

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS

Title: **Dead Reckoning** (1941)

1 Disc



Library Image

B&W Cover

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Colourised & B&W
Collector's Edition

Information

Release Title: **Dead Reckoning** 16th March 1947 United Kingdom
(London)

AKA: Also known as: John Cromwell's Dead Reckoning

Origin: United States Premiere

Release Date: United States: 31st December 1946 San Francisco Cal.

Genres: Film Noir, Crime, Drama, Mystery, Thriller

Disc Nos. – 1

Certification: PG

Duration: 1h 40m (100m)

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English, Latin

Filming locations: St. Petersburg, Florida, USA (Rip and Johnny on Central Avenue)

Sound mix: Mono (Western Electric Recording)

Colour: PAL B&W note: Colour (available)

Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1 (35mm)



Theatrical poster

Directed by	John Cromwell
Screenplay by	Steve Fisher Oliver H.P. Garrett
Story by	Gerald Drayson Adams Sidney Biddell Allen Rivkin (adaptation)
Produced by	Sidney Biddell
Starring	Humphrey Bogart Lizbeth Scott Morris Carnovsky Charles Cane William Prince Marvin Miller Wallace Ford
Cinematography	Leo Tover
Edited by	Gene Havlick
Music by	Marlin Skiles
Production company	Columbia Pictures
Distributed by	Columbia Pictures
Release dates	December 31, 1946 (San Francisco) January 15, 1947 (U.S.) ^[1]
Running time	100 minutes ^[1]
Country	United States
Language	English

Storyline

Leaving a church, Father Logan, a well-known ex-paratrooper padre, is approached by Captain "Rip" Murdock. Murdock needs to tell someone what has happened to him in the past few days in case his enemies get to him. A flashback follows:

Just after World War II, paratroopers and close friends Captain Murdock and Sergeant Johnny Drake are mysteriously ordered to travel from Paris to Washington, D.C. When Drake learns that he is to be awarded the Medal of Honor (and Murdock the Distinguished Service Cross), he disappears before newspaper photographers can take his picture. Murdock goes AWOL, follows the clues and tracks his friend to Gulf City in the southern United States, where he learns Drake is dead – his burned corpse is recovered from a car crash.

Murdock finds out that Drake joined the Army under an assumed name to avoid a murder charge. He was accused of killing a rich old man named Chandler because Drake was in love with Chandler's beautiful young wife Coral.

Murdock goes to a nightclub to question Louis Ord, a witness at Drake's trial for Chandler's murder. Ord reveals that Drake had given him a letter to give to Murdock. Murdock also meets Coral and Martinelli, the club owner. Seeing Coral losing heavily at roulette, Murdock not only recoups her losses at craps, but also wins her an additional \$16,000. For some reason, however, she is uncomfortable with the situation. When all three go to collect the money in Martinelli's private office, Murdock accepts a drink even though he is tipped off by Ord that the drink is drugged. When Murdock awakens the next morning, he finds Ord's dead body planted in his hotel room. He manages to hide the corpse before police Lieutenant Kincaid, responding to an anonymous tip, shows up to search his room without a warrant.

Murdock teams up with Coral. Suspecting that Martinelli had Ord killed in order to get Drake's letter, Murdock breaks into Martinelli's office, only to find the safe already open. Just before he is knocked unconscious again, this time by an unseen assailant, he smells jasmine, the same aroma as Coral's perfume. When he awakes, Martinelli has him roughed up by his thug Krause, to try to find out the content of the message encoded in the letter. However, Murdock is able to escape from his captors when taking him back to his hotel; the police arrive. The flashback ends, and Murdock slips away.

Now suspicious of Coral, Murdock goes to her apartment to confront her. She claims to be innocent, but finally admits that she shot her husband in self-defence, not Drake. She went to Martinelli for advice and gave him the murder weapon to dispose of, but he has been blackmailing her ever since.

