

# PHOTOPLAY

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## The Truth About Hollywood Deferments

Yes, a lot of the stars have been deferred—and they haven't been able to tell the public why!

**HERE'S THE INSIDE DOPE**

*By "Fearless"*

**W**HILE it is true that publicity often overemphasizes Hollywood happenings and that the smallest mistakes of stars are exaggerated, draft deferments in the film industry will take explaining.

The personalities of the fabulous films are on the spot in the matter of serving their country. It is useless to deny that motion-picture stars have been getting the best of it (as to immunity from draft.) Some have been given special deferments and choice assignments and, even when taken, often have been allowed extra months to finish pictures before having to report for active duty.

Husky film heroes without dependents or physical disabilities have frequented sporting events, night clubs and social gatherings, apparently without fear of the draft board—while their country cousins and city pals were being called from their jobs and their homes by the Army, or were cleaning up their affairs to enlist in the Marines or the Navy.

Nor were other members of the film industry so immune. Pictures were held up because technical men, crew hands and laboratory workers were drafted or had volunteered for service—while the ranks of the stars seemingly thinned not at all.

As late as August of this year few important players were to be seen in uniform. Jimmy Stewart, Robert Montgomery, Doug Fairbanks, Wayne Morris, Ronald Reagan, Bill Holden, Jeffrey Lynn, Gene Raymond, Burgess Meredith, Tim Holt and one or two others were notable exceptions—an amazingly low percentage in view of the statements regarding those supposed to be on the verge of going.

Months passed with the stars still among those present and the public began to ask why. Wives, sisters, parents and sweethearts of drafted men who had little worldly goods to fight for wondered why their loved ones should face danger and death

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while the men to whom America had given so very much remained behind.

The stars have sensed this growing resentment, rubbed to a rawer edge by the actions of those few who pulled strings to get commissions in behind-the-lines jobs as Army, Navy and Marine press agents, intelligence officers and "specialists," this latter covering a multitude of assignments such as Tony Martin's job of running a theater.

Yet, when a star would have responded to this spur of public opinion and joined the fighting forces, he ran head on into an unyielding wall of pressure. For that is the paradox of Hollywood deferments. The stars are, in the main, deferred—not by request, but because of circumstances. No more than in Milwaukee or Spokane have Hollywood's draft boards put into 1-A men who are married, who have children, or who live under other special circumstances allowed for by the Selective Service Act.

There is, of course, no law against a man with a family volunteering. But there has been, in a surprising number of cases, the ceaseless, urgent plea of the studios, of fellow workers, of friends and well-meaning advisers to "stay on the job."

Then Clark Gable kicked the flood gates open by joining up as a private in the officers training school for the Air Corps. Tyrone Power, who had been none too happy over the failure of his attempt to enlist as a non-commissioned officer in the Navy and the publicity that followed his move, threw off the shackles and enlisted in the Marines. At the same time Henry Fonda signed up as a seaman with the Navy and the movement of star enlistments began in earnest.

But not all stars who would willingly have followed the example of the Three Musketeers were free to do so. Yet in no case has a star been able to speak and say why.

Even those whose physical disabilities placed them out of the draft have had to keep their mouths shut. Some who might better have gone into service but who took advantage of technicalities to stay out have welcomed the cloak of censorship Hollywood flung over itself.

So "Fearless," who feels it is only fair to tell the whole truth about Hollywood deferments, has compiled as complete, as authentic and honest a list of Hollywood men who have not yet gone into service, together with their draft status, as it has been possible to make. Not every Hollywood personality is covered, due to lack of space, but you'll find most of the significant ones represented here. Also, our chief concern is with Americans, not those of other nationalities.

"Fearless" now asks, in return for

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this information, obtained from a hundred different confidential sources, that with the evidence before you, you bring in an unprejudiced verdict.

*Below, you will find listed the name of the star in red, followed their dependents, their status and war activities*

**Bud Abbott** Wife, one child  
Active in Bond drives, Government shorts, camp tours.

**Don Ameche** Wife, four children  
Radio programs for different charities and Government. "Command Performance" show and U. S. O. appearances.

**Humphrey Bogart** Wife  
Radio for patriotic and war programs. Personal appearances Coast Guard Auxiliary. Has turned his boat over to Coast Guard.

**George Brent** Wife (not dependent)  
Going on full-time duty as civilian instructor with Army Air Force.

**James Cagney** Wife, relatives  
Executive member of Hollywood Victory Committee. Was on Caravan—made personal appearances, went on radio.

