Journalists in History

Dickey Chapelle, The First American Female War Correspondent Killed in Action



Dickey Chapelle earned the title of one of the first female war correspondents through firsthand experience. She took combat pictures on a ridge at Iwo Jima with bullets whizzing around her. She crashed in a Jeep under mortar fire in Cuba. She survived torture and threats of hanging in a Communist prison in Hungary. She parachuted into Viet Cong territory and returned with stories and pictures. She jumped with paratroopers, traveled with troops, and lived the life of a soldier to get the best possible stories and photographs from the front lines. At a time when pioneering women journalists were not socially or politically accepted, she took pictures and wrote dispatches that brought the people back home to the front lines of war and its heavy price.  
  
She was known for her tenacity and willingness to do anything to get the story, and many nations accepted her into their military units, including rebel groups in Algeria, Cuba, Hungary and South Vietnam. Chapelle even took up parachuting at the age of 40 to cover guerilla conflicts in inhospitable terrain. She became the first female reporter to win Pentagon approval to jump with American troops in Vietnam.  
  
Dickey Chapelle covered wars and rebellions for publications including Look Magazine, Life Magazine, Reader’s Digest and the National Geographic. In all of her service she never demanded special treatment because of her gender. Men sometimes did their best to keep her out of danger, but she managed to find it. While covering the rebels in Algeria, she learned to survive on a diet of half a dozen dates a day, to sleep on a rock, and to urinate only once a day to prevent dehydration. She could do 50 pushups. An admiring Marine Corps commander in Vietnam said, “In fatigues and helmet you couldn’t tell her from one of the troops, and she could keep up front with the best of them.”  
  
By all accounts, Chapelle could also endure punishment as well or better than men. During the Hungarian Revolution, she slipped over the Hungarian border without a visa and the Communists caught her and threw her into a cold, grimy jail for seven weeks. By starving and brainwashing her, the Communists tried to force her to admit that she was guilty of espionage. She never broke. Later, Dickey wrote that “the old rules still held good in this as in any other conflict between human beings. If you fought hard enough, whatever was left of you afterward would not be found stripped of honor.”  
  
Some of the most popular magazines of the time including Reader’s Digest, National Geographic, Look, and the Saturday Evening Post commissioned Chapelle for assignments and featured her work. She won the George Polk Award in 1962 for her coverage of the Vietnam War. She also received the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association’s Distinguished Service Award. The Women’s Press Club said that Dickey Chapelle was: “The kind of reporter all women in journalism openly or secretly aspire to be. She was always where the action was.”  
  
Then on November 7, 1965, while covering a Marine operation near Chu Lai for the National Observerand radio station WOR, Dickey Chapelle stepped on a land mine and was fatally wounded. Chapelle was the first female war correspondent to be killed in Vietnam and the first American female reporter to be killed in action. The Marines admired her so much that when her body was repatriated to her hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she had an honor guard of six Marines and she was given a full Marine burial.  
  
**Dickey Chapelle Is Buried in Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin**  
  
A story in the Milwaukee Journal dated Saturday, November 13, 1965, records her burial on Friday, November 12, 1965, in her family plot at Forest Home Cemetery. Journal reporter David G. Meissner put it, “Flanked in full dress, the ashes of the former Shorewood correspondent-photographer were buried in a family plot at Forest Home Cemetery.” Dickey Chapelle’s body had been cremated in San Francisco earlier in the week.  
  
Reverend John W. Cyrus, pastor of the First Unitarian Church gave her funeral oration at the church and conducted the graveside service. Reverend Cyrus said that Dickey Chapelle’s life had swung between two poles. Her family where there were strong pacifistic tendencies and on whom she deeply depended was one pole. The other pole was the far distant place where danger was. He said her life “was action, doing, working, talking, traveling.” Of her reporting in Vietnam, he said, “She was interested in the victims of war, the men who fought it…She believed in her side…This was her war.”  
  
