

## Movie Stars

They seem today to be an unlikely source of heroism, and perhaps in the 1930's and 40's, many felt the same way. But from the Golden Age of Hollywood came some very unselfish and brave men, who gave up very lucrative careers in order to serve their country. Some gave up their position and fame simply to become enlisted men.

This page lists only a few, but from this group of only 18 men came over 70 medals of valor, ranging from Bronze Stars to one Congressional Medal of Honor.

**Sir Alec Guinness** (*Bridge over the River Kwai, Star Wars*): operated a landing craft on D-Day in the Normandy invasion (also a very strong supporter of the Traditional Latin Mass).

**James Doohan** ("*Scotty*" in the *Star Trek TV series*): landed on the beach with the US Army, D-Day, Normandy invasion.

**Donald Pleasance** (*The Great Escape*): RAF pilot who was shot down, held prisoner, and tortured by the SS.

**David Niven** (*Guns of Navarone*): Lt. Col. of Commando's, D-Day, Normandy invasion.

**Jimmy Stewart** (*It's a Wonderful Life*): Entered US Air Corps as a private, retired a Brigadier General. Was a bomber pilot in WWII, flew 20 combat missions, earned the Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, France's Croix de Guerre, and seven battle stars.

**Clark Gable** (*Gone With the Wind*): Entered US Air Corps as a private, even though he was beyond the draft age. Flew B-17's in WWII over Europe, retired as a major in June of 1944, since by that time he was overage for combat.

**Charleton Heston** (*Ben Hur*): was an Army Air Corps sergeant in Kodiak, Alaska.

**Ernest Borgnine** (*Magnificent 7*): was a US Navy Gunners Mate from 1935-1945.

**Charles Durning** (*O Brother Where Art Thou*): US Army Ranger, WWII, earning a Purple Heart and Silver Star in the Normandy invasion.

**Charles Bronson** (*Great Escape*): Tail Gunner in B-29's, US Army Air Force, WWII.

**George C. Scott** (*A Christmas Story*): US Marine, highly decorated.

**Eddie Albert** (*The Longest Day*): US Navy, awarded Purple Heart and Bronze Star for aiding Marines in the Battle of Tarawa, Nov. 1943.

**Brian Keith** (*Nevada Smith*): US Marine artillery, decorated at the Battle of Rabaul, Pacific Theater.

**Lee Marvin** (*Cat Ballou*): US Marine, Purple Heart and Bronze Star on Saipan, Pacific Theater.

**John Russell** (*The Law Man*): US Marine enlisted man who received a Battlefield Commission on Guadalcanal, plus a Purple Heart and Silver Star.

**Robert Ryan** (*The Longest Day*): US Marine who served in the OSS in Yugoslavia in covert operations against the Germans.

**Tyrone Power** (*Witness for the Prosecution*): US Marine Pilot, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

**Audie Murphy** (*To Hell and Back*), the single most decorated soldier of the Second World War, US Army: Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, 2 Silver Stars, Legion of Merit, 2 Bronze Stars with "V", 2 Purple Hearts, Army Outstanding Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, 2 Distinguished Unit Medals, American Campaign Medal, European Campaign Medal with stars representing 9 campaigns with Bronze Arrowhead (for assault landing in Sicily), WWII Victory Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar, Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar, French medals of the Fourragere, Legion of Honor (Grade of Chevalier), Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, Croix de Guerre with Palm, French Liberation Medal, Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palm.