This document contains a biographical sketch of Ernie Pyle, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist from Indiana who gained fame during World War II as a nationally syndicated correspondent for the Associated Press. The story of Pyle's life is traced from his birth in Dana, Indiana, through his college years and his early years as a roving reporter for the "Washington Daily News," and concludes with his experiences as a war correspondent and his death while covering an invasion in the Pacific. (The original presentation of this sketch included a slide show compiled from pictures taken by the author and from a collection of pictures at Indiana University.) (RB)
(FIRST NARRATOR)

ERNIE PYLE--FAMED HOOSIER CORRESPONDENT OF WORLD WAR II, REMEMBERED MOST FOR "HIS SYMPATHETIC PORTRAYAL OF THE MATTER-OF-FACT HEROISM OF THE COMMON MAN CAUGHT UP IN A SAVAGE WAR"—possessed much more than a talent for recording the blood and guts of battle. A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST, PYLE USED HIS INNATE SENSE OF CONCERN FOR THE COMMON PEOPLE NOT ONLY IN WAR BUT IN PEACE AS WELL. PYLE'S FELLOW WAR CORRESPONDENT NOLAND NORGAARD OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SAYS: "WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER THAT PYLE WAS A TRAINED NEWSMAN, INTOLERANT OF POMPOSITY AND SHAM AS LONG BEFORE HE BECAME A FAMOUS WAR CORRESPONDENT, PYLE SHOWED THIS SAME CONTEMPT FOR POMPOSITY AND SHAM AS HE TRAVELED ACROSS THE CONTINENT WRITING HIS AMERICANA

1. Personal letter from Noland Norgaard to author, April 6, 1974
2. Ibid.
5. Slide: Baby, 10 months

COLUMNS. HIS HUMANE CAPACITY TO DEPICT THE SMALL
THINGS OF LIFE IN AND OUT OF WAR IS A QUALITY OFTEN
OVERLOOKED IN JOURNALISM TODAY. PYLE REPORTED THE
STORIES THAT WOULDN'T WRITE THEMSELVES--STORIES ABOUT
EVERYDAY EVENTS AND EVERYDAY PEOPLE RATHER THAN THE
CHAOTIC AND BIZARRE HAPPENINGS THAT DOMINATE MOST
FRONT PAGES. THIS DOCUMENTARY--THROUGH BIOGRAPHICAL
NARRATION, BOOKS AND LETTERS, AND MOST HUMANLY THROUGH
TAPED INTERVIEWS WITH HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES--
SHOWS WHY ERNIE PYLE WILL REMAIN FAMOUS NOT ONLY FOR
HIS JOURNALISM BUT FOR HIS HUMANISM AS WELL.

THE LIFE OF ERNEST TAYLOR PYLE BEGAN ON AUGUST 3,
1900, IN THE SMALL TOWN OF DANA, INDIANA, WHICH LIES
ON THE FLAT, ALMOST PRAIRIE LAND NEAR THE ILLINOIS
BORDER. BROUGHT INTO A RURAL COUNTRY AND QUIET LIFE
BY HIS PARENTS, WILLIAM C. AND MARIA TAYLOR PYLE, HE

MUSIC...FADE OUT
6. Slide: with hobby horse

EXCERPT FROM TAPED INTERVIEW 2/2/74

SEEMED TO HAVE THE AESTHETIC APPRECIATION WHICH LATER
SO CHARACTERIZED HIS WRITING. MRS. HAROLD RUSSELL, A
CHILDHOOD NEIGHBOR, REMEMBERS ERNEST AS BEING QUITE AN
ARTIST. "HIS BEDROOM WALLS WERE COVERED WITH HIS
COMIC STRIPS. I THOUGHT HE WOULD BECOME A GREAT ARTIST
INSTEAD OF STUDYING JOURNALISM AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY." 3

SHE RECOLLECTS. IN THE WORDS OF MRS. DOROTHY ELDER OF
DANA, WHO DONATED PYLE'S BIRTHPLACE TO THE STATE OF
INDIANA AND THE PEOPLE OF DANA, IT IS PROBABLE THAT
ERNIE GOT HIS FIRST IDEAS OF WRITING ABOUT THE LITTLE
THINGS AND ORDINARY PEOPLE WITH SUCH PERFECT DESCRIPTION
FROM LIVING IN THE SMALL TOWN OF DANA.

(MRS. ELDER)

HE LIKED TO SIT THERE AND LISTEN TO THE GENTLEMEN
TELL TALES OF WHAT USED TO HAPPEN AROUND DANA. HE'D

3 Wayne Guthrie, "Pyle Was Artist Turned Journalist, The Indianapolis News (Feb. 21, 1974)."
RATHER DO THAT THAN GO TO THE SHOW.

(FIRST NARRATOR)

PYLE, WHOSE SENSE OF IMAGERY POSSIBLY CAN BE TRACED TO HIS SMALL-TOWN ORIGIN IN INDIANA, WAS A BIT SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE INFLUENCE DANA HAD ON HIM. IN A COLUMN WRITTEN LATER IN HIS CAREER, ON A NOSTALGIC RETURN TRIP TO DANA, HE CONVEYS IN SIMPLE WORDS HOW HE FELT ABOUT HIS HOMETOWN.

(SECOND NARRATOR)

"PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN AROUND SAY DANA IS A MEDIUM-GOOD TOWN. I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS OR NOT. I NEVER FELT COMPLETELY AT EASE IN DANA. I SUPPOSE IT WAS AN INFERIORITY HANGOVER FROM CHILDHOOD; I WAS A FARM BOY, AND TOWN KIDS CAN MAKE YOU FEEL AWFULLY BACKWARD WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG AND A FARM BOY. I NEVER GOT OVER IT. I SHOULD HAVE, OF COURSE, BECAUSE ALL THAT WAS LONG AGO, AND THE PEOPLE I SAW ON THE STREET WERE PEOPLE I'D KNOWN ALL MY LIFE, AND MANY OF THEM"

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Mrs. Dorothy Elder, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman (Dana, Indiana), Feb. 2, 1974.
WERE OUR FARM FRIENDS WHO HAD MOVED TO TOWN IN THEIR DECLINING YEARS. BUT JUST THE SAME, I FELT SELF-
CONSCIOUS WHENEVER I WALKED DOWN THE STREET IN DANA,
IMAGINING THE TOWN BOYS WERE MAKING FUN OF ME."5

(FIRST NARRATOR)

EVEN THOUGH DANA MADE HIM SELF-CONSCIOUS, THE SMALL TOWN AND SURROUNDING INDIANA COUNTRYSIDE BECAME THE INSPIRATION FOR MANY OF HIS COLUMNS. IN ONE DISPATCH WRITTEN WHILE HE WAS ROVING THE UNITED STATES IN THE THIRTIES, PYLE JOKES ABOUT THE PROPENSITY OF SMALL TOWNS TO ERECT MEMORIALS TO THEIR LOCAL HERO.