During the church and graveside services, cameras clicked and reporters wrote in their notebooks. Delmar Lipp, a senior editor at the National Observer, the paper that Dickey Chapelle was on assignment for when she died, was there. She had worked for The National Geographic Magazine and a representative from the magazine was there. SSgt. Albert P. Miville, leader of the Marine platoon that Chapelle had been covering when she died, attended the ceremonies. Major Robert Morrisey, special assistant to the Marine Corps commandant, came from Washington. Sgt. J.M. Folk, of the Marine barracks at the Great Lakes Illinois Naval Training Station, blew taps at the windswept gravesite. Members of the Marine Corps recruiting office in Milwaukee acted as ushers and honor guard during the service.  
  
  **Georgette Louise Meyer Becomes Dickey Meyer and Goes to MIT**  
  
Dickey Chapelle’s story began in the upscale Milwaukee suburb of Shorewood, Wisconsin,  expanded to cover the world, and then ended back in Milwaukee at her grave in Forest Home  Cemetery . She was born Georgette Louis Meyer in 1919, into an accepting and encouraging family. According to her biographer, Roberta Ostroff,  Georgette’s family continued to be supportive and good naturedly perplexed by her intelligence, imagination and fierce individuality**.**Dickey talks about her father in her autobiography published in 1962, called What’s a Woman Doing Here?“ He often had taken me along on his calls at building construction projects. He would tell me to follow him as he walked across the high boards and roof beams. I was always frightened, but I never could bring myself to admit it so I did as he told me. I thought he’d never notice but one day he said kindly, “You won’t fall. I promise, if you don’t look down. Look ahead.” I’ve since applied his advice to logs over rivers, ropes over chasms, cargo nets down ship sides, parachutes, front line, and assorted abstractions and it hasn’t let me down yet. “  
  
Throughout her childhood in Milwaukee, Georgette Meyer’s appearance- she grew to be only about five feet tall and extremely nearsighted- lagged behind her spirit. Airplanes, machinery, and adventure fascinated her and she quickly became a tomboy. According to her autobiography, she didn’t rebel against her family, but she did wear unfashionable enough clothes and had boyish enough manners to be the object of her high school classmate’s jokes.  
  
As she explained in her autobiography “I may have contributed somewhat to my difficulties. At fifteen, I was not much over five feet tall, weighed 153 pounds, was shaped like a straight-sided box and usually wore corduroy skirts, boys’ shirts and snow boots to school. But tomboys were no novelty in suburban Milwaukee.  When I was a high school freshmen, we must have had at least eleven of them in my class because I remember the soccer team on which I naturally played fullback trounced the sophomore girls and then challenged the boys. The dean of women, in a seizure of utter sanity, banned the game. But we knew we could have won it…”  
  
Despite the ridicule, precocious and industrious Georgette Meyer graduated as valedictorian of her high school class at age 16 with the highest grade point average ever earned at her high school. She won an aeronautical engineering scholarship to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).  
  
Georgette spent three semesters at MIT, but she didn’t attend too many classes. Instead, she visited the Boston Airport, the Boston Navy Yard, and the nearby Coast Guard base. By her second semester, she  realized that she wanted something more than the life of an engineer. She had discovered two new passions – flying and sex. Thirty years later searchers found an unpublished article entitled In Defense of Necking, by a Coed who has done It, Aged 16. This probably was Dickey Chapelle’s first story written as all of them to come would be written, only after firsthand experience and a thoroughly researched knowledge of the subject. She also changed her name to Dickey after she met Admiral Richard E. Byrd, her favorite Antarctic explorer.  
  
Moving off campus, Dickey met more boys and sold an article about the Coast Guard to the Boston Traveler newspaper. She didn’t make it past the first semester of her sophomore year at MIT, because she lost her scholarship and the Depression made it difficult to find a job and finance her college education. She decided that she’d rather fly airplanes than build them and she dropped out of school.  
  
Back in Milwaukee, Dickey traded secretarial work for flying lessons at a Milwaukee airfield. She had the opportunity to get to know the rough and tumble barnstormers of the time. Air shows provided welcome and affordable entertainment during the Depression all across the American heartland. Dickey also worked for the Milwaukee Journaland wrote articles and books about aviation.  
  
By the summer of 1938, Dickey’s mother had become concerned enough about her personal relationship with a pilot to send her to live with her own mother and father in Coral Gables, Florida.  
  
