

Wartime



Hollywood

Hollywood poured forth strong support of troops and the war by producing hundreds of films and sending out a flood of real life

celebrity stars, directors, producers, and writers to raise funds, sell war bonds and rally support for the war effort. The following is a partial list of these participants, ranging from stars to future-stars. I will also include names of sports figures and the **not-so-famous** of the artistic endeavor. If you know of anyone else, feel free to email me so that I may include them.

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## 1941-45 Hollywood & More

Lieut. Henry Fonda, Hollywood Star, famous Academy Award winner, among his many movies starred in the classic *The Grapes of Wrath*, served on a destroyer and air combat intelligence in the Pacific in the U.S. Navy. He enlisted without even notifying his press agent. American Campaign Medal; Bronze Star; National Defense Medal; Philippines Liberation Medal with battle star; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal; Overseas Service Bar. He is pictured upper right.

Maj. Clark Gable, Hollywood Star, the king of Hollywood in the 1930s and 40s, although 35 years of age, he easily kept up with 19-22 year old guys; most famous picture *Gone With The Wind*. Enlisted as a private on Aug. 12, 1942. Flew 9 missions with the B-17s of the U.S. 8th Air Force; chances he might have flown more but, he had his heel injured in combat, awarded Purple Heart; European Theater Ribbon; National Defense Medal. Overseas Service Bar. He is pictured above.

Bob Hope, Hollywood Star and great comedian, travelled over a million miles overseas with the USO entertaining troops, first trip into a combat area in 1943 when he and his small USO Troupe - Frances Langford, Tony Romano and Jack Pepper visited US military facilities in England, Africa, Sicily and I-land; 5 times Bob has been honored by the United States Congress; in 1997, received one of his greatest tributes when Resolution 75 was unanimously passed by members of both Houses making him an Honorary Veteran; 2001, recipient of Order of Horatio Gates Gold Medal for his life-long contributions toward maintaining the high morale of soldiers around the world. "America's top performer."



Col. James Stewart, Hollywood Star, famous Academy Award winner, famous pictures *The Philadelphia Story*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, transferred to England in 1943 and flew 25 missions mainly with the 445th of the U.S. 8th Air Force, in a B-24 named *Four Yanks and a Jerk*, was a daredevil, returned to the U.S. in 1945 with over 18,000 hours flight time. Pilot. Received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, National Defense Medal; France's Croix de Guerre; Overseas Service Bar; retired as a Brig General after the war, the highest ranking actor in military history.

Commander Robert Montgomery, Hollywood Star, famous Academy Award winner, commanded PT-boats and destroyer in Panama, Guadalcanal, Marshall Islands and Atlantic. His destroyer tangled with Germans at Normandy Beach, 1944. Drove ambulances as volunteer in France 1940. Bronze Star; the Good Conduct Medal; the American Defense Service Ribbon; the European Theater Ribbon with two battle stars; Overseas Service Bar.

Col. Timothy 'Tim' McCoy, Bronze Star; the Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Medal.

Maj. Frank Capra, Hollywood Director, was at the height of career when he volunteered; of the many he made *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* and *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington*; Overseas Service Bar.

Maj. John Huston, Hollywood Director, produced WW II Technicolor documentary *Report from the Aleutians*, *Let There Be Light*, and *The Battle of San Pietro*, which was the first Hollywood documentary to show body bags.

Lt. Col. Darryl F. Zanuck, Hollywood Producer, of the many he made *The Grapes of Wrath*, *King Kong*, *Since You Went Away* participated in the North African invasion.

Lt. Col. Merian Cooper, Hollywood Director, co-directed *King Kong* (in 1933), served in China; China Service Medal; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal; Overseas Service Bar.

Maj. Glenn Miller, Big Band leader, famous American music composer, took his band on several overseas tours; Overseas Service Bar; was killed over France.

Maj. William Wyler, Hollywood Director, flew five combat missions from England, filmed Technicolor documentary *Memphis Belle* and from the MTO *Thunderbolt*; awarded Legion of Merit; National Defense Medal; the European Theater Ribbon; Overseas Service Bar.

