Acknowledgments

In the process of researching this dissertation over several years, I have been helped greatly by many different archives, libraries, and other institutions, as well as by colleagues and friends. I am deeply grateful to all for their advice, support and information.

I am especially obliged to the following institutions and libraries: the British Library, British Film Institute and the National Film and Television Archive in London, the Library of Congress in Washington, the Nederlands Filmmuseum. the Centre National de la Cinématographie and the Cinémathèque française. Without the huge resources of these institutions I could not even have attempted to write this thesis, and particular staff members have been extremely helpful, among whom are: David Sharp and Janet Moat at the BFI library, as well as Sean, Anastasia and others there; Bryony Dixon at the NFTVA Viewings Service; Roger Smither and Ann Fleming at the Imperial War Museum. At the Library of Congress, Pat Loughney, David Francis, Madeleine Matz and Paul Spehr have all been generous with their time and in providing information. Beth Werling and John Cahoon at the Seaver Center were cooperative in finding much relevant material in their archive; and Biograph expert Ron Magliozzi at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) was generous with his knowledge. As so often, American archivists and librarians have been wonderfully accommodating. I wish to thank especially the librarians at Onondaga County Public Library and the Onondaga Historical Association who mailed me many Syracuse newspaper articles for my work on Ackerman in the Philippines and China.

I would like especially to acknowledge the kind support of the following friends and colleagues. In the UK: Nick Hiley and Luke Mckernan, for their expertise on war and actuality filmmaking, and their incisive comments at critical moments; as well as Deac Rossell and Tony Fletcher for their specific research findings. Farther afield in Europe I thank: Sabine Lenk, Ivo Blom, Riccardo Redi, Laurent Mannoni, Henri Bousquet, Yuri Tsivian, the late Geoffrey Donaldson, Herbert Birett, Nico de Klerk, Martin Loiperdinger, Joseph Garncarz and Joan Minguet Batllori. In the USA: Richard Koszarski, Charles Musser, Paul Spehr and Kirk Kekatos. Elsewhere: Hiroshi Komatsu, Paolo Cherchi-Usai, Ernie de Pedro and Nick Deocampo. I acknowledge others within the individual chapters.

I am indebted to Patrick Hickman-Robertson for giving me my start in film history research, and for finding the initial quotation on Frederic Villiers which kicked off all my subsequent work on early war films. Thanks also to Kevin Brownlow for his encouragement and help over the years, and for the chance to see his incredible collection and research files at his home. Michelle Aubert was at the NFTVA when I began my research on Boer War cameraman Joseph Rosenthal, and became as devoted to researching this pioneer as I was. Since heading the CNC in France she has never faltered in her support for my work, and her colleague there, Nadine Dubois, has helped by supplying film descriptions and film frames at very short notice. My friend Vanessa Toulmin at the National Fairground Archive has been wonderfully generous in

supplying me with images and photocopies (as well as offering her expertise on early film exhibition), despite many other commitments.

I am particularly thankful to my supervisor for this thesis and friend, Frank Kessler. Frank not only encouraged me to take on the project through Utrecht University, but has been a constant guide in trying to turn a mass of research notes gathered over twenty years into a dissertation with some focus. His sharp eye has spotted many inconsistencies and errors, and his wide reading in the field of film history and other fields has meant that he could give me leads which I would not otherwise have considered. Sincere thanks for his continued forbearance, especially when my schedule overran, and for the practical support of himself and Sabine Lenk which allowed me to stay in Holland when required.

This dissertation would not have been started without the opportunity I was given through the Ph.D. International program of the Onderzoeksinstituut voor Geschiedenis en Cultuur (OGC) of Utrecht University. My gratitude goes to the OGC, and in particular to Franz Ruiter and Bas Plaatsman who offered me this chance and retained their friendly confidence throughout. I was also helped by a grant from the Kraszna-Krausz Foundation in 2001-2002, and by a grant from the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek in 2006. These enabled me to make further prolonged visits to archives, especially in the United States, which has enhanced the depth of my research. Prior to writing this thesis, I had already published several articles in journals on the early filming of wars; I had also edited an issue of *Film History* (the first ever double issue) on the theme of war and military film. These, however, only covered part of my subject, and the OGC's decision to sponsor my PhD has enabled me to make a far fuller survey of this theme. Thanks also to Joost Broeren for his Dutch translation of my thesis summary.

I am grateful to friends and family in the UK, the USA, Thailand and many other places for encouraging me to commence this project and to see it through. My late parents always supported me in my research, and helped me learn to think and to write in a more critical fashion. I have worked on this subject of the early war film over the past several years while pursuing a parallel career in documentary television production, and my colleagues at North South Productions – Polly, Sue, Peter, and especially the late Richard Keefe – provided me with a wonderful work environment for many years, enabling me to see (and film) the world, yet always being considerate when I wanted time off to do my archival research.

_

¹ My articles dealing with this theme of the early war film include the following: 'Frederic Villiers, War Correspondent', *Sight and Sound* 49, no. 4, Autumn 1980, p. 250-55. 'Joseph Rosenthal: The Most Glorious Profession', *Sight and Sound* 52, no. 4, Autumn 1983, p. 260-265. 'Il Cinema Appare Nelle Guerre Balchaniche e Boere, dal 1895 al 1914', in *Il Cinematografo al Campo*, edited by R. Renzi (Ancona: Transeuropa, 1993), p.32-39. 'Films of the Balkan Wars', *Journal of Film Preservation*, no. 46, April 1993, p. 49-50. 'In Time of War', *Sight & Sound* 111, no. 9, Sep 1993, p. 30-33. '"Every Phase of Present-Day Life": Biograph's Non-Fiction Production', *Griffithiana*, no. 66/70, 1999/2000, p. 147-211. 'War and Militarism', issue of *Film History* 14, nos.3-4, 2002.