**Dickey Meyer Moves to New York and Marries Tony Chapelle**  
  
Dickey hung around the airfields in Florida and wrote stories about air shows and planes. One of her stories produced an offer from Transcontinental and Western Airlines (TWA) to work in its publicity department. In 1938, Dickey moved to New York to write press releases for TWA.  
  
In 1940, at age 21 she enrolled in the photography class of TWA’s publicity photographer, Tony Chapelle. Tony Chapelle had been a pioneering aerial photographer of World War I, and he lived and breathed airplanes and cameras.  
  
He was also charming, twice Dickey’s age, and married. The fact that he was married and had a son didn’t stop Tony Chapelle from proposing to Dickey Meyer and she and Tony were married in Milwaukee. Chapelle remained married to his first wife six full years after he married Dickey.  
  
Dickey loved airplanes- she earned her pilot’s license at age 21- and cameras as well and she quickly learned as much about them as she could from Tony. Later, she credited her husband with planting the essential seeds of her career in photojournalism.  
  
Tony Chapelle believed that, “If you were a real photographer you were on the spot where things happened before they happened.”  
  
His wife and student learned her lessons well. A good photographer was out front, the first person to arrive no matter the price. This idea shaped the rest of Dickey Chapelle’s illustrious career.  
  
**Dickey Chapelle Begins Her Photography Career in World War II**  
  
After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 brought America into World War II, Tony Chapelle volunteered for the military and orders came through for him to teach photography in Panama. Dickey set her heart on accompanying her husband to Panama, so she coaxed an assignment from Look Magazine to cover U.S. Army Jungle Training there. She arrived in Panama with camera and notebook intact after a rough voyage and with her reporting and photography skills honed to new levels.  
  
 Dickey flew from Pearl Harbor to U.S. Navy Headquarters on Guam. Colonel H.B. Miller, a public relations officer there, had insisted that female reporters could go no farther than Guam after their stories. Dickey for all practical purposes camped out in Colonel Miller’s office, politely insisting that she would go “as far forward as you will let me.”  
  
Giving in to Dickey’s contagious enthusiasm, Colonel Miller finally assigned her to a hospital ship, the Samaritan, bound for Iwo Jima. Dickey Chapelle was the first woman correspondent to report on the bloody battle for Iwo Jima and she was the first and youngest female combat photographer in the Pacific Theater. She made friends with countless Marines, listened to their stories, and photographed their pain and their hope. One Marine gave her his eight inch K-Bar fighting knife, a souvenir that she carried to every “bayonet border of the world.”  
  
Then came Okinawa, even bloodier than Iwo Jima. As the Japanese launched waves of kamikaze attacks, Dickey evaded restrictions and reached the combat zone, at one point advancing hundreds of yards in front of the line. Military authorities decided to chase her down. Weeks later when they found the tiny figure in a helmet and filthy fatigues, she shouldered a heavy pack and looked like just any other Marine. Over her career, she formed deep bonds with the soldiers fighting on the front lines.  
  
Learning from a few early disasters, the brilliant, self confident Dickey Chapelle began to make a name for herself. She wasn’t a great photographer, but she compensated for her artistic shortcomings with determination and undeniable courage. She took thousands of gripping war pictures—many of wounded and dying men. It was as if she had a compulsion to make the home front aware of the miseries and the sacrifice of war, of the "eternal, incredible, appalling, macabre, irreverent, joyous gestures of love for life, made by the wounded."  
  
Bill Garrett, her editor at National Geographic after the war said, “She wasn’t that good, and she had to hustle to keep the work coming, but she would stick with a story two or three months while another reporter would stay two days. And she would bring back the facts, no matter how long it would take.”  
  
Chapelle also wrote two books for the U.S. government, titled Needed: Women in Government Service and Needed: Women in Aviation. The books stressed that the government needed women for the war effort and issues surrounding gender bias.  
  
**Dickey Visits the Old Warsaw Ghetto**  
  
After World War II, Dickey and her husband Tony Chapelle spent five years documenting the devastation caused by World War II. In her autobiography, What’s A Woman Doing Here? Dickey Chapelle recalled a scene in the old Warsaw ghetto in Poland. She came upon a sturdy Jesuit priest surrounded by ragged orphans. These orphans had been traumatized while watching their parents and neighbors die while fighting against some of Hitler’s crack troops.  
  
