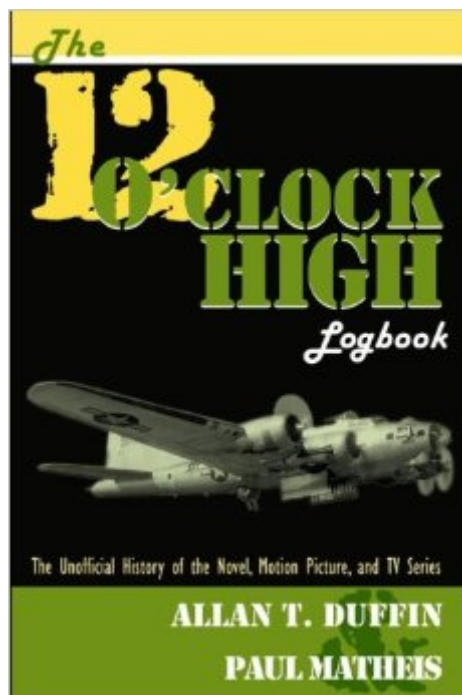


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# The 12 O'Clock High Logbook: The Unofficial History Of The Novel, Motion Picture, And TV Series



## Synopsis

Since its original release *The "12 O'Clock High" Logbook: The Unofficial History of the Novel, Motion Picture, and TV Series* has been a consistent seller among WWII buffs, lovers of aviation, and fans of Hollywood TV and movies. The book, a labor of love for co-authors Allan T. Duffin and Paul Matheis, is a detailed, comprehensive look at a media phenomenon. Army Air Force officers Beirne Lay, Jr., and Sy Bartlett wrote the novel *12 O'Clock High* as a somewhat fictionalized record of their experiences in England during World War II. Twentieth Century-Fox optioned the book and produced the 1949 movie version starring Gregory Peck as tough-as-nails Brigadier General Frank Savage. In 1964, prolific producer Quinn Martin (*The Untouchables*, *The FBI*) brought *12 O'Clock High* to television as a weekly series on ABC, starring Robert Lansing as Savage. Packed with fresh interviews, rare photographs, and behind-the-scenes stories published for the first time anywhere, *The "12 O'Clock High" Logbook* is the definitive history of this unique tale of heroism in World War II.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

"*Twelve O'Clock High*" is that rara avis -a bestselling novel turned into a hit movie turned into a successful TV series. This exhaustively researched, comprehensive and well-written book is what every fan of the book/movie/series was waiting for!Written by two 8th Air Force veterans, "*Twelve O'Clock High*" the novel followed the trials and tribulations of General Frank Savage, a tough-as-nails commander, as he labored to salvage a demoralized Bomb Group that has suffered heavy losses to the Luftwaffe. Savage is successful in his efforts but at a great personal cost. In

1949 the novel became an Academy Award winning box office hit starring Gregory Peck. Frankly I have always enjoyed the movie more than the novel because it sliced away anything not related to Savage's struggle, turning it into a lean, mean chronicle of men at war. Then, in 1964, ABC and Quinn Martin Productions created a one-hour series starring Robert Lansing as General Savage. I rate Lansing's portrayal of Savage as THE BEST on film. Make no mistake about it; Lansing was MAGNIFICENT! A gifted actor, he turned Savage into a multi-dimensional, living, breathing, fascinating human being. Like many others I was appalled when ABC/Quinn Martin replaced Lansing with Paul Burke in season two. Burke simply wasn't the actor Lansing was and the series went down in flames after season three. Duffin and Matheis' book chronicles the whole history of the "Twelve O'Clock High" saga, from the real-life World War II events and personalities that Beirne Lay and Sy Bartlett used to create the novel to the final episode of the TV show and what happened to the principals afterwards. The depth of research is truly impressive; the book's bibliography alone runs to 23 pages.

Allan T. Duffin and Paul Matheis has done an excellent job with this book as it the complete history of the 12 O'Clock High story. It covers the novel, the movie and the TV series. THE NOVEL: Beirne Lay Jr. and Sy Barrlett were the co-authors and was published by Harper Brothers in 1948. Based on the 306th Bombardment Group which was one of the American units stationed in England during World War 2. After the war there was a fierce debate between Lay and Barrlett because of different ideas, but they decided to write a novel with a title of 12 O'Clock High. The idea for the novel came from Barrlett's wife when she heard the two authors discussing German fighter tactics. When published in 1948, the novel was hailed as "a mixture of nostalgia, sorrow and pride" and an "authentic record of the men and operations of a typical heavy bomber group." Barrlett and Lay believed that truth would strengthen the drama of the book, so it is no surprise that 12 O'Clock High was lauded for it's grit and authenticity. THE MOVIE: Before the movie was produced there was another film called "Command Decision", which stared Clark Gable and Walter Pidgeon, and had a similar theme as 12 O'Clock High. Sensing a good deal Fox and Paramount Studios started fighting Lay and Barrlett for the story rights. Darryl F. Zanuck of Fox finally won, by the tune of \$100,000. Zanuck's job started by asking Bud Lighten to be producer and William Wellman as director. The Air Force was called in as technical advisors and also to lend support along with military equipment to the studio. On 3 November 1947 a synopsis had to be submitted to the Pentagon for the Air Force to review. After a long back and forth battle, Col.

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