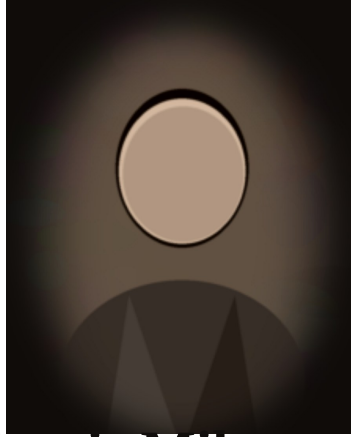




Lewis Milestone

September 30, 1895 - September 25, 1980

Los Angeles, California

Lewis Milestone - born Leib Milstein - Russian-born American film director whose *All Quiet on the Western Front* remains one of cinema's fiercest anti-war statements, died in Los Angeles on September 25, 1980. He was eighty-four, five days shy of eighty-five. Born September 30, 1895, in Kishinev in the Russian Empire, he emigrated to the United States, served in the Army Signal Corps, and rose through Hollywood editing rooms to two Academy Awards for directing - including the 1930 Remarque adaptation that tracked soldiers across ruined ground with a camera that refused glory.

He later filmed *Of Mice and Men*, *Ocean's 11*, and wartime dramas that complicated his pacifist reputation without erasing the 1930 masterpiece. The blacklist era shadowed colleagues more harshly than him, yet the greylist chill still narrowed choices. He kept working into the early 1960s, then watched health decline after his wife's death.

UCLA Medical Center closed the ledger in the city where he had built a career. He died after strokes and illness, having asked that *All Quiet* be restored to full length - a last direction from a man who knew how cuts can blunt truth.

Signal Corps editing taught him that war footage already carried horror without flags waving over it. Later studio assignments ranged from Steinbeck to Rat Pack heists, but the 1930 trenches remain the signature.

He died in Los Angeles on September 25, 1980. Film schools still screen that trench tracking shot in silence.

Milestone's gift was moral camera movement - making war's cost visible without sermon. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 25 remembers the Kishinev ?migr? who taught Hollywood how an anti-war film could still move.

Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 25, 1980. Film director; two-time Oscar winner; All Quiet on the Western Front; Of Mice and Men.

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