Dickey had just come into the children’s mess hall to photograph them drinking American powdered milk from tin cups. She had expected them to answer the pathetic question that Polish children asked, “How far down may I drink?” Warsaw youngsters knew there would never be enough to eat in the world again.  
  
These children didn’t ask the question. Some groaned, and a few grimaced but they didn’t smile and they didn’t speak. They didn’t react until Dickey used her first flash bulb and then a dozen of them screamed and cried. A flashing light meant gunfire and someone close to them dying.  Dickey said that she almost sobbed to the priest. “I’m so sorry, Father. I didn’t think.  I’ll go at once.”      
  
The priest straightened himself, ignoring the noises from the tiny strained throats and said to Dickey with the accent and attitude of an infantry sergeant, “You will go nowhere. Take another picture.”         
  
Dickey took another picture and again terror struck the children, but there were fewer noises this time.   
  
The priest ordered Dickey to keep taking pictures until he told her to stop and she did so. After ten of what Dickey described as “the most sickening moments of my life,” the room remained quiet, even when a bulb flashed. The priest relaxed and smiled at Dickey.  “I am sorry if I have been using you, daughter, but you are the first stranger these children have seen since the fighting ended. I thought it was time they learned that strangers and lights do not always mean bloodshed. I could never teach them about flashbulbs because I have none for my own little camera.”  
  
  Dickey ended her story by reporting that the set of photographs she made that day under the priest’s orders were given by the Quakers to the United Nations and they became part of the photographic files of many relief agencies, because the naked faces so plainly told of fear and want. The last time she heard of them being used was in 1959 during the observance of World Refugee Year, when larger-than-life enlargements were exhibited in London.  
  
  
**Dickey Goes to Hungary, Algeria, Lebanon, India, Turkey and Cuba**  
  
The Chapelle’s work as a photographic team ended early in 1953. Soon after that, as Dickey put it,”We came to what I guess is called the parting of the ways both personally and professionally. We were separated in 1955 and our marriage dissolved the following summer. We had been married fifteen years.”  
  
Dickey Chapelle appeared in the front lines of every armed conflict that erupted after World War II from the Hungarian Revolution, Algeria, Lebanon, India, Turkey, and Cuba. In Algeria, she learned to live like a soldier. In 1956-1957 while photographing Hungarian refugees, she was imprisoned and tortured for seven weeks in a Communists prison in Hungary. Her captors tried to torture her into confessing to espionage, but she didn’t break. At the age of 40 she learned to parachute so that she could remain in front of the competition. If there was no war to cover, Dickey went to places in the world where people were hurting, hungry, oppressed, hopeless.  She later learned to jump with paratroopers, and usually travelled with troops. This led to frequent awards, and earned the respect of both the military and journalistic community  
  
In 1958, the Research Institute of America assigned Dickey to cover the Communist Revolution in Cuba as an anti-communist photojournalist. She interviewed Fidel Castro, and found herself being quite sympathetic to him despite his Communist ideology.  
  
**Beirut, Lebanon, 1958**  
  
In 1958, Dickey Chapelle went to Lebanon with the Marines.  
  
There has been political and religious unrest in Lebanon for most of its history, stemming from the long standing Israeli-Arab-Christian-Moslem disagreements. After World War II, Lebanon became an independent state and the various political and religious factions co-existing within its small borders tried to achieve a balance of power. In the mid 1950s, Lebanon attempted to mediate between the Arab and Christian world. This attempted failed and in May 1958, unknown perpetrators assassinated the editor of the Beirut newspaper Al Telegraf. The assassination sparked riots that eventually led to the burning of the United States Information Agency in reaction of Lebanese President Chamoun’s sympathy with the Western powers. By late may 1958, Chaumon had requested the United States to stand by to aid them if necessary.  
  
On July 14, 1958, young King Faisal of Iraq was murdered and the Iraqi Premier Nuri Said was killed while attempting to get away. The revolt that followed ignited the fires in the Middle East. Chamoun appealed to the United States and Britain to intervene. United States President Dwight Eisenhower gave the order to send in the Marines. Dickey Chapelle landed with the third wave of the assault force. In 1958, Marines were supposed to have 24 hours warning before they had to land so they could position themselves. President Eisenhower gave them half that time.  
  
