

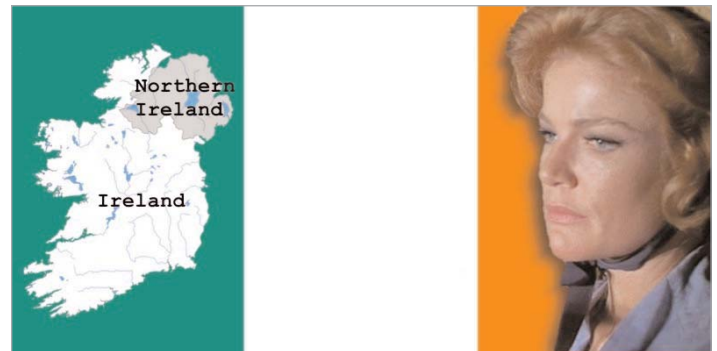
IRELAND AND WARTIME NEUTRALITY *by Libby*

The history between Ireland and Britain has been a long and troubled one. Most of the Island of Ireland became formally independent from Great Britain in 1937 when they adopted their own constitution and took the name Ireland. But six counties in the north chose to remain part of Great Britain and became known as Northern Ireland. Not everyone in Ireland was happy with that arrangement but that is how it stood in 1939 when Great Britain declared war on Germany.


Instead of following Britain into war like Commonwealth countries, Ireland declared their neutrality. They had their reasons. After centuries of difficult relations, animosity to Britain remained substantial so officially siding with Britain would have been unpopular with Irish citizens. Having a policy of neutrality also allowed Ireland to clearly express their new independence to the world. Within the country they referred to their wartime standing as 'the Emergency'.

Maintaining wartime neutrality was especially complicated by their history with Britain. Geographically the two states are very close, a situation that naturally wove strong economic ties over the centuries. But Ireland's government had to be careful not to do business with Britain during the war, for to do so might have brought on a German invasion, a situation their small forces were poorly prepared for. By the same token, if Britain had detected German involvement in Ireland, they too would have had reason to invade. Ireland had to walk a fine line.

As a result, Irish newspapers, radio, and postal service were strongly censored to maintain media impartiality. Her ports, some that would have been invaluable to the Allies during the North Atlantic war, were not open to either warring side (the story that German U-boats refueled at those ports was pure myth or Allied propaganda).



Despite their official neutrality there is clear evidence that neutral Ireland covertly aided the Allies throughout the war. Allied airmen, downed in Ireland, were quietly picked up and dropped off near the border with Northern Ireland from where they rejoined their units. The German equivalent were interned. Coastal and air watch reports by the Irish Defence were secretly relayed through channels to British Intelligence. American and British flights were permitted to fly over some parts of Ireland. When Belfast, in Northern Ireland, was bombed by the Luftwaffe, fire engines raced from neutral Ireland to help. An estimated 50,000 from Ireland swelled the ranks of the Allied forces and many flooded into Britain to do war related work. More evidence of clandestine cooperation between Ireland and Britain appears in reports of their secret joint planning for a German invasion of Ireland they assumed would come.

Being neutral in wartime was not easy for Ireland. Her citizens experienced isolation, deprivations, and rationing of food, petrol and electricity. Even though they were neutral, they did not escape war attack. More than once during the war the Luftwaffe bombed Irish centres. 

Sources:
<http://suite101.com/article/the-meaning-of-neutral-ireland-1939-1945-a353627>
<http://suite101.com/article/neutral-irelands-experience-of-world-war-two-a379749>

EPISODE IN A SHELL.

The Death Do Us Part Raid by Libby

SEASON TWO • EPISODE 35 - September 25, 1967

The episode opens with Troy peering through his binoculars at what looks like a circus tent sale. It is, however, where the Rats hope to find their contact who will direct them to the new German supply depot. They hop into the jeeps and race toward the tents only to discover that they aren't alone. Their frequent nemesis Dietrich has spotted them and our boys are soon in the middle of a shoot up. Troy tumbles out of his jeep, shot.

