

# Glenn Miller

Glenn Miller was an American jazz musician who was born on March 1<sup>st</sup> 1904 in Clarinda, Iowa, USA. He became a popular band leader in the big band era of the 1930s and 1940s. All over the world, he is famous for songs such as: 'Moonlight Serenade', 'Chattanooga Choo Choo' and 'In The Mood'.



In 1924, after studying at university for a year, he joined a band to play trombone professionally and showed great talent as an arranger of music. He eventually moved to New York and went on to study music theory with a classical musician called Joseph Schillinger. Here, he composed 'Moonlight Serenade', which later became his signature tune.

In the following years, he helped other bands come together and form. In 1937, he made an unsuccessful attempt to create his own orchestra. He tried again, however, and in 1939, after appearing on the radio, the Glenn Miller Orchestra became famous. He also recorded music with famous musicians such as Bing Crosby and Bob Hope.

Glenn Miller decided to join the war effort in 1942. He joined the US Army Air Force and became a Captain, later being promoted to Major. He was also the leader of the Army Airforce band who entertained the troops.



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In December 1944, Glenn Miller boarded a flight from Twinwood Airfield in Bedfordshire. He was flying to Paris, in France, to play in a concert with his band for the troops. Sadly, he never made it. The plane disappeared without a trace; it is thought that it crashed somewhere in the English Channel but no wreckage was ever found. He was declared 'missing in action' and is now remembered as a talented musician.

### Remembering Glenn Miller

The control tower where Glenn Miller's final flight left from is now the Glenn Miller Museum.

In 1953, 'The Glenn Miller Story' was filmed.

Events are held at Twinwood Airfield every year to celebrate his life.

The Glenn Miller Festival is held in August and is a concert of string, jazz and jive music.

In December, there is a celebration of Glenn Miller's life. There is a memorial service with Christmas carols, a big band orchestra and full military guard of honour.