They got the landing order because they were the only force close enough to land within 24 hours. They were ordered to land on Red Beach near the Beirut International Airport and seize and control it. The Marines didn’t know whether or not they would face opposition. Their landing situation wasn’t exactly what they had anticipated.  
  
Red Beach was four miles from the heart of Beirut. Bikini-wearing sunbathers, Khalde villagers and the beach workmen who dropped their tools and ran to the site to watch the landing witnessed the Marine assault on Red Beach.  
  
Dickey Chapelle was in the third wave of the assault force as it landed. She later wrote, “The real thing here didn’t look much different from a rehearsal except for the hazard offered by Arab families sun-bathing on the sand.” She recalled the final sentence of the operations order to Marines, “You will make every effort in this assault not to disturb the swimmers on the beach…” a juxtaposition of ideas that surely had not occurred in Marine history.”  
  
She noted in her autobiography, What’s A Woman Doing Here? that the next night she spent flat on her stomach in a hole in the ground near the top of a hill they called Irene. The hill overlooked the main runway of the Beirut International Airport which was the prize piece of real estate in the Middle East at the moment, since the Russians couldn’t send “volunteers” to Lebanon unopposed as long as the field was defended by United States Marines.    
  
Dickey Chapelle noted that “crisscrosses of blue and amber runway lights stabbed up impertinently from the field through the tense quiet of the Marines’ outer line, a row of holes thirty steps apart extending in a giant arc which embraced the Lebanese capital city, airport and all.”  She reported that there were four people in the hole on the line, each resting flat with their boots pointed inward. Each of the people were assigned to watch in a different direction since they knew and hoped that not too many other people did that the line didn’t have much depth and there was no direction that was safe from infiltration.  
  
The hole belonged to Lieutenant Tom Akers, the leader of the second platoon of Indian Company, 3f Battalion 6th Marines. He was 23 years old and from San Francisco. Lieutenant Akers was so lanky that almost every man in his command outweighed him, but he could outreach most of them. In a stage whisper, he repeated the order of the day from Brigadier General Sidney S. Wade, the Commander of Marines in Lebanon.  
  
Chapelle had combat experience in WWII and Korea so she was astounded at the order that had been given to Brigadier General Sidney S. Wade, commander of Marines in Lebanon.  
  
“All of us had considered it the most extraordinary order to a moving assault force we could imagine, and historically I later learned we were right to be astounded,” she recalled. “It was, ‘You will not shoot unless you are being shot at and then only at a clear target.”  
  
After the Marine invasion, retiring President Chamoun said, “Your Marines...they acted like angels,” which Chapelle jokingly said dealt a heavy blow to Marines’ reputation. The Marines suffered no casualties during the four month 1958 operation.  
  
**Dickey Chapelle Goes to Vietnam**  
  
Vietnam turned out to be the final chapter in Dickey Chapelle’s career. She had covered wars, the aftermath of wars, rebellions and invasions.  She had already won the prestigious George Polk Award from the Overseas Press Club and worked for the big magazines and relief agencies. She had proven herself to be a fighter and a patriot, but her outspoken manner and venturesome temperament made it difficult for her to maintain a steady paycheck position.  
  
Drawing on her Cuban experiences and despite her sympathy for Castro, she entered the lecture circuit as a strident and vociferous critic of communism. Dickey decried American complacency and expressed her uncompromising views and these factors often made her unwelcome in both military and civilian circles. In 1961, Dickey Chapelle left the United States for Vietnam. She left alone, as the first American female journalist searching for the biggest story of her already stellar career.  
  
Vietnam had a tumultuous history. France colonized Vietnam in the middle to late 19th century and during World War II, Imperial Japan expelled the French and occupied Vietnam although they retained French administrators during the occupation. After World War II, France attempted to reestablish its colonial rule, but lost the First Indochina War. The Geneva Accords partitioned Vietnam, with a promise of a democratic election that would reunite the country.  
  
