

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans

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[A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [st louis blues](#) » Sun Jun 09, 2013 5:19 am

I recently came across this article, that I found interesting, and it mentions Tom.

Eavesdropping of a songsmith on the Soviet border

Ian Thomson's article "Secrets and spies" reviews the novel Under the Radar on the 1960s supremacy of the British jet aeroplanes and the impunity with which they operated (Books, Life & Arts, May 11). He reports that the author, James Hamilton-Paterson, conjures up an authentic view of life in the 1960s and instances the songs of Dusty Springfield. This immediately made me think of another recent and less well-known book The Coder Special Archive. This relates the 1950s, relating the lives of some of the 5,000 British national servicemen who, in the 1950s, were taught Russian in a combined services school before being sent to radio listening posts around the edges of the Soviet Union and sometimes on ships of the Royal Navy.

Dusty Springfield's brother, Tom, was one of them and also a musician and songwriter. His hit song for The Seekers, The Carnival is Over, reuses the tune of Styenka Razin, a Russian song about the Cossack rebel leader of that name. Dusty's brother, with many other talented men (Alan Bennett, Michael Frayn, Jack Rosenthal, Eddie George, Carwyn James) learnt this and other Russian songs and literature during the one year of Russian language military training, which, at the time, was a secret operation and hidden from the general public. Later, Tom Springfield would have served in one of the radio eavesdropping stations in some hidden corner on the Soviet border.

[st louis blues](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 331

Joined: Wed Jun 23, 2010 1:18 am

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [Carole R.](#) » Sun Jun 09, 2013 7:11 am

What a very intriguing article! 😊

Whilst I knew that Tom was described (in the Dusty books) as having been an Interpreter/ linguist I never realised that he may have been something of a spy !

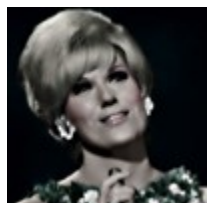


I also didn't know that The Carnival Is Over was based on a Russian melody. 😲

So, thanks for this SLB, I'm now thinkin that a film re Toms exploits might be an interesting project. 🤔 😊

Carole R xx

"Nothing is forever, always is a dream."



[Carole R.](#)

Wasn't born to follow



Posts: 2971

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:27 am

Location: Manchester England.

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [davdreamer](#) » Sun Jun 09, 2013 7:13 am

How interesting, I've never even wondered about what Tom actually did with his language skills, other than write and sing, so thanks for the info! 😊
There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[davdreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [Rob](#) » Sun Jun 09, 2013 7:21 am

Thanks SLB, very interesting

R 😊 B



[Rob](#)

Moderator



Posts: 2821

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [IWannaBeABluesSinger](#) » Sun Jun 09, 2013 10:16 am

I've read a description of Tom's mandatory two-year military service. After being tested he was quickly transferred to military intelligence because of his aptitude for learning languages.

Tom was supposed to go to one of the listening posts, but I don't think he ever did. Instead he stayed in the program long enough to learn nine languages, and then re-affirmed his intention to leave the military to become a folk singer. They were not amused.

Maggie



[IWannaBeABluesSinger](#)

I've got a good thing



Posts: 1681

Joined: Sun Apr 24, 2011 3:54 am

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [dusty nut](#) » Sun Jun 09, 2013 10:20 am

What a fascinating insight into Tom Springfield! Thanks for the information,one of the things

I love about LTD is that there is so much to learn,so thanks again 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

Lynn x

Lynn x

Nothing turns the day on, when the world is yawning



[dusty nut](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 5618

Joined: Thu Apr 04, 2013 12:17 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [Britlin](#) » Sun Jun 09, 2013 12:45 pm

Very interesting! Thanks for posting.

Linda



[Britlin](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 222

Joined: Sun Dec 09, 2012 12:59 am

Location: South Carolina, USA

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [darren2722](#) » Mon Jun 10, 2013 3:27 pm

Thanks Kay, Wow! 😄

Carole R. wrote: What a very intriguing article!



Carole R xx



I'm now thinkin that a film re Toms exploits might be an interesting project.

That would be Great Carole. 🙌

Also, Probably extremely unlikely 😬 but here's hoping that Tom has been writing his Autobiography over the last few years. I Couldn't Ask For More



[darren2722](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 7909

Joined: Sat Jun 16, 2012 6:12 pm

Location: Sittingbourne Kent

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Mon Jun 10, 2013 7:05 pm

Sadly I very much doubt it on both counts.
I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....
..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness



Posts: 4601

Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm
Location: Hertfordshire UK

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [Carole R.](#) » Mon Jun 10, 2013 8:04 pm

So no 00 Springfield then? 🤔😞😏

Carole R xx

"Nothing is forever, always is a dream."



