

# USO Camp Shows Inc. Production Guide

## Headstone Comparison



What similarities and differences do you see in looking at these two headstones?

## *USO Wherever They Go* Guided Questions

What does USO stand for?

Why was the USO created?

How did Hollywood contribute?

How many entertainers went overseas in the first two years of World War II?

Why were USO Camp Shows important to soldiers?

How did the size of audiences vary?

What were the conditions like for performances?

# Cast List



Photograph, *Hal Block, Bob Hope, Barney Dean, General George S. Patton, Frances Langford, and Tony Romano in Sicily, August 21, 1943.* George S. Patton Papers, Library of Congress (BHP0113)

Describe the role that the following entertainers played in USO Camp Shows Inc.:

<b>Bob Hope</b>	
<b>Fred Astaire</b>	
<b>Judy Garland</b>	

How would having famous actors and entertainers raise the morale of soldiers?

## The Role of the USO

*"I ran across Bob Hope and his crew. In fact for a couple of days he did the highlights and shadows of one bombed Sicilian city in such hilarious conjunction that it looked as though I were becoming a member of the troupe. There were certain dissenters to the policy of sending American entertainers overseas to help brighten the lives of our soldiers. Now and then I heard some officer say, "After all, we're over here to fight, not to be entertained. Don't they know there's a war on?" But it was my experience that the most confirmed users of such phrases were usually a good many miles behind the lines. I was all for giving the troops a little touch of America through those movie stars, and I can testify that the boys enjoyed and appreciated it."*

Ernie Pyle, *Brave Men*, 1943

Should the United States government have sent famous entertainers overseas to perform for soldiers?

After reading about Bob Hope's narrow escape, was raising morale enough justification to send performers near the front line?

# Performances

While watching the video clips *Strictly GI* and *Entertaining the Troops: American Entertainers*, observe the different ways in which the entertainers perform.

<b>Timmy Rogers</b>	
<b>Bing Crosby</b>	
<b>James Cagney and Edward Arnold</b>	

## USO Camp Shows Inc. Script Activity

Overview: Students will use the description from the performances they have watched to create their own script for a USO Camp Shows Inc. Performance. Students should:

- Include parts for at least four performers with one acting as the show's host;
- Incorporate jokes appropriate for troops stationed overseas during World War II;
- Include a cast comprised of historical figures of the World War II era; and
- Create a script that is two to three pages in length.

Students will be evaluated using the following rubric:

## USO Camp Show Inc. Production Rubric

	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>Emerging</b>
<b>Historical Accuracy</b>	The performance contains a historically accurate narrative and features at least three historical figures.	The performance contains a mostly historically accurate narrative and features at least two historical figures.	The performance contains a narrative with some inaccuracies and features at least one historical figure.	The performance contains a narrative with multiple inaccuracies and features no historical figures.
<b>Script</b>	The script is two to three pages and exceeded all required elements.	The script is two to three pages and contains all required elements.	The script is less than two pages and contains some of the required elements.	The script is less than two pages and is missing multiple required elements.
<b>Grammar and Conventions</b>	There are no errors.	There are three or fewer errors.	There are five or fewer errors.	There are more than five errors that impede understanding.