Luckily for Troy, he is able to scuttle into the community's only solid structure while the other lads are scooped up by Dietrich's men. Inside the tiny abode Troy confronts a fetching Irish woman who has taken it upon herself to educate the locals. Being from a neutral country she has no wish to participate in the war. Regardless, she hides Troy under her bed and then invites Dietrich to look under the bed for his missing quarry. Alas for Dietrich, there is a false floor beneath which Troy remains hidden, so the Germans depart with only three Rats.

As Miss Blackner slaps a bandage on Troy's flesh wound, he springs the secret phrase to identify his contact. But Miss Blackner, perplexed, is clearly not his contact.

Meanwhile, the other Rats are at the German base and facing an unpleasant officer (not Dietrich) who says they will soon be exterminated like the rats that they are. But first a message arrives that causes Dietrich great distress and impels him to vehemently voice his objection—to what, we do not know.

Back at the hut Troy asks for Miss Blackner's help to find the German supply depot, but she declines. As she leaves the hut an Arab boy (Ben) enters and says the secret phrase causing big smiles until they hear Dietrich arriving outside. The boy steps outside where Dietrich reluctantly presses a fabric yellow star on Ben's chest, and despite Miss Blackner's objections, Ben is taken away.

Miss Blackner is determined to rescue Ben by peaceful means but Troy is more realistic. After a bit of verbal wrangling they set off in her rattletrap truck. For a moment it looks like Troy might get in a kiss but the moment evaporates.

Once at the German base, Troy sets a timed explosive in the warehouse, and then knocks out the nasty German officer in order to rescue Ben and Miss Blackner. Ben explains that the others are tied up in the warehouse. Oops! Troy hurries to release them before the big boom happens while other two dash for the half-track. Troy is successful (naturally) and the lads are safely freed but much shooting immediately commences. In the ruckus Miss Blackner is seriously wounded. Sadly, and in a very posed scene, she dies in Troy's arms, but not before she understands that her war and Troy's war are the same. She was no longer neutral.



Coded Messages by Keryn H.

The typist transcribing Troy's report has had one too many ghiblis and failed to decode a few words. Can you help him with these important words from The Death Do Us Part Raid?

QEHPVYYA OYNPXARE

ORA ANSV

MURO NY-OBH

OLMNAGVAR PVGNQRL

ANFGL JBHAQ

JNE BS PBZCNFFVBA

If you need a hint look below the picture.



Hint: one of the 5 letter words is 'nasty'.

Answers from last issue's Coded Message:
MISSION COMPLETE. TRAIN DESTROYED. TRACKS
CLEARED. VILLAGE LIBERATED.

