

Movies & Languages 2015-2016

The Monuments Men

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	G. Clooney
YEAR / COUNTRY	2014 / USA, Germany
GENRE	Drama, History
ACTORS	G. Clooney, M. Damon, C. Blanchett, B. Murray, J. Goodman



PLOT

Based on the true story of the greatest treasure hunt in history, *The Monuments Men* is an action drama focusing on a very unlikely war platoon, with a mandate by FDR for going into Nazi Germany to rescue artistic masterpieces and returning them to their rightful owners. It would be an impossible mission: with the art kept behind enemy lines, and with the German army under orders to destroy everything as the Reich fell, how could these men and women – museum directors, curators, and art historians, all more familiar with Michelangelo than a military weapon – possibly hope to succeed? But as the Monuments Men, as they were called, found themselves in a race against time to avoid the destruction of 1000 years of culture, they would risk their lives to defend some of history's greatest achievements.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English, British English, French, German.

GRAMMAR

We often tell people what other people have said. This is called reported or indirect speech. We very rarely try to report the exact words that someone actually says. Usually we give the general meaning with a summary.

When the verb tense changes it “moves back” in time:

I work for IBM: She said she worked for IBM.

I'm working for IBM: She said was working for IBM.

I've worked for IBM: She said she had worked for IBM.

I've been working for IBM: She said she had been working for IBM.

I worked for IBM: She said she had worked for IBM.

I had worked for IBM: She said she had worked for IBM.

I'm going to work for IBM: She said she was going to work for IBM.

I can/will/may work for IBM: She said she could/would/might work for IBM.

There is no change for must, might, could, should, would.

Note well that if the actual words were in the past simple (worked), the reported speech can change or stay the same.

Note well that there is no change for the past perfect (had worked).

VOCABULARY

R and R: rest and recreation	Private, PFC: lower status soldier
Attire: your clothing	A dud landmine: defective landmine
To kid: to deceive, to joke with	Hen: female chicken
Brie: a type of cheese	Dumbass way: a stupid way
It's rough: it's difficult	Blanks: gun cartridges loaded with gun powder but no bullets
Broke out: happened	Stomping ground: territory
Crate: a box or container for something	Yore: time long past
To hitch a ride: to get a free ride from a passing vehicle	Jerky: seasoned, dried meat or fish
How's the ticker?: Is your heart okay?	A sight for sore eyes: a way of saying that you are very pleased to see someone or that you think someone is very attractive
Bailed out: saved someone or something from a difficult problem	Good egg: a good responsible person
Screwed up: made a mess of things, created problems, made a mistake	To step in: to go into a situation or circumstance, sometimes with intentions