(SECOND NARRATOR)

"PRACTICALLY EVERY 50 MILES FROM KANSAS TO OHIO YOU PASS THROUGH A TOWN WHERE SOME REMARKABLE FIGURE WAS BORN OR SPENT HIS EARLY DAYS: JESSE JAMES, J. C. PENNEY, GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING, MARK TWAIN, ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND E. TROCADERO PYLE. AT THE CROSSROADS WHERE HIGHWAY 36 CUTS PAST DANA, THERE MIGHT BE A LARGE MARKER SAYING: "THREE MILES SOUTH IS THE HOUSE IN WHICH E. PYLE,

INDIANA'S GREAT SKUNK-TRAPPER, JELLY-EATER, HORSE-HATER AND SNAKE-AFRAIDER-OF, WAS BORN. IN HIS LATER YEARS MR. PYLE ROSE TO A STATE OF NATIONAL PEDIOCRITY AS A LETTER WRITER, A STAYER IN HOTELS, A TALKER TO OBSCURE PEOPLE, AND A DRIVER FROM TOWN TO TOWN. THE OLD HOUSE IS IN A STATE OF PRESERVATION, ALTHOUGH THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR MR. PYLE. HISTORIANS SAY HE HAS BEEN FALLING TO PIECES FOR YEARS."

(FIRST NARRATOR)

TODAY A MEMORIAL MARKER STANDS IN A REST PARK ON HIGHWAY 36 NEAR DANA, BUT THE MESSAGE READS DIFFERENTLY THAN PYLE PROJECTED IN HIS COLUMN. A REPLICA OF THE ACTUAL MEMORIAL MARKER AT HIS DEATH SITE ON A TINY PACIFIC ISLAND, AND A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE NAMING HIM "AMERICA'S GREATEST AND BEST LOVED" OF WRITERS AND WAR CORRESPONDENTS ADD ERNIE PYLE'S NAME TO THE LIST OF "REMARKABLE FIGURES" HE MENTIONS IN HIS COLUMN. PYLE GOT THE MEMORIAL HE KIDDED ABOUT, FOR THE FOLKS AROUND

"Pyle, Home Country, pp. 296-297."
13. Slide: Dana, Home of Ernie Pyle

DANA ARE PROUD THAT SUCH A FAMOUS AND LOVED PERSON WAS A PRODUCT OF THEIR TOWN.

PYLE LEFT DANA AFTER BEING GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN 1918, AND JOINED THE NAVY. SENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FOR PRELIMINARY TRAINING, HE WAS SOON PLACED ON INACTIVE DUTY BY THE SINGING OF THE ARMISTICE.

14. Slide: Pyle, age 18

15. Slide: Indiana University

IN 1919, ERNIE ENTERED INDIANA UNIVERSITY. JOHN STEMPEL, FORMER JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT HEAD AT I.U. AND FRIENDLY CLASSMATE COMPETITOR OF ERNIE TALKS ABOUT THE RUMOR THAT ERNIE MAJORED IN JOURNALISM BECAUSE IT WAS EASY.

16. Slide: John Stempel

EXCERPT FROM TAPED INTERVIEW 11/16/73

THAT STORY HAS GONE AROUND THAT HE ELECTED TO MAJOR IN JOURNALISM BECAUSE SOMEBODY HAD TOLD HIM IT WAS EASIER THAN ANYTHING ELSE. WELL THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS, THAT AT THAT TIME YOU COULDN'T MAJOR IN JOURNALISM...
HE CHOSE ECONOMICS, AND HE HAD A VERY SOLID HIGH B RECORD. 7

(FIRST NARRATOR)

THOUGH A MAJOR IN JOURNALISM WAS NOT POSSIBLE, ERNIE GOT PLENTY OF JOURNALISTIC EXPERIENCE IN ELECTED COURSES AND AS REPORTER, NEWS EDITOR, AND 1922 SUMMER-TERM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE INDIANA DAILY STUDENT. 8

WILLIAM A. EVANS, AN EDITOR ON THE INDIANA DAILY STUDENT WITH ERNIE, RECALLS HIM AS A MAN FIT FOR A REPORTER'S JOB.

(WILLIAM EVANS)

THERE'S AN OLD NEWSPAPER SAYING THAT THE COOLEST MAN ON THE HOTTEST JOB MAKES THE FASTEST TIME, AND I ALWAYS FIGURED ERNIE WAS THAT KIND OF A GUY. 9


(FIRST NARRATOR)

IT WAS WHILE HE WORKED IN A "HOTTEST" JOB ON THE
NEWSPAPER THAT A HINT OF HIS DESIRE TO TRAVEL AND WRITE
BECAME EVIDENT. WHEN THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY BASEBALL
TEAM WAS INVITED TO JAPAN IN 1922, HE AND THREE SIGMA
ALPHA EPSILON FRATERNITY BROTHERS WORKED THEIR WAY
ACROSS THE PACIFIC AS BELLBOYS ON THE LINER KEYSTONE
STATE TO FOLLOW THE TEAM. WHILE ON THIS Trip ERNIE
WROTE AN ARTICLE TO THE DAILY STUDENT SIGNED "ERNEST
T. PYLE, '23," WHICH WAS HIS FIRST BYLINE. 10

ERNIE ALSO WORKED FOR THE ARBUTUS, INDIANA
UNIVERSITY'S YEARBOOK, AS A JUNIOR EDITOR. IN THE
1923 VOLUME HE WAS THE FIRST OF TEN MEN SINGLED OUT
TO BE CARICATURED. THE VERSE UNDER THE SKETCH OF HIM
HOLDING THE INDIANA DAILY STUDENT WITH A LITTLE

10Ellen Wilson, Ernie Pyle, Boy from Back Home
JAPANESE MAC NIPPING AT HIS HEEL, READS:

(SECOND NARRATOR)

"THIS BRILLIANT GEM WHICH BLUSHED UNSEEN IN DANA,
LONG SINCE GLOBE TROTTER, STUDENT ED., AERON AND
WHO KNOWS WHAT,
STILL WEARS THE SAME OLD HAT, IS STILL THE SAME GOOD
FELLOW,

LO THIS MAN'S NAME HEADS ALL THE LOT."  

(FIRST NARRATOR)

AFTER HIS SPORTS-REPORTING ADVENTURE IN JAPAN,
ERNIE WAS QUITE THE CELEBRITY ON CAMPUS. BUT IN HIS
SENIOR YEAR, PYLE'S "BIG MAN" POSITION GAVE WAY TO
CRUSHED FEELINGS WHEN THE GIRL HE LOVED PASSED HIM BY
FOR ANOTHER MAN. DISILLUSIONED, HE INQUIRED ABOUT A
POSITION OFFERED BY THE LAPORTE, INDIANA HERALD, AND
WITH THE APPROVAL OF DEAN EDMONDSON, ACCEPTED THE JOB,
LEAVING BLOOMINGTON WITHOUT GRADUATING, AND WITH NO
INTENTIONS OF SETTING FOOT ON THE INDIANA CAMPUS AGAIN.