Commander Raymond "Benny" Bass, OLYMPIC Gold medal winner in the 1932 Olympics, joined the U.S. Navy, was in the submarine force. Overseas Service Bar.

Capt. "Doc" Blanchard, Heisman Trophy winner and All-American football player, West Point, U.S. Army.

Commander Victor Mature, Hollywood Star, in the U.S. Coast Guard in the North Atlantic. Overseas Service Bar.

Capt. Ronald Reagan, Hollywood Star, enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1937; because of a hearing loss was not allowed to fly even though he was in the Army Air Force; signed Maj. Clark Gable's discharge papers.

Capt. John Ford, Hollywood Director, very famous for his western classics, filmed Technicolor documentaries *The Battle of Midway* and *The Battle of the Aleutians*, awarded two Oscars for *The*

***Battle of Midway and December Seventh.***

Commander Douglas Fairbanks, Jr, Hollywood Star, served in the U.S. Navy off the coasts of France, North Africa and Sicily, first American officer to command a British flotilla of raiding craft during a commando operation, awarded Silver Star, National Defense Medal; British Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre. In said commando raid, Ventotene, radar station. Overseas Service Bar.



Maj. Ralph Houk, baseball player, U.S. Army, and liberation of Europe, awarded Silver and Bronze National Defense Medal; Overseas Service Bar.



captured a German

fought at Normandy Stars; Purple Heart;

Lieut. Commander Wayne Morris, U.S. Navy, with 7 enemy shot down, 4 Distinguished Flying Crosses; American Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; Philippines Liberation Medal; China Service Medal; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with battle star; Overseas Service Bar.

Hellcat pilot, ace 2 Air Medals;

Ensign Nyle Kinnick, Heisman Trophy winner and All-American Univ of Iowa, U.S. Navy, downed over Pacific and was killed in 1944. Overseas Service Bar.

Capt. Tommy Harmon, Heisman Trophy winner and All-American Michigan, Army Air Force, flew P-38s in North Africa and China-Burma-India, downed 2 Japanese aircraft before downed himself over China, awarded Silver Star; National Defense Medal; China Service Medal; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal; Overseas Service Bar.

Capt. Dale Robertson, Air Transport Command (ATC) pilot; Overseas Service Bar.

Chief Petty Officer Harold "Pee Wee" Reese, baseball player for the Brooklyn Dodgers, joined U.S. Navy in 1943. Overseas Service Bar.



Lt. Tyrone Power, left, Hollywood Star, U.S. Marines in the Pacific; Pilot assigned to VMR-353, logged over 1,100 hours in the air; flew C-46 Overseas Service Bar

Lt. Cameron Mitchell, U.S. Army Air Corps, Bombardier.

Lt. Van Heflin, U.S. Army Air Force.

Lieut. Eddie Albert, Hollywood Star, U.S. Navy, Invasion of Tarawa. Overseas Service Bar

Lieut. Caesar Romero, Hollywood Star, U.S. Coast Guard, was also air raid warden.

Lt. Nancy Kulp, WAVE, electronics, American Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; Good Conduct Medal.

Lt. Tony Randall, Hollywood Star, U.S. Army Signal Corps. Overseas Service Bar.

Lt. Ed McMahon, U.S. Marine Corps, fighter pilot and Flight Instructor; retired as a Colonel.

Flight Officer Gene Autry, Hollywood Star, Air Transport Command (ATC) pilot; C-B-I; American Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; China Service Medal; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with battle star; Overseas Service Bar.

Staff Sgt. Walter Matthau (Matuschanskavasky), U.S. 8th Air Force; 435th BG; radio operator; France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany; National Defense Medal; Overseas Service Bar.

Staff Sgt. Charles Schultz, U.S. Army, creator of Charlie Brown comic strips.

Sgt. "Sugar Ray" Robinson, baseball player for the Brooklyn Dodgers, joined U.S. Army.

Sgt. Joey Bishop, Hollywood Star, served in the S.O.S.