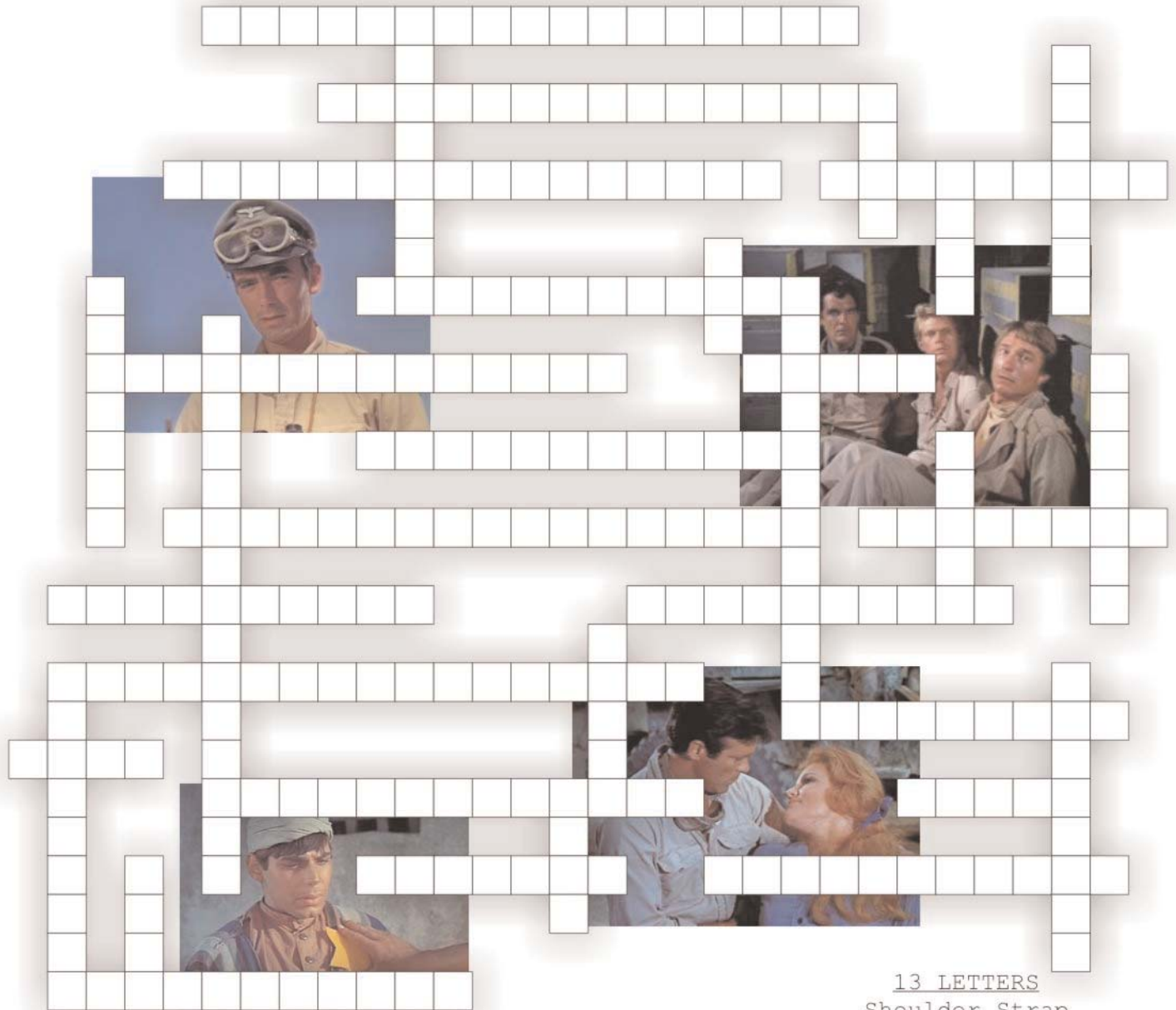


LETTERS HOME by Barbo

DEAR MA,

WELL - IT'S OVER. THE ALLIES HAVE CAPTURED TRIPOLI AND THE ENEMY HAS SURRENDERED. I'M EXSTATIC AND SADDENED ALL AT ONCE. I'M VERY TIRED AND PLAN TO SPEND MY LEAVE IN TWO PLACES - A BAR AND BOB. AFTER THAT, I'LL STAY ON AWAITING THE WORD OF WITHME I'LL GO NEXT. IF I GET DISCHARGED, I'LL STAY ON HOME FOR A WHILE. I WANT TO EX-
PERIENCE THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE WITHOUT THE FEAR OF BEING BLOWN UP. MORRIT HAS ASKED ME TO HELP HIM HOME. THERE IS STILL A LOT TO DO, BUT, I HAVE A FEELING THE FOUR OF US WILL BE SEPARATED & SENT TO EUROPE. RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST GOING TO ENJOY A BIT OF FREEDOM, SEND MY LOVE TO EVERYONE. I WILL BE HOME SOON.