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11. The Arbutus (Bloomington, Indiana, Indiana University, 1923), p. 3.
12. Miller, The Story of Ernie Pyle, p. 25
PYLE'S FIRST BOSSES ON THE HERALD, RAY SMITH AND CHARLES BEAL, SAW HIM AS "BASHFUL AND UNIMPRESSIVE--NOT LIKE A NEWSPAPER MAN AT ALL." THEIR ATTITUDES CHANGED, HOWEVER, WHEN HE TURNED OUT STORIES ABOUT THE COURTHOUSE, THE POLICE STATION, AND CITY HALL THAT MADE PEOPLE LIKE HIM IMMEDIATELY.  

WHEN INVITED IN 1923 WITH A RAISE IN PAY TO BE REPORTER FOR THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, PYLE LEFT HIS SMALL TOWN POSITION FOR ONE IN A TRADITIONAL NEWSPAPERMAN'S HAVEN IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL. AT FIRST ERNIE WAS ONLY A REPORTER, BUT THEN HE MOVED TO THE POSITION OF COPY READER, A JOB THAT PINNED HIM TO HIS DESK.  

BECOMING RESTLESS WITH THE CONFINES OF COPY

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14: Ibid., p. 27.
HANDLING, PYLE GAVE WAY, (ONE OF THE MANY TIMES HE DID
SO), TO HIS URGE FOR TRAVEL. IN 1926, AFTER QUITTING
HIS JOB, PYLE AND HIS WIFE JERRY, WHOM HE HAD MARRIED
A YEAR BEFORE, SET OUT TO "DRIVE AROUND THE RIM OF THE
UNITED STATES."15 FIRST TOURING THE COUNTRY, THEY
STOPPED IN NEW YORK TEN WEEKS LATER, WHERE HE TRIED
JOBS AT BOTH THE NEW YORK EVENING WORLD, AND THEN THE
NEW YORK POST. MEANWHILE, THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
BADLY NEEDED A TELEGRAPH EDITOR , AND LEE MILLER, THEN
THE MANAGING EDITOR, SUGGESTED PYLE. ACCEPTING THE
OFFER ONLY IF MILLER WAS TO BE RETAINED AS MANAGING
EDITOR, PYLE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON.

WHILE IN THAT POSITION, PYLE TOOK UP AN AVIATION
COLUMN ON THE SIDE. BECAUSE HE WAS HARRIED BY THE
PRESSURE OF BOTH COPY DUTIES AND HIS COLUMN, HE WAS

15 Miller, The Story of Ernie Pyle, p. 36.
GIVEN PERMISSION TO TAKE ON THE COLUMN FULL TIME. IN 1932 HE WAS PROMOTED TO MANAGING EDITOR. WHEN TALKING ABOUT PYLÉ'S TIME AS MANAGING EDITOR, JACK HOWARD, NOW PRESIDENT OF THE SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER CHAIN, TO WHICH THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS BELONGS, REMEMBERS AN INCIDENT THAT INDICATED PYLÉ WAS NOT CUT OUT FOR MANAGING, BUT FOR WRITING. WHEN THE LINDBERG BABY KIDNAPPING STORY CAME OUT, MR HOWARD RECOLLECTS, ERNIE PUT IT ON PAGE 46. PYLÉ REALIZED HIMSELF THAT HE WAS UNHAPPY IN THE POSITION OF MANAGER. HE WROTE TO A COLLEGE FRIEND, GENE UEDELBARTT, "I AM STILL MANAGING EDITOR, BUT IT IS NOT A JOB THAT I LIKE. IT IS HARD AND FATIGUING WORK, AND I GET NO CHANCE TO DO ANY WRITING, I THINK THAT IS WHERE MY GREATEST SATISFACTION LIES - IN WRITING - IN EXPRESSING MY FEELINGS IN PRINT, AND I

7. Slide: with car ready to roam

3. Slide: Ernie and Jerry ready to travel

DON'T GET A CHANCE TO DO IT NOW. MAYBE THINGS WILL CHANGE LATER."\(^{17}\)

WHILE ON A VACATION TO RECOVER FROM ONE OF HIS FRAIL BODY'S MANY BOUTS WITH THE FLU, PYLE WROTE COLUMNS ABOUT HIS TRAVELS WITH JERRY TO FIND THE NICE WARM SPOT THE DOCTOR PRESCRIBED.\(^{18}\) ONCE HE RESUMED HIS JOB, PYLE TURNED IN 11 TRAVEL COLUMNS WHICH WERE INSTANT HITS. FOUR MONTHS LATER, STILL NOT CONTENTED WITH THE MANAGERIAL POSITION, HE PROPOSED A ROVING ASSIGNMENT. WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM SCRIPPS-HOWARD TO "DRIVE WHEREVER HE LIKED, WRITE SIX COLUMNS A WEEK ABOUT ANYTHING THAT INTERESTED HIM, AND MAIL THEM TO WASHINGTON FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE TWO DOZEN SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS," PYLE WAS OFF FULFILLING HIS DREAM.

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\(^{17}\) Miller, *The Story of Ernie Pyle*, p. 50.

"I will go wherever I please and write what I please. It's just the kind of job I've always wanted and I hope I can make a go of it," he wrote a friend.

Ernie was now writing for audiences of about 70 daily papers and receiving great publicity. Matt Meyer, now president of the Scripps-Howard Foundation, who was advertising director of the Washington Daily News while Ernie Pyle worked there, tells about Ernie at that time. (Matt Meyer)

And the star, really the star of the paper from a writing standpoint was Ernie Pyle. He at that time was the roving reporter; spending a great deal of his time away from the paper, and spending a great deal of it on buses between here and the West Coast, or wherever...

HE WANTED TO GO.

AS THE ADVERTISING DIRECTOR, I PICKED UP THE IDEA

THAT THE BEST SALE I COULD MAKE WAS AROUND ERNIE PYLE

AS A MATTER OF FACT, BECAUSE EVERYBODY IN TOWN READ

HIM AND EVERYBODY KNEW HIM.