[Carole R.](#)

Wasn't born to follow



Posts: 2971

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:27 am

Location: Manchester England.

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[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [jeffery](#) » Wed Jun 12, 2013 2:41 am

Carole R. wrote: So no 00 Springfield then? 🤔😞😏

Carole R xx

😏 That made me chuckle Carole. Maybe we could follow that: "From Dusty With Love".

This info gives me reasoning for brother Tom's long standing silence regarding his sister. 🤔👍
"The man with the child in his eyes" Jeffery



[jeffery](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 6517

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:34 am

Location: Norwalk, Ohio - USA (Great Lakes Region)

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Wed Jun 12, 2013 7:35 am

Just a little snippet re Tom's army career.

[http://www.prattfamily.demon.co.uk/mike... field.html](http://www.prattfamily.demon.co.uk/mike...field.html)

I'd rather see the world the way it used to be.....

..I'm goin' back.

Pat x



[pat.dunham](#)

Can I get a witness



Posts: 4601

Joined: Wed Jun 06, 2012 6:41 pm

Location: Hertfordshire UK

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [dave d](#) » Wed Jun 12, 2013 6:22 pm

Tom co-wrote "Promises" with Norman Newell for Ken Dodd - and wrote songs for many other artists. I can't think why Tom disappeared into obscurity such a waste of a brilliant talent.
DUS 7Y. Vegemite sandwich anyone?



[dave d](#)

I'll try anything



Posts: 146

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 11:23 am

Location: in the middle of nowhere

[Top](#)

[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [Carole R.](#) » Thu Jun 13, 2013 11:45 am

I'd never heard of that song before, Dave.. So I googled it. 😊👍

...and here it is: **Promises written By Tom Springfield and Norman Newell.**
Note The 'Springfield Music' on the record label.



Not one of Toms better efforts but ideal for Ken Dodd.

I think a thread relating to Toms music might well be a good idea. 😊

Carole R xx

"Nothing is forever, always is a dream."



[Carole R.](#)

Wasn't born to follow



Posts: 2971

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:27 am

Location: Manchester England.

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[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

by [TONY CASH](#) » Tue Jun 18, 2013 9:19 am

Those of you who found the letter about Tom Springfield interesting may like to know more. It was the first of three letters to the FT WEEKEND about his composition, THE CARNIVAL IS OVER.

The second letter said:

'I always thought the tune is an almost direct copy of that in Hector Berlioz's overture to Les francs-juges (judges of the secret court). Either title seems appropriate for espionage training.
Edward Smith.'

I responded to the second letter as follows:

'It's incumbent on me to resolve the conflict between the Weekend FT letters of Alan and Edward Smith (May 18 and June 1st). I co-authored the book The Coder Special Archive, to which Alan originally referred, and on page 84 related the Tom Springfield story. Tom and I studied Russian together at The Joint Services School for Linguists (JSSL). We were members of the school's Russian choir where we sang Styenka Razin. Also I played clarinet to Tom's piano in the Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes jazz band.

The opening two bars of the second theme of Berlioz's overture to Les francs-juges are the same as those of Styenka Razin and Tom's The Carnival is Over. Thereafter, however, the melodies diverge, whereas the folk and pop songs are almost identical eight-bar tunes, Tom's version differing from the original only in the final bar. I'm pretty confident the Berlioz work didn't inspire Tom's hit single, a Number One for 17 weeks in 1965. Though Tom's lyric bears no relationship to the Razin story-line, he could not conceivably have forgotten the original words. Razin was a 17th century Cossack revolutionary, who wreaked mayhem up and down the Volga. In the song he marries a beautiful Persian princess, but his warriors chunter mutinously that their leader has deserted them for a mere woman. To prove his loyalty to them, he hurls her into the 'great Russian mother river' declaring that the Volga has never seen such

a magnificent gift as this Don Cossack's.'

More information about this song and the National Service Russianists can be found in The Coder Special Archive (Hodgson Press 2012).

[TONY CASH](#)

I start counting

Posts: 2

Joined: Tue Jun 18, 2013 6:16 am

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[Re: A little mention of Tom Springfield](#)

■ by [TONY CASH](#) » Thu Jun 20, 2013 7:13 pm

I should add to my letter of 18 June that FT is the FINANCIAL TIMES UK London based newspaper whose weekend edition has a big section on the arts and culture generally, including a substantial readers' letters page. Sorry for not making that clear. Tony Cash

[TONY CASH](#)

I start counting

Posts: 2

Joined: Tue Jun 18, 2013 6:16 am

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