Now in love with Coral himself, Murdock agrees to leave town with her, but insists on retrieving the incriminating weapon first, despite Coral's objections. He threatens Martinelli in his office with a gun, eliciting some startling revelations: The club owner reveals that Coral is his wife. He killed Chandler (having learned the man had lied about having only six months to live) and framed Drake so that Coral could inherit Chandler's estate.

Murdock sets the office on fire by throwing an unstable grenade at Martinelli, and Krause jumps through a window to escape the flames. Murdock obtains the incriminating gun, and forces Martinelli to precede him out of the office. As he opens the door, Martinelli is shot and killed by Coral.

Murdock jumps into the waiting car and drives off with Coral. As they are speeding away, he accuses her of having just tried to kill him. When she shoots him, the car they are traveling in crashes. Murdock survives, but Coral suffers fatal injuries. In the hospital, Murdock comforts Coral in her final moments. [Wiki](#)

Not only is "The Maltese Falcon" one of the first prototypical examples in what would be the subsequent 10 years of great film noir movies, it's also the first movie in the exemplary directing career of John Huston (from the screenplay he adapted from Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade novel). And, even though Bogart had been acting throughout the '30s in mostly supporting roles opposite great actors (like Edward G. Robinson, James Cagney, etc.) and actresses (Bette Davis, Ida Lupino, Ann Sheridan, etc.), this role was to make him a bankable star & lead.

Like many films in the noir genre, the unnecessarily complicated plot devices are secondary to lighting, mood, tone, and the imperfect cast of characters. It's not as absolutely inscrutable as "The Big Sleep," but more or less tied with "Out of the Past" on the hard to follow scale. Mary Astor was an old pro by this time, and she'd said that the motion picture newbie, Sydney Greenstreet, was scared to death during his scenes, though you'd certainly never know it from the result.

Rip Murdock and Johnny Drake are en-route to Washington when Johnny disappears and then turns up dead. Rip learns that Johnny had been accused of murder and sets out to find out what he can. He falls in love with Coral whose husband Johnny is supposed to have killed .IMDb

Review: One of Bogart's best, a brutal Film Noir with a surprising ending, & filled with sharp, witty dialog. Lizabeth has never looked more beautiful than here, & although her acting ability is overmatched by Bogart, she would improve in her later films & she's adequate in this role. There are glimpses of the basic "Maltese Falcon" plot here: Bogey searches out & seeks revenge for his partner, even some of the dialog is similar in that respect. If you like Bogart or if you like Film Noir, you can't go wrong with this one! And by the way, this is a REAL Film Noir, not in the newer use of this phrase (recently, people have been calling any B&W crime drama made in the 1940s a "Film Noir"). This film has all the classic Film Noir elements: lots of shadows & stark contrasts (in the beginning, Bogart speaks from shadows so dark that one can hardly see his face), a spoken narrative, a "hero" who works outside the law, a murder mystery, & a heroine who may not be a heroine. IMDb

Cast

Humphrey Bogart as Capt. Warren "Rip" Murdock
Lizabeth Scott as Coral "Dusty"/"Mike" Chandler
Morris Carnovsky as Martinelli
Charles Cane as Lt. Kincaid
William Prince as Sgt. Johnny Drake (John Joseph Preston)
Marvin Miller as Krause

Wallace Ford as McGee
James Bell as Father Logan
George Chandler as Bartender Louis Ord
William Forrest as Lt. Col. Simpson
(uncredited)
Ruby Dandridge as Mabel (uncredited)
Ray Teal as Motorcycle Cop (uncredited)

Parents Guide

Certification

Australia- PG, Finland-K-161948(Banned)1947, France-Tous publics, Germany-12uncut, Italy-T, Netherlands-12DVD, 2003181949, original rating. Norway-9recommended rating16cinema rating, 1947, Sweden-15, United Kingdom-APGvideo rating, United States-PassedNational Board of ReviewApprovedcertificate #11959TV-PGTV Rating, West Germany-16nf, cut: 12

Sex & Nudity –None, **Violence & Gore** - Mild , **Profanity** – None, **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Moderate, **Frightening & Intense Scenes** - Moderate



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