(FIRST NARRATOR)

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS THE STAR OF THE PAPER, PYLE

NEVER SHewed ANY SELF REIGHTEOUSNESS IN HIS WRITING. HIS

FIRST CONCERN WAS TO SEEK OUT THE COMMON PEOPLE AND

ORDINARY THINGS THAT OTHER REPORTERS PASSED UP AS

UNIMPORTANT AND PORTRAY THEM TO HIS READERS WITH A

HUMAN INSIGHT FOR DETAILS. WESTBROOK PHELPS, FELLOW

COLUMNIST WROTE: "ERNIE PYLE WRITES HIS WAY ALONG,

KEEPS OUT OF NEW YORK AND OTHER BIG CITIES THAT ARE

OVERCOVERED BY OTHER REPORTERS AND WRITERS, KNOWS MORE

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SMALL-TOWN AND DIRT-ROAD AMERICANS THAN JIM FARLEY, 

AND IS BETTER INFORMED ON THE CONDITION - OR ANYWAY 

THE FEELING - OF THE SMALL PEOPLE THAN W.R. ROOSEVELT 

HERSELF." PYLE TOOK ON HIS OWN STYLE OF WRITING, AND 

IN SIMPLE WORDS HARRILY ATTRACTIONS HIS READERS. 

RALPH HOLSINGER, JOURNALISM PROFESSOR AT INDIANA 

UNIVERSITY, ANALYZES SOME OF THE ELEMENTS OF PYLE'S 

WRITING STYLE AND POINTS OUT HOW IT ENDOURED HIS 

JOURNALISM WITH ENDURING QUALITIES THAT MAKE HIS 

WRITING VALID EVEN TODAY. 

(RALPH HOLSINGER) 

WELL, I SUPPOSE WITH HIM IT WAS A MATTER OF STAYING 

WITH IT LONG ENOUGH TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE HIS SIMPLE, 

DIRECT SENTENCES DEVELOPED A TEXTURE OF MEANING THAT 

KEPT THEM FROM BEING NONOTONOUS. THIS ONLY CAME THROUGH 

JUST VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DETAIL. NOT LONG AGO THE
BROWN COUNTY DEMOCRAT REPRINTED STORIES HE WROTE IN
1940 ABOUT HIS TRIPS TO BROWN COUNTY, AND HE DIDN'T MISS
A DETAIL OF LIFE OVER THERE. I KNOW; I LIVE THERE NOW,
AND HE TOLD IT LIKE I KNOW IT.23

(First Narrator)

HERE IN ONE OF THOSE BROWN COUNTY ARTICLES, PYLE'S
DETAILED SIMPLICITY PERFECTLY CAPTURES THE SMALL TOWN
OF NASVILLE.

(Second Narrator)

"BROWN COUNTY WAS NOT THE SAME AS IT WAS WHEN THE
ARTISTS DISCOVERED IT. THE ARTISTS NO LONGER CONSIDERED
IT PICTURESQUE. THEY SAID IT WAS "SPOILED." THEY
WOULD HAVE GONE AWAY, EXCEPT THAT THEY SAID IT WAS
BETTER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. FINE ROADS AND HOTELS HAD
IMPINGED UPON THE HILLS AND VILLAGES. THE PATCH FARMER
WHO LIVED UP THE HOLLER WAS NEARLY PUSHED OFF THE
SIDEWALK BY CROWDERS FROM THE CITY. THERE WAS LITTLE

23 Ralph Holsinger, interviewed by Gretchen
Letterman (Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana),
Feb. 18, 1974.
PRIVACY LEFT. AND YET THE DEEP FINE ATTRIBUTES OF THE PEOPLE ENDURED. THE NATIVE OF BROWN COUNTY HAD INNATELY COURTEOUS. HE WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU AND NOT THINK OF PAY. HIS HONESTY WAS ALMOST OLD FASHIONED.

FEW PEOPLE IN BROWN COUNTY LOCKED THEIR HOUSES, AND WHEN THEY DID THEY HUNG THE KEY ON A NAIL OUTSIDE THE DOOR. THEY WORKED IN A WAY THAT WOULD PARALYZE AN ASSEMBLY LINE, YET THEIR WORK GOT DONE AND FRIENDS TOLD HE THERE WAS SOMETHING FUNDAMENTAL IN THE BROWN COUNTY AIR THAT COMPelled AN HONEST DAY'S WORK FOR AN HONEST DAY'S PAY. THE TYPICAL BROWN COUNTY MAN PLAYED A GUITAR, AND SANG IN HARMONY, AND LOVED TO SQUARE DANCE, AND DIDN'T GET LOST IN THE WOODS, AND WENT TO CHURCH AND DRANK WHISKEY...SOMETIMES HE WAS PROSPEROUS AND SOMETIMES HE DIDN'T AMOUNT TO A DARN - BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER WHETHER HE LIVED 20 MILES UP THE CRICK IN A CLAPBOARD CABIN OR WORKED IN THE GARAGE DOWNTOWN AND WORE A DERBY HAT, STILL HIS CODE OF GAIETY AND OF HONESTY AND HIS INNATE SENSE OF DIGNITY REMAINED THE SAME."

(FIRST NARRATOR)

FROM BROWN COUNTY TO ALASKA, CROSSING THE UNITED

33. Slide: Pyle with Sourdoughs

34. Slide: Alaska's first lady barber

24 Pyle, *Home Country*, p. 455
States 35 times, Ernie Pyle wrote about myriad topics, from unmapped places in the country, to one-handed cigarette rollers, to getting stranded in a pair of pants with a zipper that wouldn't unzip. Jack Howard, who worked on the Washington Daily News with Pyle, recalls why Ernie's Americana columns were so popular.

(Jack Howard)

All of those things are so true. You know, things that have happened to everybody, and that's why I think he was so effective; people read his columns and they were part of them so many times. 25

(First Narrator)

As the lean years of the thirties neared an end, America was keeping posted on the status of the world in regard to war. In 1939, while in Seattle, Pyle

25Jack Howard, interview.
WROTE OF HIS CONCERN OF THE WAR TO HIS BOSS, LEE MILLER WHO WAS ON THE WAY TO FRANCE FOR A VACATION, "ALL THE CRISIS OVER THE COUPLE OF PAST YEARS WE'VE NEVER PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO; BUT SOMETHING GOT IN US ABOUT THIS ONE, AND WE'VE FELT RIGHT FROM THE FIRST DAY THAT THIS ONE WAS GOING TO BE WAR--NOT A WAR TO END WAR, BUT A WAR TO END EVERYTHING.....IF WAR BREAKS OUT YOU BETTER STAY OVER THERE, AND JERRY AND I WILL COME OVER AND JOIN YOU, AND WE'LL BECOME FAMOUS WAR CORRESPONDENTS ....I WILL WRITE 'HONEY STUFF' FROM WALES AND DENMARK."  