**John Carroll** Wife (divorced), one child  
Radio shows and personal appearances for Bond sales.

**Gary Cooper** Wife, one child  
Radio appearances for charity and war shows.

**Lou Costello** Wife, two children  
Active in Bond drives, Government shorts, camp tours.

**Bing Crosby** Wife, four children  
Favorite entertainer for all branches of service. Has appeared at many camps. Also appeared for Red Cross and other causes. Tours with the Crosby-Hope Golf Circus.

**Robert Cummings** Wife, mother  
Flight Commander with Civil Air Patrol. Also captain in Air Corps Reserve assignment to active duty.

**Brian Donlevy** Wife  
Personal appearances on road.

**Nelson Eddy** Wife and mother  
Air-raid warden.

**Errol Flynn** Wife (divorced), one child  
Rejected physically after trying to enlist. Radio programs for Government.

**Glenn Ford** Mother  
In training for Coast Guard. Radio and personal appearances.

**John Garfield** Wife, one child  
Toured Army camps.

**Cary Grant** Wife (not dependent)  
Personal appearances; Victory Caravan; "Command Performance" radio shows. Very large contributor—first to British, now to American relief organizations.

**Jon Hall** Wife (not dependent)  
On radio for Treasury Department. Also personal appearances. Awaiting call.

**Van Heflin** Wife  
Entering service within sixty days.

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**Bob Hope** Wife, two children

Probably has done more charity and service shows than anyone else in country. Radio shows and recordings for service use. Tours with Crosby-Hope Golf Circus. Toured camps with own show in Northwest, Alaska and Aleutian Islands.

**John Howard** Mother and father

Radio shows.

**Alan Ladd** Wife (not dependent), one child

Reported physical disability.

**Fred MacMurray** Wife, one child

Radio shows for Government. Very active worker for Hollywood Victory Committee. Active in civilian defense service.

**Joel McCrea** Wife (not dependent),

two children: Government air programs and show for Mexican Army.

**Ray Milland** Wife, one child

Considerable radio work for Government.

**George Montgomery** Single,

Radio and personal appearances for Bond-selling.

**Dennis Morgan** Wife, three children

Air-raid warden.

**George Murphy** Wife, one child

Camp and Government air shows. Hollywood Victory Committee. Personal appearance for Treasury Department.

**John Payne** Wife (divorced), one child

Has just enlisted in Air Corps as a private. Reports for duty on completion of "Hello, Frisco. Hello."

**Walter Pidgeon** Wife, one child

Bond-selling tours.

**Robert Preston** Wife

Radio, war program shows.

**George Raft** Wife

Has a group of young boxers that he takes from camp to camp—at his own expense, to entertain service men.

**Roy Rogers** Wife, one child

Personal appearances selling Bonds, camp tours.

**Cesar Romero** Single, family dependents

Personal appearances. Government radio programs. Air-raid warden. Lieutenant in the State Guard. Member of the Evacuation Corps.

**Mickey Rooney** Wife (divorced pending)

Radio programs, camp tours, personal appearances.

**Red Skelton** Wife

More than two hundred personal appearances. Toured small camps and barracks not big enough to draw regular shows.

**Robert Stack** Single

Just received commission as ensign in Navy. Now training in aerial gunnery.

**Robert Sterling** Single, family dependents

Going into Air Corps training school for pilots as soon as called. Radio war program show. Active in civilian defense services.

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**Robert Sterling** Single, family dependents  
Going into Air Corps training school for  
pilots as soon as called. Radio war pro-  
gram show. Active in civilian defense  
services.

**Robert Taylor** Wife (not dependent)  
Does considerable privately for men in  
uniform.

**Franchot Tone** Wife  
Victory Committee and San Diego Navy  
show.

**Spencer Tracy** Wife, two children  
Radio shows for Government.

**John Wayne** Wife, four children  
Air-raid warden.

**Johnny Weissmuller** Wife, two children  
Radio "Command Performance" and has  
made Red Cross golf appearances, filling  
in for Bing Crosby or Bob Hope.

**Orson Welles** Wife (divorced), one child  
Rejected because of physical disability.  
Good-will Ambassador to South Amer-  
ica. Government radio programs. "Stars  
Over America" Bond-selling tour.

**Robert Young** Wife, two children  
Bond-selling tours, radio programs  
for Government, active in civilian  
defense organizations.

**NOTE:** You will not find listed the names of  
those stars who are over active military age.  
Be it said once more, up to the moment of  
our going to press, this is the most complete  
information obtainable.