Chief Mate Ernest Borgnine, Hollywood Star, U.S. Navy on a destroyer in the Pacific; American Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; Philippines Liberation Medal with battle star; China Service Medal; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with four battle stars; Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Charlton Heston, Hollywood Star, volunteered in the Army Air Force, flew in B-25s with the 11th AF over the Aleutian Islands; American Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with battle star; Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Jackie Coogan, Hollywood Star, married Betty Grable (first husband), U.S. Army Air Force, glider pilot in Asia; National Defense Medal; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with battle star; Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Desi Arnaz, Hollywood Star, married Lucille Ball, U.S. Army Medical Corps; directed U.S.O. programs at a military hospital.

Sgt. Joe Louis, World Heavyweight boxing champion from 1937 to 1949, fought his last pro-fight before being drafted into the U.S. Army in January of 1942 for the U.S. Navy Relief Society.

Sgt. Joe DiMaggio, baseball star with the NY Yankees, U.S. Army Air Force.

Sgt. Manuel Centanio, pro-soccer player, U.S. Army in the Mediterranean; National Defense Medal; Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Jack Dempsey, Heavyweight boxing champ, U.S. Coast Guard.

Sgt. Alan Ladd, U.S. Army Air Force.

Sgt. George Barr, All-Star soccer player, joined U.S. Army, 2 Bronze Stars; National Defense Medal. Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Lee Powell, Hollywood Star, first to play the Lone Ranger on the screen, Tarawa, killed in the invasion of Tinian, Mariannas, July 30, 1944.

Sgt. Barry Nelson, U.S. Army Air Force.

Sgt. Neville Brand, Hollywood Star, it is said the fourth most decorated U.S. soldier of World War II; participated in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central European campaigns, Silver Star; Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Ribbon, the European/African/Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three Battle Stars, Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Mel Brooks (Melvin Kaminsky), Hollywood Star and producer, Academy Award winner, U.S. Army Engineers, stationed in Europe and first saw combat at the Battle of the Bulge; later transferred to Special Entertainment Unit. American Defense Service Ribbon, European Defense Ribbon, Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. George Reeves, U.S. 8th Air Force, Superman television star.

Sgt. 'Sabu' Sasebu Dastigur, Hollywood Star, flew 42 missions as a tail gunner on B-29s in the Pacific. Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Hank Bauer, baseball manager, joined U.S. Marine Corps, eleven campaign ribbons, 2 Bronze Stars and 2 Purple Hearts; Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. George C. Scott, U. S. Marine Corps; American Defense Service Ribbon; European Defense Ribbon with two battle stars; Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Kevin McCarthy, U.S. Army Air Force.

Sgt. John Russell, U.S. Marine Corps, Guadalcanal; The Navy Marine Cross; American Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; Philippines Liberation Medal with battle star; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with battle star; Overseas Service Bar.

Sgt. Bob Keeshan, U.S. Marine Corps, of Captain Kangaroo fame.

Sgt. Andy Rooney, U.S. Army, among first correspondents allowed aboard a heavy bomber on a mission, Stars and Stripes; Overseas Service Bar.

Corp. Lew Ayres, Hollywood Star, married Ginger Rogers, U.S. Medical Corps.

Bing Crosby, Hollywood Star, comedian and singer, toured the world with the U.S.O., once found himself and his jeep driver deep behind enemy lines in Germany.

Sgt. Glenn Ford, U.S. Marine Corps, American Defense Service Ribbon; after the war U.S. Naval Reserves; retired as a Captain.

Corp. Mickey Rooney, Hollywood Star, teen idol, U.S. Army, American Defense Service



Ribbon, sent to Europe.

Corp. Red Buttons, U.S. Army Air

Corp. Lee J. Cobb, U.S. Army Air

Corp. Karl Malden, U.S. 8th Air  
Overseas Service Bar.

Pfc. James Arness, Hollywood Star  
Dillon of Gunsmoke), U.S. Army,  
Italy; Bronze Star; the Good Conduct Medal; the American Defense Service; European Ribbon with  
four Battle Stars; Overseas Service Bar.