WORLD WAR II DID BEGIN AS PYLE PREDICTED, AND IN DECEMBER 1940 HE ARRIVED IN ENGLAND TAKING ON HIS FIRST MILITARY ASSIGNMENT. WITH THE SAME HUMANISTIC CONCEPTIC, FOR DETAIL WHICH HE USED IN WRITING BACK HOME, ERNIE CAPTURES BOTH THE MAJESTY AND TERROR OF THE

26 Miller, *The Story of Ernie Pyle*, p. 117.
LONDON BLITZ.

(SECOND NARRATOR)

"SOME DAY WHEN PEACE HAS RETURNED TO THIS OLD WORLD I WANT TO COME TO LONDON AGAIN AND STAND ON A CERTAIN BALCONY ON A MOONLIT NIGHT AND LOOK DOWN UPON THE PEACEFUL SILVER CURVE OF THE THAMES WITH ITS DARK BRIDGES. AND STANDING THERE, I WANT TO TELL SOMEBODY WHO HAS NEVER SEEN IT HOW LONDON LOOKED ON A CERTAIN NIGHT IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON OF THE YEAR 1940."

"FOR ON THAT NIGHT THIS OLD, OLD CITY WAS - EVEN THOUGH I MUST BITE MY TONGUE IN SHAME FOR SAYING IT - THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHT I HAVE EVER SEEN..."

"INTO THE DARK SHADOWED SPACES BELOW US, WHILE WE WATCHED, WHOLE BATCHES OF INCENDIARY BOMBS FELL. WE SAW TWO DOZEN GO OFF IN TWO SECONDS. THEY FLASHED TERRIFICALLY, THEN QUICKLY SIMMERED DOWN TO PINPOINTS OF DAZZLING WHITE, BURNING FEROIOUSLY. THEN WHITE PIN POINTS WOULD GO OUT ONE BY ONE, AS THE UNSEEN HEROES OF THE NIGHT SHOTHEDE THE WITH SAND. BUT ALSO, WHILE WE WATCHED, OTHER PIN POINTS WOULD BURN ON, AND SOON A YELLOW FLAME WOULD LEAP UP FROM THE WHITE CENTER. THEY HAD DONE THEIR WORK - ANOTHER BUILDING WAS ON FIRE..."

"...THE THING I SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER ABOVE ALL
The other things in my life is the monstrous loveliness of that one single view of London on a holiday night—London stabbed with great fires, shaken by explosions, its dark regions along the Thames sparkling with the pin points of white-hot bombs, all of it roofed over with a ceiling of pink that held bursting shells, balloons, flares and the grind of vicious engines. And in yourself the excitement and anticipation and wonder in your soul that this could be happening at all."

"These things all went together to make the most hateful, most beautiful single scene I have ever seen."27

(FIRST NARRATOR)

This magnificent picturization of the war in London, records how deeply Ernie Pyle's emotions were touched by the scene. With the same humanistic detail and appreciation for imagery evident in his home columns, he took one day in a vast war and vividly recreated it.

FOR THE PEOPLE BACK AT HOME. AND IT WAS WELL RECEIVED.

AFTER THE LONDON BLITZ, HE EAGERLY WROTE HIS WIFE ABOUT
THE PRAISE HIS BLITZ COLUMNS WERE GETTING, (COLUMNS
HE ORIGINALLY HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH).

IN A LETTER DATED JANUARY 12, 1941, HE TOLD HER THAT
LEE MILLER CABLED, "CONGRATULATIONS MARVELOUS STUFF
GETTING TERRIFIC PLAY." THAT LETTER ALSO INCLUDED
PYLE'S JUBILATION AT A "FANTASTIC AND MARVELOUS
110-WORD CABLE" FROM ROY HOWARD, THEN PRESIDENT OF
SCRIPPS-HOWARD. A CABLE OF THAT LENGTH WAS A RARITY
IN ITSELF DURING WAR TIME, AND THE CONTENTS MADE IT
EVEN MORE CHERISHED BY ERNIE. IT READ, "YOUR STUFF
NOT ONLY GREATES YOUR CAREER BUT MOST ILLUMINATING
HUMAN AND APPEALING DESCRIPTIVE MATTER PRINTED AMERICA
SINCCE OUTBREAK BATTLE BRITAIN...MEANTIME SCRIPPS-HOWARD
IS, AND BRITAIN SHOULD BE, PROUD JOB YOU'RE DOING.
YOUR DAILY PICTURIZATIONS BRITISH CHARACTER COURAGE THRILLING AMERICA." ABOUT THIS PRAISE HE CONTINUED TO JERRY, "IT GIVES ME STAGE FRIGHT SO BAD I'VE HARDLY BEEN ABLE TO WRITE A LINE SINCE."  

JACK HOWARD, SON OF ROY HOWARD, REMEMBERS ERNIE'S SELF CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS WRITING.

(JACK HOWARD)

HE HAD A TREMENDOUS EGO, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE WAS VERY SELF-EFFACING, YOU KNOW, BUT HE CERTAINLY HAD A PRIDE IN HIS WORK. HE WAS A CRAFTSMAN.

(FIRST NARRATOR)

SINCE GOOD CRAFTSMANSHIP CAN BE MEASURED IN THE ENDURANCE OF THE WORK, PYLE'S WRITING CERTAINLY PROVES ITS GREATNESS. ROY HOWARD SAID BRITAIN SHOULD BE

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28 Personal letter from Ernie Pyle to Jerry Pyle, Jan. 12, 1941.
29 Jack Howard, interview
Proud of Pyle II: 1941, and a reaction by one who lived through the Holocaust on the Blitz shows that Pyle has endured. Doris Horne, a British salesclerk in an Indianapolis fabric store reminisces, "The war in England was an all-encompassing war, not just all wars in isolated spots like Korea, and then Vietnam. It was all over. Bless his heart, he wrote about it that way."  

When the United States entered World War II in 1941, Americans became united as they had been during no previous war. Pyle felt this, and his sense of duty to give the people back home a clear and human understanding of what their own country was doing became stronger. According to Henry Steele Commager,  

30 Doris Horne, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman (Mary Lester Fabrics, Indianapolis, Indiana), Mar. 1, '74.  
6. Slide: war ruins

"THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WAR SEEMED TO HAVE BROUGHT, ALONG WITH A SENSE OF POWER, BEWILDERMENT AND CONFUSION," 32 TO EVERY AMERICAN.

PYLE HELPED THE AMERICAN TO COME DOWN TO EARTH AND REALIZE WHAT ACTUALLY WENT INTO THE CONDUCT OF WAR BY COVERING ITS SERIOUSNESS IN TERMS OF HOW BATTLEFIELDS PRODUCE A BROTHERHOOD AND HOW THOSE AT HOME SHOULD HAVE NO SHAME OR CONCERN ABOUT A DIVISION 'S ABILITY BECAUSE OF A RETREAT, AND INTERSPERSING IT WITH LIGHTER COLUMNS ABOUT THE "SOLDIER AS A BORN HOUSEWIFE," OR THE TYPE OF BEARDS NOW IN STYLE. JOHN STEMPEL EMPHASIZES ERNIE'S POPULARITY WITH HIS AUDIENCE BACK HOME AS HE TALKS ABOUT THE PARALLEL OF HIS DOMESTIC COLUMNS TO THOSE OF THE WAR.