TULLY



3 LETTERS

KAL

4 LETTERS

Cups
Kepi
Mine
Tire
Trap

5 LETTERS

Beret
Irish
Jeeps
Timer

7 LETTERS

Blue Bow
Grenade
Pottery
Teacher

8 LETTERS

Drucilla
Straw Hat
Vorsicht

9 LETTERS

Blue Truck
Palm Trees
School Boy

10 LETTERS

Copper Pots
Pippa Scott

11 LETTERS

Candlestick
Knife in Boot

12 LETTERS

Captured Rats
Kerosene Lamp
Striped Tents

13 LETTERS

Shoulder Strap

14 LETTERS

Africa Campaign

15 LETTERS

Pitcher and Basin
Wounded Sergeant

16 LETTERS

Byzantine Citadel

17 LETTERS

Bloodstained Shirt
Death Do Us Part Raid
Yellow Star of David

THE DEATH DO US PART RAID – Crossword Puzzle *by Libby*



ACROSS

1. The boy's name was Ben _ _ _ _ .
3. Zheb Al-Bou was built on the ruins of a Byzantine _ _ _ _ _ .
4. Actress playing Drucilla Blackner.
5. The type of vehicle the Rat Patrol 'liberated' from the Germans in this episode.
7. Writer of this episode.
10. The boy had learned English, French and _ _ _ _ _ .

DOWN

1. Miss Blackner had not taken sides in the war. She was a _ _ _ _ _ .
2. Miss Blackner's nationality.
6. Miss Blackner said her war was a war of _ _ _ _ _ .
8. Where the captured Rat Patrol were being held.
9. The German Colonel said the Rat Patrol had _ _ _ _ _ the desert long enough.

Missing Scene

The Way We Were/Are

by Pat Shaw

"I did not see it as a betrayal, Sergeant, merely a detour in the current way of thinking."

Troy realised Dietrich was serious. The Captain was a man, not unlike himself, who would always try and find a way of translating orders to salve his own conscience. The man had honour and integrity, but he had been the enemy.

"He was only a child, Captain."

"Trying to be a man before his time."

"He didn't know your kind showed no mercy to children."

"My kind, Sergeant? What do you mean by my kind?"

"Nazis."

"My allegiance was to the leader of my country. I never was part of the National Socialist Party."

"Semantics, Captain. The worst Nazi of all led your country and had your allegiance."

Dietrich dropped his eyes from Troy's face. Was that a fleeting look of shame? thought Troy.

"Believe it or not, Sergeant, I had no intention of hurting anyone personally. The boy was a Jew and I had my orders."

"And did they include killing an innocent woman?"

"Miss Blackner was a casualty of war. I am sorry she was killed."

"You didn't have to dirty your own hands, Captain. You had men to do that for you."

"The bullet was meant for you, Sergeant, not the school teacher. You were a legitimate target for my men."

"So, I'm supposed to just forget that you had her killed?"

"Your memory is flawed, Sergeant. I did not have her killed. You know as well as I that she was an unfortunate, in the wrong place at the wrong time."

"She was much more than that, Captain."

"Like you, I prefer my women with a little spirit, Sergeant. She was a fine woman, and I am truly sorry she had to die. Especially for something that was no business of hers."

"She was protecting the boy. Surely that is a concept you can understand, Captain."

A muscle ticked along Dietrich's jaw line. Troy took some satisfaction in Dietrich's effort at control. He wanted to get under the German's skin, to provoke him like the old days, but Dietrich wasn't playing his game.

"In the end, Sergeant, did any of it matter?"

Troy sighed. The moment had passed. He gave a rueful grin. "No, Captain I don't suppose it did. Shall we join the others?"

"It is why we came after all."

Both men rose from the bar stools and headed out into the weak English sunshine at a little before eleven o'clock. Waiting beside the cenotaph in London stood Moffitt, Hitchcock and Tully. It had taken a lot of years for their November 11th reunion to take place. Unlike their long dead comrades who never grew old, all three were showing signs of advancing years, but Troy saw that Dietrich recognised them as if it were yesterday.



Missing Scene

Last ? Thoughts

by Keryn H.

The mission had gone terribly wrong. The Germans had been waiting in ambush, Troy was wounded, possibly dead, and now Moffitt, Hitch and Tully sat tied in the back of a munitions tent awaiting "extermination". Tully's "What now, Sarge?" didn't bring the automatic, "Don't call me Sarge." from Moffitt, a mark of this worry.

"I don't know, Tully. If Troy's able, he'll think of something. If not—"

A soldier who looked like a gorilla in uniform flung aside the back tent flap and barked an order that needed no translation. No talking. Bound and guarded, they sought comfort in their own thoughts.

