AMBUSH!

This was Indian War!
The scream of the war-whoop!
The swish of the deadly arrow!

STORY

In 1875... into the Black Hills of Dakota Territory, ceded back to the Sioux Indians by government treaty, ride motley groups of "rushers" in search of newly-discovered gold.

U. S. Cavalry Captain Webb Calhoun (Rod Cameron) is determined that the greed of ignorant, short-sighted rushers is not going to start a war between the Sioux and the whites, and he patrols the Black Hills relentlessly. But Lt. Colonel Lloyd Unger (Forrest Tucker), in charge of Ft. Mill, is contemptuous of Calhoun's observance of the treaty. Unger has come up from the ranks the hard way and he resents Calhoun for having had the advantage of being trained at West Point.

The fact that both Unger and Calhoun are in love with the same girl, Lia Wilson (Adrian Booth), adds fuel to the feud between the officers.

Calhoun manages to keep the rusher invasions of the hills under control until Ira Jordan (Jim Davis), unscrupulous squatter owner, organizes them into open rebellion against the army. Then real trouble begins. Calhoun can't keep the Sioux from going on the warpath when the rushers fire on them, nor can he stop Colonel Unger from taking a troop out on a retaliatory mission when news of the flight reaches the post.

Calhoun risks court-martial by disobeying orders and going into the hills to force the rushers to turn back. Still on the warpath, the Indians follow, attack the post and massacre the detachment. Unger leads a defile he has been warned not to enter. Unger lives long enough to admit to Calhoun that he was wrong.

Sioux Chief Pactola, who had been Calhoun's friend, allows him safe conduct for the women and children left at the fort, and Calhoun is forced to surrender.

In the fourteen years that follow, Calhoun is promoted until he finally wears the eagle of a colonel. He figures prominently in battles of the long, drawn out Indian wars. Those who have fought with him from the beginning know that had he had his way, the battles could have been avoided, but Calhoun never looks back.

Credits

Written by: Charles Marquis Warren
Photographed by: Jack Marta
Art Director: Frank Arrigo
Music: R. Dale Butts
Film Editor: Arthur Roberts
Sound: T. A. Carman - Howard Wilson
Costumes Designed by: Adele Palmer
Set Decorations: John McCarthy, Jr.
Special Effects: Howard and Theodore Lydecken
Consolidated Film Industries

Cast

Capt. Calhoun... ROD CAMERON
Lt. Col. Unger... FORREST TUCKER
Ira Jordan... WILLIAM CHING
Sgt. Barkley... CHILL WILLS
Capt. Worth... JAMES FLAVIN
Lt. Cutter... JAMES LYDON
Charlie Grass... CHARLES STEVENS
Mrs. Worth... ALAN BRIDGE
Joe LaBette... MARION RANDOLPH
Young Wife... RUTH BRENNAN
Mary Bowman... LOUISE KANE

A REPUBLIC PRODUCTION

RELEASED 1950
90 MINUTES
(B/W AND COLOR)
(CONSTELLATION NO. 1761)