Pfc. Charles Durning, U.S. Army Ranger, Silver Star, Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal;  
the American Defense Service; European Ribbon with three Battle Stars; Overseas Service Bar.

Pfc. Jack Palence, U.S. Army Air Force, 455th BG; Purple Heart; his B-24 crashed landed near  
Tucson, Arizona, 1943.

Pfc. Brian Keith, U.S. Marine Corps, rear gunner in Pacific,  
American Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; Philippines  
Liberation Medal with battle star; Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal  
with battle star; Overseas Service Bar.

Pfc. Carl Reiner, U.S. Army, Signal Corps, Special Enter-  
tainment Unit.

Pfc. Rod Serling, U.S. Army, 511th paratroops, 11th Air-  
borne Div, New Guinea, Philippines, Purple Heart; American  
Campaign Medal; National Defense Medal; Philippines Libera-  
tion Medal with battle star; Asiatic Pacific  
Theater Medal with battle star; Overseas  
Service Bar. Famous for *Twilight Zone*.

Pfc. Gary Merrill, U.S. Army Air  
Force, flew B-24s; Overseas Service Bar.

Pfc. Lee Marvin, U.S. Marine Corps,  
Navy Cross at Iwo Jima; Purple Heart;  
National Defense Medal.

Commander Gene Kelly, went into  
the U.S. Navy in 1945; his picture is above  
The End on last page.

Radioman Jason Robards, Jr, U.S.  
Navy.

Pvt. Donald O'Connor, Hollywood  
Star and dancer, U.S. Army.

Pvt. Sixto Escobar, World Bantam-  
weight boxing champ, U.S. Army.

Pvt. Don Adams, television star of  
*Get Smart*, U.S. Marine Corps, contracted  
malaria and blackwater fever at Guadalca-

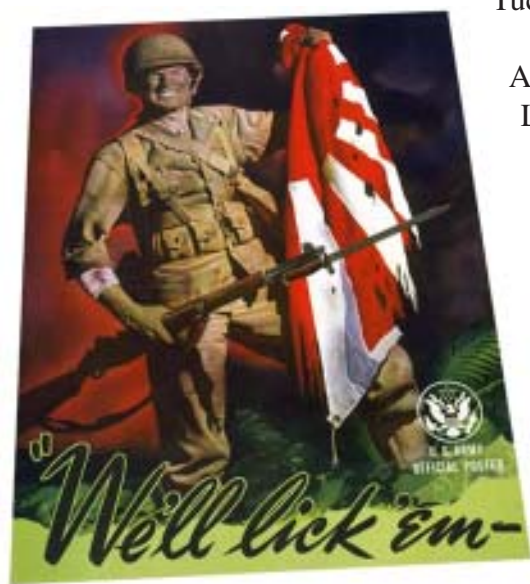


Force.

Force.

Force, England;

(Marshal Matt  
Purple Heart in



## Hollywood knew what a real war meant and its implications



nal; National Defense Ribbon; Overseas Service Bar.

Walter Cronkite, famous newscaster of CBS, flew on several bomber missions over Europe, including the first B-17 raid over Germany in 1943.

Joe E. Brown, Hollywood comedian, the first entertainer to travel to both the South Pacific and Alaska for the troops; travelled over 200,000 miles at his own expense to entertain, was one of only two civilian recipients of Bronze Star.

Martha Raye, Hollywood comedian, singer and dancer, remembered as “Boss Witch” from *HR Puf’n Stuff*, formed a U.S.O. Troupe with Carole Landis, Al Jolson, Kay Francis and Mitzi Mayfair; extensive travel overseas for the troops; when things got rough she filled in as a nurse, often going without a break.

Madeleine Carroll, Hollywood Star, voted in 1942 as the girl U.S. servicemen would like most to be marooned on an island, served in the American Red Cross in Naples and Foggia, was in the United Nations Appeal for Children to help orphans around the world.

Julia Child, special agent with the OSS, Office of Strategic Services, served in Ceylon and China.