THE SECRET OF COURSE, OF HIS WAR COLUMNS WAS THE FACT THAT WHEN HE WAS DOING HIS DOMESTIC COLUMNS BEFORE THE WAR, TRAVELING BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND VISITING WITH ALL KINDS OF PERSONS, WITH FARMERS IN THE FIELDS, WITH FILLING STATION ATTENDANTS, WITH PERSONS IN STORES, WITH DESK CLERKS AT HOTELS — WHEN HE GOT TO NORTH AFRICA HE DISCOVERED THAT THE ARMY WAS SIMPLY THESE INDIVIDUALS THAT HE HAD BEEN VISITING WITH FOR YEARS, AND SO HE UNDERSTOOD THEM.  

(IN THE COURSE OF HIS WAR REPORTING, ERNIE MADE VARIOUS TRIPS BACK TO THE UNITED STATES FOR PERIODS OF REST. EACH TIME HE WAS TEMPTED TO FORGET THE WAR AND REMAIN HOME IN HOPES OF REMEDYING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL  

33John Stempel, interview.
PROBLEMS HIS WIFE, JERRY WAS HAVING, BUT HE ALWAYS FOLLOWED A SENSE OF DUTY TO HIS WRITING. NOW IN AFRICA, HE WAS NOT ONLY WITNESSING BATTLE OF THE INFANTRY ON THE WAR FRONT, BUT WAS ALSO EXPERIENCING TURMOIL OF HIS OWN. HE AND HIS WIFE HAD BEEN DIVORCED IN A FINAL EFFORT TO SHOCK JERRY OUT OF A HELANCHOLY PRODUCED BY A COMBINATION OF CONFUSION, ALCOHOL, ILLNESS, AND DRUGS, YET STILL HE PLODDED ON. IN ONE LETTER TO HER HE REVEALED THAT THE WAR WAS "NO LONGER EXCITING OR ROMANTIC TO ME, BUT JUST HORRIBLE."  

AFTER A REMARRIAGE BY PROXY, ERNIE LIFTED HIS SPIRITS AND WROTE JERRY OF HIS DETERMINED SENSE OF OBLIGATION TO THE WAR. "I'M CONVINCED THAT ESPECIALLY IN THESE TIMES NOBODY CAN STEP ASIDE AND JUST LET THE

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35. Personal letter from Ernie Pyle to Jerry Pyle, Mar. 12, 1943.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUDIO-VISUAL-MISC.</th>
<th>SCRIPT (PAGE 30)</th>
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</table>
| 55. Slide: Ruins at Anzio | WORLD PASS BY WITHOUT ACHIEVING A FEELING OF UTTER DEFEAT FOR HIMSELF. I TOO HATE AND DETEST THE WAR AND THE TRAGEDY AND INSANITY OF IT, BUT I KNOW I CAN'T ESCAPE AND I TRULY BELIEVE THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS TO BE IN IT TO THE HILT."

56. Slide: Pyle in trench | AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF ERNIE PYLE'S HUMANISTIC CONCERN FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN WAR WAS THE FRIENDSHIP HE EXTENDED TO FELLOW WAR CORRESPONDENT GRAHAM HOVEY, NOW A MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL BOARD. PYLE WROTE:

(SECOND NARRATOR)

"I LIKED PRACTICALLY ALL THE CORRESPONDENTS, BUT ONE OF MY FAVORITES WAS GRAHAM HOVEY OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE. I LIKED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS QUIET AND UNDERSTANDING, AND BECAUSE HE WAS SENSITIVE TO THE BEAUTIES AS WELL AS THE HORRORS OF WAR."

HOVEY HAD AN UNUSUAL BAPTISM. HE HAD BEEN IN THE

---

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE FOR SOME TIME, PESTERING HIS BOSS TO GET TO THE FRONT. FINALLY HE WENT, AND ON THE FIRST DAY ALMOST GOT KILLED."


(GRAHAM HOVEY)

GRAHAM HOVEY HIMSELF REMEMBERS THAT AS HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH ERNIE PYLE.

(GRAHAM HOVEY)

"THIS LITTLE MAN WAS SITTING AROUND, I DIDN'T KNOW WHO HE WAS, BUT HE WAS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN OUR STORY, AND INTERESTED IN THE FACT THAT THIS HAD BEEN MY VERY

37 Ernie Pyle, Here Is Your War, pp. 220-221.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUDIO-VISUAL-DISC.</th>
<th>SCRIPT (PAGE 32)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXCERPT FROM TAPED INTERVIEW 3/15/74</td>
<td>(FIRST NARRATOR) HOVEY RECOLLECTS THAT ERNIE HAD LENT HIS JEEP TO HILL AND BOOTS NORGAARD, ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT, SO THEY COULD TURN IN THE STORY OF THEIR FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(GRAHAM HOVEY) AND I THINK IT WAS TYPICAL OF ERNIE THAT HE WAS GOING TO WRITE ABOUT THIS SAME EPISODE LATER HIMSELF IN A WAY THAT GOT BOTH NORGAARD AND ME MORE FAME THAN WHAT WE WROTE THAT NIGHT BY CANDLELIGHT AT TIBESSA. AND YET HE APPRECIATED HOW BADLY WE WANTED TO GET THIS STORY OUT OF THIS FIRST DAY OF THE GERMAN ATTACK. 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSIC...UP AND UNDER (FROM STRAVINSKY'S RITE OF SPRING)</td>
<td>(FIRST NARRATOR) ERNIE PYLE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING, THEN, NOT ONLY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

39 Graham Hovey interview.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Slide</th>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>0.</td>
<td>Correspondents</td>
<td>For the soldiers, but for the correspondents. In this passage from Brave Men he takes time out from telling the soldiers' story to give the correspondents' similar version.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. | Digging ditches | (Second Narrator) "With them and with us correspondents, it's the ceaselessness, the endlessness of everything that finally works its way through us and gradually starts to devour us."

"It's the perpetual, choking dust, the muscle-ripping hard ground, the snatched food sitting ill on the stomach, the heat and the flies and dirty feet and the constant roar of engines and the perpetual moving and the never settling down and the go, go, go, night and day, and on through the night again. Eventually it all works itself into an emotional tapestry of one dull, dead pattern—yesterday is tomorrow and tomorrow is Randazzo and when will we ever stop and, God, I'm so tired."

