

REFERENCES: VIDEO/DVD

The following videos and DVDs were viewed for both informational and entertainment purposes. A brief description and the commentary are the views of this author.

1. "Flying Fortress" – 55 min. B&W, © 1991 Windsong/La Mancha, No. 10 Productions. Covers a history of strategic bombing, development of the B-17, and the early air war over Europe.
2. "The War Lover" – Color, approx. 105 min., starring Steve McQueen and Robert Wagner, © 1962 Columbia Pictures Industries. Romance and action movie. The story line is somewhat predictable, but the scenes of preparing for a mission, briefing, preflight work, and B-17 interior shots are great. The movie includes actual combat footage mixed with some Hollywood input.
3. "Flight Check BOMBERS – The How To Fly Series. Chapter on B-17 Flying Fortress", © 2007 Timeless Media Group. This movie developed by the Army Air Force puts you in the cockpit of a B-17 for a preflight check, take off, flight, and landing procedures. Other segments deal with the engine and flight controls and dealing with in-flight problems. The two-DVD set also covers the B-26 Marauder, B-24 Liberator, B-25 Mitchell, and B-29 Superfortress.
4. "B-17 Action Trilogy" – © 2003 Non-Fiction Video, B&W, 57 min., contains "Conquest by Air", "Mission Accomplished" and "Bombers Over North Africa". All three segments were shot during WWII as public relations releases by the Army Air Force, but contain historical information and combat footage.
5. "Warbirds WWII" – two video set, color and B&W, approx. 255 min. Covers the development and contributions of seven WWII aircraft: B-17 Flying Fortress, P-40 Warhawk, P-51 Mustang, B-24 Liberator, P-38 Lightning, P-47 Thunderbolt, and the B-29 Superfortress. Great set for WWII air combat history buffs.
6. "Memphis Belle" – Color, 107 min. © 1990 The Bountiful Company, Ltd. Story of the "Memphis Belle" as she prepares for and makes her 25th mission. Good B-17 footage, but not very accurate with the facts of the real Belle's last mission. Very Hollywood approach to keep the viewer's interest.
7. "Memphis Belle" - B&W - 60 min. © 1943 Paramount Pictures for the Office of War Information through the War Activities Committee - Motion Pictures Industry. The original movie produced and directed by William Wyler about the "Memphis Belle" and her crew. Filmed on location in Bassingbourn, England.
8. "Suicide Missions: Ball Turret Gunners" – 55 min. Color and B&W, © 1998 A&E Television Network. Broadcast on the History Channel. This is a great documentary about the B-17 and its crews, the Eighth Air Force's role in the air war over Europe, with interviews of former ball turret gunners and Andy Rooney.

Note: All videos and DVDs listed are in the author's library.

9. "The Greatest Raids: The Schweinfurt Disaster" – 50 min. Color and B&W © MMI Nugus/Martin Productions Ltd. Broadcast on the History Channel, this is a documentary of the Eighth Air Force's disastrous raids on the ball bearing factories in Schweinfurt, Germany in August and October 1943.
10. "B-17 Flying Legend" - 211 min. Color and B&W, © 2002 Fortress Films. This documentary covers the story of the B-17 and the Eighth Air Force with interviews and combat footage. It emphasizes the need to preserve the history of this bomber and the need to support the remaining flyable B-17s. Bonus features include the original 1944 "Memphis Belle" documentary produced by Paramount Pictures.
11. "Twelve O'Clock High" – 130 min. B&W, © 2007 Twentieth Century Fox for Home Entertainment LLC. The 1949 classic stars Gregory Peck and deals with the realities of life for commanding officers in the Eighth Air Force. It contains good combat footage and incidents that occurred to real Eighth Air Force combat crews. Includes special feature section on the making of the movie.
12. "B-17 Flying Fortress" - 40 min Color and B&W. From the Roaring Glory Warbirds series. © 2007 Actors in WWII flying gear recreate a mission. Actual demonstration of a B-17 preflight check, take off, and landing.
13. "Target For Today" – 90 min B&W, © 2007 Historic Aviation. The story of the Eighth Air Force's raids on four German targets as they happened. Broadcast on the History Channel, the quality of this video is fairly poor with much of the old footage from 1942-1943 fairly washed out making viewing difficult.
14. "Command Decision" – 112 min. B&W. © 1948 Warner Brothers Entertainment Inc. Hollywood production featuring Clark Gable. Story line is about a Eighth Air Force Group Commander who is given command of a Bomb Group with a "hard luck" reputation and how he motivates them into a good combat group. Based on a true situation that developed early in the Air War over Europe in WWII.
15. "Thurleigh Memories" - 60 min. Color and B&W © 2005 Old Segundo Productions, Abilene, Texas. A Vernon Williams documentary. The story of the 306th Bomb Group in WWII "COMBAT He Wrote..." by Charles S. Hudson and Ross R. Olney. 1994 Airborne Publishing
16. "Great Aircraft of WWII" by Alfred Price & Mike Spick. 1997. Bookmark Ltd. And Barnes & Noble, Inc.
17. "A Real Good War" by Sam Halpert. 1997. Southern Heritage Press
18. "Lucky Dog" by Douglas E. Holt. Copyright © 2007 by Douglas Holt

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19. "Serenade To The Big Bird" by Bert Stiles. ©2001 Mrs. Bert Stiles. Schiffer Publishing Ltd.
20. "Brother Bob's War" by Ralph W. Ekwall. © 2006 Ralph Ekwall
22. "88 Days" by Byron Van Fleet. © 2005 Publish America LLLP

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