

*Warners* *How?*  
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5 SEP 1953

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on memo of Lt. Col. Clair E. Towne, Motion Picture Section, Office of Public Information, Department of Defense of 25 Aug 1953

From: Chief, Bureau of Aeronautics

To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Photographic Center, Anacostia

Subj: Stock picture footage; request for

1. The Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Photographic Center, is requested to furnish Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc. the stock picture footage requested in the basic correspondence.

2. Direct communication with Mr. Arthur Eyanson of Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc. is authorized.

Copy to:

→ Lt. Col. C. E. Towne, USA  
Office of Public Information, Pentagon

By: O. GREENE  
By direction

23 August 1953

*Warner*  
*"THEM"*

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF INFORMATION, NPG, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
ATTN: Mr. Claude Cutler, GCM  
Director, Public Information Division

SUBJECT: Stock Footage for Warner Brothers Picture "Them"

1. Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., Burbank, California, is producing a feature motion picture entitled "Them". The picture is a science fiction fantasy and does not qualify for official cooperation on production. However, the script has been reviewed by Department of Defense and has been found to be not objectionable, and to contain nothing which could be considered derogatory or detrimental to the military.

2. Some stock footage is required, without which the picture cannot be made and which is not obtainable from commercial sources. A listing of the scenes desired is inclosed herewith. Much of this material could be furnished from the files of the Film Library, Naval Photo Center. Footage involved would total not more than a few hundred feet, measured in 35 mm.

3. Recommendation: It is recommended by the Office of Public Information, Department of Defense that the Commanding Officer, Naval Photo Center, be authorized to have such scenes from the attached list as are available selected from the unedited unclassified stock footage on file at the Film Library, NPG, and to forward fine grains or dups negatives thereof to Mr. Arthur Ryanson, Chief, Cutting Department, Warner Brothers, when processed.

CLARA E. TOWNE  
Lt. Col., USA  
Motion Picture Section  
Pictorial Branch

Enclosure - 1  
Scene Listing

cc: Mr. Adams - NPG

OSD/PI-2-21/TOWNE/RT  
2BT77/55636/25 AUG 53



# WARNER BROS.

PICTURES, INC.  
WEST COAST STUDIOS  
BURBANK, CALIFORNIA

August 18, 1953

Lt. Col. Clair E. Towne  
Motion Picture Section  
Pictorial Branch  
Department of Defense  
Office of Public Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

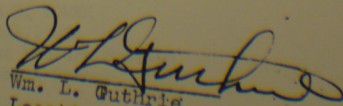
Dear Clair:

In our telephone conversation of August 17th, you requested I send you a list of the shots we wish to request from the Navy and A.F. libraries for possible inclusion in our production, "THEM".

I have had Buddy Eyanson make up the attached list of scenes needed and designate where they might be located. Eyanson informs me that all the material listed if cut into the finished picture will not total over 25 or 30 cuts used.

B.E. Adams was at the studio from August 5th to the 8th to pick out miniature scenes from our production footage on submarines for a Navy film he is preparing. At that time Buddy discussed with him first hand the shots we need. B.E. feels sure he can furnish the scenes marked Navy if clearance for their use is given by your office.

Sincerely

  
Wm. L. Guthrie  
Location Department



August 13, 1953

Mr. George Dorsey  
Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.  
707 Warner Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

Reference is made to your letter of August 6, 1953, and to the Estimating Script of the proposed motion picture entitled "Them" which was forwarded therewith.

The above-mentioned script has been reviewed by the Office of Public Information for the Department of Defense. We have not made any effort to coordinate this project with any other military department or government agency.

It is understood that Warner Brothers does not anticipate a requirement for official cooperation on the production of the subject picture, outside of a stock shot or two, and clearance to film a landing sequence at an airport. The Script indicates a possible requirement for much more than this, including the use of weapons, jeeps and trucks, and other military equipment, so we must assume that the studio has ways and means of obtaining these items commercially, or else plans to use suitable studio property as substitutes. In any event, we regret that we will be unable to authorize official cooperation on production, either in arranging location filming, or in obtaining the loan and use of equipment from military sources.

We will be happy to discuss this project with you at greater length, if you should desire a detailed explanation of the reasoning behind the above comments.

Sincerely,

CLAIR E. TOWNE  
Lt. Col., USA  
Motion Picture Section  
Pictorial Branch

OSD/FI-2-24/Towne/mmh  
2E777/55636



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD  
PICTORIAL BRANCH  
OPT, OSD

*Return*  
71

Warner Brothers "them"

MEMO: Script review, and consideration of project as a possible candidate for cooperation on production.

BACKGROUND: Letter from George Dorsey, included with five copies of the script, indicated that possible stock shot or two, and use of an airport to do a landing sequence, would be all the cooperation which would be required.

ACTION: Towne reviewed script over week-end. Story is fantastic. Ten foot ants are the result of the first atom bomb explosion. They have suddenly hatched, and have begin to prey on the surrounding territory in vicinity of White Sands. Many people killed. Air Force and FBI collaborate on finding nest, and destroying all the live ants with cyanide, but before anyone realizes, one more queen ant and two males hatch from undamaged eggs and fly away. The hunt is on for their nesting place, because if they begin to propagate they will take over the world in about nine months. One nest is tracked down in the sewer system of Los Angeles, and Army, Marines and Police fight desperate battle to wipe out. In the meantime another nest is discovered in the hold of a freighter far at sea, and the ants break out and kill every body aboard. Air Force bombs the ship and destroys ants.

ACTION OFFICER: Towne

DATE OF ACTION: 7 Aug

COORDINATION: none indicated

ACTIVITY REPORT: YES ( ) NO ( )  
COMPLETED ( ) PENDING ( )

Looks now like the last ant has been disposed of, and so the lady scientist and the FBI man can live happily ever after. This is too far fetched (the ants, not the lady and the FBI man) for any form of cooperation. Will so advise Warners.

**WARNER BROS.**  
PICTURES  
DISTRIBUTING CORPORATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. OFFICES  
707 WARNER BUILDING  
TELEPHONE EXECUTIVE 1800

Aug. 6th, 1953.

Lieut. Col. Clair Twene  
Fictorial Branch,  
Office of Public Information,  
Department of Defense,  
Washington D.C.

Dear Col. Twene:

Herewith are five copies of a script entitles "Them".

We do not anticipate the need of much cooperation in producing this picture, perhaps a Navy stock shot or two, and the need of the use of an airport to do a "landing" sequence.

We are submitting this script for your information and advice, and hope there may be some angles to it that will help civilian defense, etc.

Sincerely yours,

*George*  
George M. Dersey



RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

Revised Draft, 1971

Revised Draft, 1971

Revised draft of proposed Warner Bros motion picture THREE  
There is a fantasy and not considered appropriate for official  
consideration.

ACTIVITY REPORT:

YES (✓)

NO ( )

COMPLETED ( )