"I am not writing this to make heroes of the correspondents, because only a few look upon themselves in any dramatic light whatever. I am writing it merely..." |
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<tr>
<th>AUDIO-VISUAL-MISC.</th>
<th>SCRIPT (PAGE 34)</th>
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<tr>
<td>4. Slide: Ernie at typewriter</td>
<td>TO LET YOU KNOW THAT CORRESPONDENTS, TOO, CAN GET SICK OF WAR - AND DEADLY TIRED.&quot;40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65. Slide: Pyle with Hodenfield</td>
<td>(FIRST NARRATOR) ERNIE RELATED TO THE OTHER CORRESPONDENTS IN MORE WAYS THAN ON PAPER. G. K. HODENFIELD, A COMBAT CORRESPONDENT FOR THE MILITARY PAPER STARS AND STRIPES, REMEMBERS SHARING THE SAME CORRESPONDENTS' TENT WITH ERNIE AND LEARNING UNSPOKEN LESSONS AS HE WATCHED HIM. (G. K. HODENFIELD) AND ANOTHER THING, I THINK ERNIE PROBABLY HAD, WITHOUT EVER GIVING ME ANY KIND OF LESSON OR SUGGESTING A DIFFERENT APPROACH ON A STORY, I THINK ERNIE HAD MORE IMPACT, INFLUENCE, WHATEVER WORD YOU WANT, ON ME AS A WRITER AND AS A NEWSPAPER MAN THAN ANYBODY I HAVE EVER LET, ANYBODY I HAD CLASSES UNDER, ANYBODY I'D EVER ---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

40 Ernie Pyle, Brave Men (New York, Grosset and Dunlap, 1944), pp. 85-86.
STUDIED, WITHOUT EVER TRYING TO.

(FIRST NARRATOR)

ANY EXCERPT FROM ONE OF HIS BOOKS OR COLUMNS GIVES CLEAR REASON WHY ERNIE AND HIS STYLE OF WRITING APPEALED TO THE PEOPLE, BUT STRONGER PROOF LIES NOT ONLY IN THE MASS AUDIENCE HE WROTE FOR BUT ALSO IN THE PEOPLE HE WROTE ABOUT IN THE WAR, THE G.I.'S PROFESSOR RALPH HOLSINGER, AN ENLISTED MAN IN WORLD WAR II, REMEMBERS ERNIE PYLE FROM A SOLDIER'S POINT OF VIEW.

(RALPH HOLSINGER)

AND I THINK I CAN SPEAK FOR OTHER SOLDIERS, LIKE ME, WE FELT THAT ERNIE PYLE CAME CLOSER TO TELLING PEOPLE BACK HOME WHAT THE WAR WAS LIKE, ESPECIALLY WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO US ORDINARY SOLDIERS THAN ANYONE ELSE WE READ. EVEN THOUGH WE WERE THERE, WE READ HIM, AND

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41. G. K. Moddenfield, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, (Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana), Feb. 13, 1974
I DON'T EVER REMEMBER READING HIM AS YOU WOULD READ SOME OF THEM AND SAYING, "THAT'S A CROCK OF CRAP, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT." BUT PYLE KNEW. HE WAS THERE. 42

(FIRST NARRATOR)


42 Ralph Holsinger, interview.

THE PROSPECT OF MAKING A SPEECH.

(HERMAN WELLS)

THOSE 4000 PEOPLE OUT THERE ARE ALL THERE JUST TO SEE YOU AND IT WOULD BE A VERY GREAT THRILL TO THEM IF THEY COULD JUST HEAR YOUR VOICE. COULD YOU SAY JUST A FEW WORDS? ...HIS ADMIRER'S APPLE WENT UP AND DOWN THREE OR FOUR MORE TIMES AND HE FINALLY SAID, IN NEARLY A STAGE WHISPER, "THANK YOU."44

(FIRST NARRATOR)

AFTER SPENDING A TOTAL OF 29 MONTHS ON THE FRONT, DIGGING TRENCHES, EATING COLD C-RATIONS AND WRITING 700,000 WORDS ABOUT THE WAR,45 ERNIE PYLIE WAS BECOMING TIRED AND TIRED OF WAR. YET HIS DESIRE TO GET THE FEEL OF THE PACIFIC WAR LURED HIM TO ANOTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD THAT HE HAD NEVER COVERED BEFORE. TO PYLIE, THE

44Herman B. Wells interviewed by Gretchen Letterman (Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana) Mar. 22, 1974. 45Dorothy Elder, interview.
| 6. Slide: Pyle | WAR IN THE PACIFIC WAS A DEEPER, MORE COMPLICATED WAR, AND THE INCREASED STRESS CLEARLY AFFECTED HIM. TO HIS WIFE HE WROTE, "ONCE IN A WHILE I'LL GET A LOW SPELL WHEN THE WAR AND ITS DETAILS OF DEATH AND MISERY GET TOO REAL IN MY MIND." FROM GUAM HE WROTE TO HIS CLOSE FRIEND SINCE COLLEGE DAYS, PAIGE CAVANAUGH, "I'M STILL NOT BACK TO WAR AS I SHOULD BE, AND I'M STILL VERY CONFUSED ABOUT EVERYTHING. I'M JUST NOW COMING OUT OF THE LOWEST SPELLS I'VE EVER HAD. DIDN'T WRITE A LINE FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS--JUST LAY ON MY COT AND LET MY IMAGINATION RUN WILD ABOUT MY OWN PROBABLE PERSONAL FATE IN THIS WAR, WHICH I CAN'T QUITE FACE, AND GOT LOWER AND LOWER. AND THE WAY I LOOK AT THINGS NOW, I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU TWO CENTS FOR THE LIKELIHOOD |
| 7. Slide: Pyle | |
| 8. Slide: Pyle with Paige Cavanaugh | |
| 9. Slide: Concern for his fate | |

46 Personal letter from Ernie Pyle to Jerry Pyle, Mar. 11, 1945.
OF IE BEING ALIVE A YEAR FROM NOW. AND I'LL NOT JOKING.\footnote{Personal letter from Ernie Pyle to Paige Cavanaugh, Mar. 14, 1945, (from collection at Indiana University).}

IN HIS LAST LETTER TO HIS WIFE, ERNIE SAID, "YOU CAN'T KNOW THE RELIEF I FELT, FOR AS YOU KNOW I HAD DREAD THIS ONE TERRIBLY. NOW IT IS BEHIND ME, AND I WILL NEVER MAKE ANOTHER LANDING."\footnote{Personal letter from Ernie Pyle to Jerry Pyle, Apr. 8, 1945.}

ERNIE'S EERIE SENSE OF PRELONITION GAVE WAY TO REALITY FOR ON APRIL 18, 1945, HE LOST HIS LIFE IN A JAPANESE MACHINE GUN AMBUSH WHILE COVERING THE INVASION OF IE SHIMA.\footnote{Obituary, \textit{New York Times} (Apr. 19, 1945).}

ERNIE PYLE LOST HIS LIFE RECORDING THE WAR FOR THE PEOPLE BACK HOME. IN ONE RECOLLECTION OF ERNIE PYLE, JOHN STEMPEL SPEAKS OF PYLE'S JOURNALISTIC CONTRIBUTION AS A WAR CORRESPONDENT.
EXCERPT FROM TAPED INTERVIEW 11/16/73

4. Slide: Pyle and soldiers

35. Slide: surrounded by soldiers

36. Slide: relaxing on cot

37. Slide: listening to accordion music

38. Slide: with kids in Guam

39. Slide: Unveiling of monument

40. Slide: Pyle

41. Slide: Pyle MUSIC...FADE OUT

(JOHN STEMPEL)

HE PROBABLY GAVE THE AVERAGE AMERICAN A FAR BETTER IDEA OF THE WAR THAN ANYBODY ELSE DID BECAUSE HE TOLD IT AGAIN IN TERMS OF PEOPLE.  