Hedy Lamarr, Hollywood Star, helped invent a torpedo guidance system.

Audrey Hepburn, Hollywood Star, famous Academy Award winner, courier for World War II resistance fighters in Holland.

of the following, their rank is unsure:

Robert 'Bob' Barker, U.S. Navy, F4U Corsair pilot.

Raymond Burr, Hollywood Star, U.S. Navy.

John Carroll, Hollywood Star, U.S. Army Air Force pilot, survived a plane crash in N. Africa that broke his back.

Lou Brissie, baseball pitcher, lost a leg.

Charles Bronson (Buchinsky), U.S. Army Air Force.

Joseph Cotten, U.S. Army Air Force.

Tony Curtis, Hollywood Star, U.S. Navy, joined at age 17 in 1943, submarine force, in 1944 was on board the only sub of the war to survive an accidental flooding of the forward torpedo room, off an uncharted coral reef.

Glenn Davis, Heisman Trophy winner and All-American West Point, U.S. Army.



Sidney Poitier, Hollywood Star, volunteered in the U.S. Navy despite he was below age, served in the 1267th Medical Unit.

Kirk Douglas, Hollywood Star, U.S. Navy, served in an Anti-Submarine unit in the Pacific.

George Gobel, U.S. Army Air Force Flight Instructor.

William Carroll O'Connor, Hollywood Star, sailed on fourteen different ships in the North Atlantic with the Merchant Marines.

Lawrence "Yogi" Berra, baseball player for the Yankees, U.S. Navy, fought at Normandy, American Defense Ribbon.

Eddie Albert (Green Acres TV) awarded a Bronze Star with Combat "V" for his heroic action while manning an amphibious attack transport rescuing Marines at the horrific battle on the island of Tarawa in the Pacific Nov. 1943; military career actually started at age 33 doing undercover work for the Navy while travelling in Mexico as a circus trapeze artist involving espionage; Sept 9, 1942, enlisted in the U.S. Navy; honorably discharged in 1943 to accept appointment as a Lieut. in the Naval Reserves; personally rescued 47 men at Tarawa despite heavy enemy gunfire and oversaw the rescue of 30 more; left partially deaf for life; in 1996 received the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award.

Angelo Bertelli, Heisman Trophy winner and All-American Notre Dame, U.S. Marine Corps.

Johnny Carson, famed star of The Tonight Show. U.S. Navy?

William Conrad, U.S. Navy, F4U Corsair pilot.

Bob Feller, baseball pitcher, U.S. Navy, gunner on the battleship *Alabama*.

Mike Douglas, Hollywood Star, U.S. Army.

Dennis Day, Hollywood Singer, U.S. Army.

Sammy Davis, Jr, song and dance star, U.S. Army.

Arthur Godfrey, U.S. Coast Guard

Alan Hale, U.S. Coast Guard.

William Holden, U.S. Army Air Force.

Tim Holt, U.S. Army Air Force, B-29 crewman.

Red Skelton, Hollywood Star, U.S. Army.

Arthur Kennedy, U.S. Army Air Force.

George Kennedy, U.S. Army Air Force.

Arthur Lake, U.S. Coast Guard.

Burt Lancaster, U.S. Army.

Jack Mahoney, U.S. Marine Corps.

Ray Milland, U.S. Army Air Force Flight Instructor.

George Montgomery, U.S. Army Air Force.

Clayton Moore, U.S. Army Air Force, the Long Ranger star.

Paul Newman, U.S. Navy, flew in TBM Avengers.

Sam Peckinpah, U.S. Marine Corps.

Cliff Robertson, U.S. Navy.

Don Rickles, Hollywood comedian, U.S. Navy, served on a "hot" destroyer.

Robert Ryan, U.S. Marine Corps, served with the OSS in Yugoslavia.

Robert Stack, U.S. Navy anti-aircraft gunnery instructor, *The Untouchables*.

Robert Young, Hollywood Star.

Gene Roddenberry, U.S. Army Air Force, pilot.