The sun glittered through a pinhole in the tent canvas. Moffitt's thoughts turned back to another sparkle of gold. In the summer of his sixteenth year, he accompanied his father to a dig in the Syrian desert, where they were working the site of an ancient caravansary. For the first time he was allowed to work the dig himself. Jack was interested in archeology, but he was becoming a bit bored with pot shards and bone fragments.

Working carefully despite the boredom, he spotted a glint of gold. Holding his breath, he uncovered a small, exquisite lotus blossom brooch. Had it once graced the gown of an Egyptian noblewoman? Was it a gift for the caravaner's wife? Jack would never know, but from that moment, he was hooked.

Hitch shifted, testing his bonds. Was it all going to end here? Would he never dance with Virginia again? Hitch attended one last dance before he shipped out to North Africa. He usually went for voluptuous blondes, but that night a petite brunette caught his eye. She was cute as a button, and could she dance! She had guys lined up a mile to dance with her and Hitch knew he hadn't a prayer of getting close to her, so he sat on her coat. When the band took a break, she asked for her coat. He refused until she promised to dance with only him for the rest of the evening. He'd find her again if he got out of this war alive.

continued on page 8

EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW, I LEARNED FROM... – Sergeant Troy


A list compiled by Judith W. and Libby after studying the Rat Patrol.

During his time with the Rat Patrol Sergeant Troy taught us:

1. How to make a slingshot out of almost nothing. (David and Goliath Raid)
2. The enemy is just the enemy. You can't personalize them. (Hickory Dickory Dock Raid)
3. Not to mess with the local ladies, it inevitably ends badly (Death Do Us Part), and the corollary: Don't let your men mess with the ladies either. It upsets them because either the lady gets shot or proves to be already married. (Last Harbor Raid, Fatal Reunion Raid)
4. That TNT cut up fine makes a good fire (even if used for making tea) (Chase of Fire Raid)
5. That just 4 guys can liberate hundreds of POWs if they are the right four guys and they've got a little support. (Last Harbor Raid)
6. That a German general will give up some privileges in order to keep his pants up. (Wildest Raid of All)
7. That being shackled to a German officer in a time of war isn't a walk in the park and being able to roll safely down a sand dune is a skill well worth learning.(Chain of Death Raid)
8. A good pair of sunglasses is worth every penny, and to keep them handy when wandering around the desert, old buddy. (Blind Man's Bluff Raid)
9. There are times when you can, and should, trust the enemy (depending on the enemy, of course). (Moment of Truce Raid, Truce at Aburah Raid)
10. You can't order a man to abandon his missing father, no matter how much you want it. (Dare Devil Rescue Raid)

and much more...

Episode answers for 'Things I learned from . . . Sgt Moffitt' in our last issue:

1. from Hickory Dickory Dock Raid and any number of raids - take your pick; 2 & 3. Chase of Fire Raid; 4 & 6. Fire and Brimstone Raid; 5. Field of Death Raid; 7. The Kingdom Come Raid; 8. Hickory Dickory Dock Raid; 9. Fire and Brimstone Raid and other raids; 10. Darers Go First Raid. 

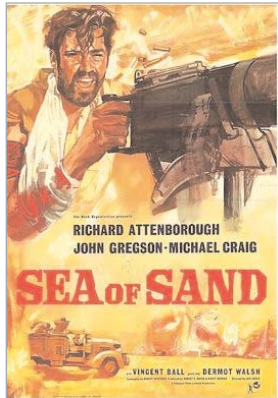


Movie Review

Sea Of Sand

Richard Attenborough, John Gregson and Michael Craig

Reviewed by Val



Sea of Sand, a 1958 black and white movie, tells the story of a small group of commandos, led by captains Williams and Cotton, whose mission is to blow up some German fuel dumps. As they get closer to their goal, however, they realize their mission might be harder to complete than they suspected . . .