(FIRST NARRATOR)

ERNIE WROTE IN TERMS OF PEOPLE, NOT ONLY IN HIS WAR CORRESPONDENCE, BUT IN HIS EVERY SENTENCE. HE WAS LOVED BY EVERYONE HE TOUCHED: HIS FRIENDS, HIS COLLEAGUES, THE SOLDIERS HE LIVED WITH, AND THE PEOPLE HE WROTE FOR. ON THE MONUMENT ERECTED AT HIS DEATH SITE, THE INSRIPTION READS THAT THERE THE 77TH INFANTRY DIVISION "LOST A BUDDY." HERE IS OUR ERNIE PYLE: NOT JUST A BUDDY TO HIS COMRADES, BUT A FRIEND WHO GAVE A HUMAN INSIGHT OF HIS EXPERIENCES THAT WILL PERPETUATE TO ALL MANKIND.

50John Stempel, interview.
PERSONAL INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY THE AUTHOR

Elder, Mrs. James P., interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, Dana, Indiana, Feb. 2, 1974. Her husband's family owned the land that Pyle's parents sharecropped. She now owns Pyle's birthplace, and has collections of his writings, pictures, and books, plus many personal notes and letters from Pyle's Aunt Mary Bales. She is heading the American Legion fund-raising drive to have the birthplace rejuvenated as a state museum. Interview was taped.

Evans, William A., interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, 9535 Broadway, Indianapolis, Indiana, Mar. 2, 1974. He was a colleague of Ernie at I.U. on the Indiana Daily Student. Interview was taped.

Hodenfield, G.K., interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Feb. 13, 1974. He was a combat correspondent for the Stars and Stripes, and knew Ernie personally in North Africa and Europe. He is now Publications Editor of the News Bureau at I.U. Interview was taped.

Holsinger, Ralph, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Feb. 18, 1974. He was an enlisted man in the war when Pyle was there—was able to give a soldier's point of view of the impact Pyle had on the G.I.'s. He is now a Professor of Journalism at I.U. Interview was taped.

Hovey, Graham, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, New York Times Building, New York, March 15, 1974. He was a war correspondent for the International News Service during World War II. He knew Ernie Pyle personally, having many recollections about Pyle as a humanist and journalist. He is now a member of the Times editorial board. Interview was taped.

Howard, Jack, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, Pan American Building, New York, Mar. 14, 1974. He worked on the Washington Daily News at the same time Pyle did. Remembering personal incidents, he was close to Pyle. Mr. Howard is now president of Scripps-Howard Newspapers. Interview was taped.

Meyer, Matt, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, Pan American Building, New York, Mar. 14, 1974. He was advertising director for the Washington Daily News while Ernie Pyle was there. Mr. Meyer is now president of the Scripps-Howard Foundation. Interview was taped.

Von Tress, Edward, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Feb. 12, 1974. Involved in the funding of journalism scholarships, he was instrumental in getting personal letters from Pyle to his wife and to Paige Cavanaugh, which are now temporarily housed in Lilly Library on the IU campus. He was former executive vice president of Curtis Publishing Company.

Wells, Herman B., interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Mar. 22, 1974. He was colleague of Ernie Pyle at IU, and also president of IU when Pyle received his honorary degree. He is now chancellor at IU. Interview was taped.
INTERVIEWS (CONT.)

Horne, Doris, interviewed by Gretchen Letterman, Mary Lester Fabrics, Indianapolis, Indiana, Mar. 1, 1974. Fondly recalling her days in Britain during the war, she remembers the impact Pyle had on the people.

PERSONAL LETTERS WRITTEN/RECEIVED

Cavanaugh, Paige, to the author, Feb. 25, 1974. He was close friend to Pyle from college, and throughout the rest of Pyle's life.

Ferree, Mark, to the author, Mar. 28, 1974. He was former business manager at Scripps-Howard at time Pyle worked there.

Lowensohn, Naoma, to the author, Feb. 20, 1974. She is a trustee for Scripps-Howard, and compiled a thorough list of names to contact from there.

Norgaard, Noland, to the author, Apr. 8, 1974. He was a war correspondent and knew Pyle personally. Pyle wrote about him in his columns.

Letterman, Gretchen, to Helen Palmer, Mar. 19, 1974. She was acting secretary for Hal Boyle of the Associated Press, and I wrote for the text of a speech made by Mr. Boyle honoring Pyle.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

Personal letters to his wife, Jerry, and to his close friend Paige Cavanaugh, dated 1930-1945, are temporarily catalogued in Lilly Library at Indiana University. Also in the collection are Pyle's original wires, columns, and dispatches. These items, along with other Pyle memorabilia will be displayed in Ernie Pyle Hall on the IU campus, when remodeling of that building is completed.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES

No page numbers are listed because all articles came from clipping files in IU journalism library.

Blann, Bob, "One Guy Came to Cover the Story--His Last," The Indiana Daily Student, April 18, 1959.


Collier, Joe, "Hoosier Vagabond," The Indianapolis Times, July 24, 1940.

Eller, Herb, "Ernie Has Visited Bloomington Once, and That Was Because He Had To Go Through Here on Detour," The Bloomington World, August 2, 1940.


NEWS PAPERS AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES (CONT.)


"Ernie's Sorry--We're Sorry," The Indiana Daily Student, September 22, 1943.

"Hoosier is Shot Near Okinawa," The Indianapolis News, April 18, 1945.


Obituary, New York Times, April 19, 1945

Obituary, Publisher's Weekly, April 21, 1945.


BOOKS BY ERNIE PYLE

Pyle, Ernie, Brave Men, New York, Grosset and Dunlap, 1944.


BIOGRAPHY


BIBLIOGRAPHY (CONT.)


ERA HISTORY


*Indiana University Arbutus*, ed. by the Senior Class, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 1923. Not only gives little sidelights about Pyle, but also gives a picture of what life was like at that time.


*This Fabulous Century*, 1920-1930, 1930-1940, New York, Time-Life Books, 1970. Pictorial history of the way life was when Pyle was writing.

OTHER BOOKS


SLIDES

Slides were made from a collection of pictures at Indiana University, *An Ernie Pyle Album*, *The American Heritage Picture History of World War II*. Other slides are original, taken by the author at interviews, and around campus.