benjamin Stoloff, George Nichols Jr.
Scenario: A. C. EDINGTON Jerome CADY

Main actors:

Richard DIX (Lieutenant Danny Darrick) Chester Morris (Lieutenant Jim Malone), Lucille BALL (Joan Grant), Steffi DUNA (Teresa), John ELDREDGE (John Henderson / El Vengador), Paul Harvey (Colonel Hill), Horace McMAHON (Sargent Monk O'Hara), Dick HOGAN (Ted Haines)

Photographer: Frank REDMAN
Producer: Robert SISK
Producing company: RKO pictures

Our opinion:

This low-budget film has a close enough script for "Flight" (1929) Frank Capra. It features two US Marine pilots in a Central American country where there is a guerrilla that attacks foreigners. But the heart of the two Marines do not fight for a nurse, as in "Flight", but for the owner of a plantation.

The film is preceded by a long preamble stating that the story takes place in "a time when the mainland United States were undergoing some "structural adjustments," the United States being brought from time to time, to lend a hand to restore law and justice . The film is dedicated to the officers and men who lived this adventure and allowed the existence of respected governments and law-abiding. "Was there an allusion to Europe where the largest "disorder" prevailed since the declaration of war, a month before the shooting, where the United States already lent "strong hand" to England ?? ?

The story begins when a band of outlaws led by the revolutionary "El Vengador" raided cocoa plantation owned by an American, Joan Grant. The latter takes refuge in a Marine camp nearby and commanded by Colonel Hill. It sends Lieutenant Danny Darrick and Jim Malone, newly arrived, to trace the bandits. Although friends, the two lieutenants vie for Joan's favors. But the appearance of Teresa, the former girlfriend of Danny constitutes a serious handicap! Marines go on a mission, but their plane is shot down. Having bailed out, they go off to their base. Joan decides to return to his plantation to get her affairs [in order], accompanied by two pilots. En route, they find the neighbor Joan murdered and her plantation on fire. Jim returns, warns the Marines, while Jim and Danny continue on their way. Upon arrival, the bandits stun and capture Danny. Their leader, the "Vengador" is none other than the foreman John Henderson! This share in the border town of Mérida where he organized an ambush for the Marines

approaching and Joan, released, joined soon. Danny is retained by the camp doctor, following the coup that he received on his head. It was Jim who commands the column Marines who falls into the trap set by Henderson. Fortunately, Danny disobeyed orders, borrowing an airplane. He can arrive in time to evacuate Joan and Jim, who is injured, and alert the basis that will send reinforcements. At the camp hospital, which Jim recovers, demand the hand of Joan, but she prefers Danny.

The mention of the town of Merida, located on the other side of the border, where refuge "El Vengador" inevitably think of the Nicaraguan revolutionary Sandino, who fled to Mexico in 1929, in a town of the same name. Nicaragua and the intervention of the Marines had provided the setting for the movie "Parachute Jumper" (1933), and the series "Young Eagles" (1934). Note, in Nicaragua, nor in Vietnam, much later, the intervention of the United States was not decisive for the future of these countries. In 2008, in Managua, the Presidency of the Republic was won by a Sandinista Friend Colombian FARC, Iran, Russia and all opponents country of Uncle Sam.

The planes of the film:

At the beginning of the film, Jim landed in a Ryan STA decorated with the insignia of the Marines and a fanciful code "3-XM-4". Later, he went on a mission with Danny in a rare air that one would not expect at all to find in this film series B. It is the only copy of Douglas XO-14, a Douglas O2-H only smaller; This is also the first to feature Douglas brakes. This civilian aircraft (c / n 477, NX13753) was proposed to the Army for evaluation. He then received a military registration (s / n 28-194) in February 1929 and remained in service at Wright Field with the "XP539" code until July 1933. It was then sold to an individual. Six years later, this plane was flying so even with a motor with a NACA hood, the rear turret was replaced by a passenger seat.

Beside him, we see two C3-R Stearman decorated "style" Marines, with fake codes (5-SM-4 ??), one of which has a rear turret for receiving a camera and was probably used for aerial photography.

Danny saves Jim and Joan besieged in a Fairchild 24G (c / n 2674, N19109). Built in 1937, it is now registered to a US company in Houston (TX.). He currently flies to Frankfurt, Germany, with the name of "Yellow fever".