The storyline may be straightforward, but the movie is far from simplistic. If I had to describe it in one word, I would say "authentic". Everything in this movie feels real, and what makes it so is the care and attention given to

every detail. That is in part due to technical advising by W.B. Kennedy Shaw, member of the real wartime desert fighting group, the L.R.D.G. (Long Range Desert Group). The movie gets a lot of things right. The atmosphere feels genuine, and the story is very modern. It is also interesting as a desert war movie, because we witness many of the difficulties encountered in the desert; navigating, dealing with enemy aircraft, digging when a car gets stuck in the sand, guns jamming at the most awkward moments— even burials, not to mention the mandatory sand storm. The movie was shot entirely in Libya, which also means the background is authentic.

Despite all these details, the movie never feels crammed with exposition, or boring. It does a good job of balancing action scenes with character building. The music, or lack thereof, is also skilfully used to help build the atmosphere.

Also adding to the realism of the movie is the fact that people get hurt. There are no super heroes here, just soldiers doing a difficult job. When there is fighting, the Germans do not miraculously turn out to be the worst marksmen in the whole Wehrmacht. People die, on both sides; the characters are mortal. They are also human with flaws and emotion, and you easily end up caring about what happens to them. The Germans are presented in a fairly neutral light—neither good nor bad, just normal people, and that is a nice change from your stereotypical overblown evil SS officers. And they actually speak German, as opposed to badly-accented English.

I also like very much the relationship between the two officers. While they have very different views on a number of things—one is a career officer, the other an architect—they also do their best to still work together and put the mission first, and behave professionally.

Perhaps one of the reasons why I liked this movie so much is that, if a movie was made about the Rat Patrol, this is what it might look like. It features many elements reminiscent of the show—cruising through the desert in trucks with machine-guns, blowing up things, being chased by Germans—you name it. It is one of the most enjoyable desert war movies I have seen, and I recommend it to anyone interested in the genre.



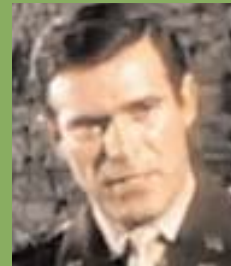
Last? Thoughts, cont'd

Sweltering in the stuffy tent, Tully longed for the cool woods back home. It was spring, his favorite time of year. At the farm down the hill, Thoroughbred foals raced around their mamas. The woods were full of the sound of baby birds yellin' for their lunch. The day was perfect, too good to be wasted on school. "Red Eagle" and "Running Wolf" crept through the woods, their imaginary war party all around them. At a tiny clearing, all thoughts of war parties ceased. Tully and Jonah watched enthralled as a doe gave birth.

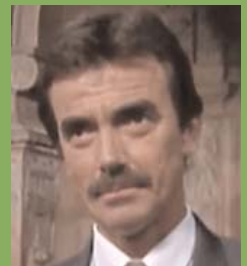
Thoughts of home were interrupted by a soft voice. "Moffitt?... Moffitt!" Troy had found them. Once again the Rats had escaped the exterminator.



NOT ALWAYS A RAT



CHRIS GEORGE
The Thousand Plane Raid - 1969



HANS GUDEGAST
Murder She Wrote - 1986



GARY RAYMOND
The Greatest Story Ever Told - 1965



LARRY CASEY
The Rockford Files - 1978

THE ENIGMATIC JUSTIN TARR by Barbo

When I was in grade eight, the sun rose and set on Justin Tarr. I think he was my first crush. I remember my best friend was infatuated by Hitch and we would fight about who was better. Ah youth.

So, when I heard of his death by drowning in Hawaii on July 26, 2012, I was very saddened. He was 72.

Born Howard Kenneth Barnes on April 14, 1940 in Amarillo, Texas, he grew to be quite a renaissance man. Actor, writer, designer, even hairdresser. He was a lover of Greek mythology. He was the father of three children, but to us, his fans, Justin Tarr was the quiet, and thoughtful Pt. Tully Pettigrew. His character never really said much but when he did, it was usually worth listening to. He was the trusted mechanic and hot shot of the unit who had a style of his own. It was a style Tar carried with him in his real life. Although we never saw much of him after The Rat Patrol, he will be truly missed.



Read more about Tar's life at http://wam_mag.homestead.com/tarbiography.html



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...



Larry Casey
November 8, 1940



Christopher George
February 25, 1931

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