Instead of peacefully reuniting Vietnam, the partition provoked the Vietnam War. The People’s Republic of China and the Soviet Union supported North Vietnam and the United States supported South Vietnam. American involvement on the side of the South gradually escalated and the war dragged on for twenty years. After millions of Vietnamese deaths, the war ended with the fall of Saigon to North Vietnam in April 1975  
  
Dickey Chapelle was one of the many reporters and photographers who covered the Vietnam war and one of the few who observed first hand and understood the situation in Vietnam. In the early 1960s, she traveled to Laos and observed clandestine American CIA operatives in combat there. She believed that Americans back home didn’t have any idea what was about to happen in Southeast Asia and she couldn’t get anyone to buy her dispatches and photographs.  
  
An outspoken anti-Communist, Dickey boldly expressed her anti-Communist views at the beginning for the war. Her stories from the early 1960s praised the American military advisors who were already fighting and dying in South Vietnam and Father Nguyen Lac Hoa and the Sea Swallows, an anticommunist militia. Over 7,500 American women served in the military in Vietnam. Thousands more women experienced Vietnam first hand as civilian Service Club personnel, Red Cross workers and journalists. Sixty two women died.   
  
Dickey insisted upon being with the troops at the front collecting stories first hand. Her work showed the stark realities of war. Many of her photographs and articles were marked “lost,” or censored by the United States Defense and State Departments to keep up American morale and hide the full and brutal involvement of the United States in the War in Vietnam.  
  
Dickey Chapelle was a different breed of reporter from the official, credentialed press crops in Vietnam in the early 1960s. She was used to digging for the story until she uncovered it and she ate and slept in the mud with the soldiers. When officials told her that a story didn’t exist, she proved that it did. That’s exactly what she did in Vietnam.  
  
While on assignment for National Geographic Magazine in 1962, Dickey photographed a United States Marine , uniformed and combat ready in the door of a helicopter, surrounded by South Vietnamese soldiers. It was the first published photograph of an American in combat in Vietnam. She received an award from the Overseas Press Club in 1962 for her article and photographs that appeared in National Geographic.Chapelle’s article was the first one published in the United States that showed American soldiers fighting in Southeast Asia. The photograph of the combat Marine won the 1963 Press Photographer’s Association “Photograph of the Year.”  
  
One of her photographs, a 1960 shot of a Vietnamese Airborne officer executing a “suspected” Communist prisoner, anticipated the Eddie Adam’s photo of “Guerrilla Dies” by six years. Adams won the Pulitzer Prize for the famous photograph of the police chief pulling the trigger of his pistol against his bound North Vietnamese captive’s head in 1968.  
  
During the last few years of her life, many of Dickey Chapelle’s photographs and stories were considered too sensitive to publish because of their realistic portrayal of the deception and death in Vietnam. In 1965, she convinced her editors to send her back to Vietnam. Dickey had to be in the front lines. Her spirit and intellect demanded it.  
  
**Dickey Chapelle’s Pearls and Pink Flowers**  
  
On November 4, 1965, photo journalist Dickey Chapelle, who was embedded with the American Marines reporting for the National Observer and WOR-RKO radio, was on jungle patrol with a Marine unit near the Song Tra Bong River near Chu Lai, in South Vietnam. Suddenly, the lieutenant in front of Chapelle tripped a booby trap consisting of a nylon fishing line attached to an M-26 hand grenade wedged beneath an 81-mm mortar round. The soldier who tripped the wire, walking point, was not seriously injured. The explosion threw Dickey who walked right behind him at the front of the squad, twenty-one feet into the air. Shrapnel slit her carotid artery, mortally wounding her.  
  
Associated Press photographer Henri Huet photographed Chapelle as she lay dying. Marine Corps Chaplain John Monamara of Boston administered the last rites to Chapelle as an American Marine and a South Vietnamese soldier carrying M-14 rifles watched. The famous photograph showed blood pooling in the dirt near her head and a small pearl earring gleaming in her left earlobe. Her pearl earrings as well as her Australian bush hat were a signature part of Chapelle’s uniform. The Australian bush hat lay nearby. The tiny bouquet of pink flowers that she had tucked into it earlier contrasted with the red blood and the white pearl earrings.  
  
Henri Huet’s photograph of Chapelle’s death became famous. He himself would die in a February 1971 with fellow photographers Larry Burrows, Kent Potter and Keisaburo Shimamoto, when North Vietnamese shot down their helicopter over Laos.  
  
In the rescue helicopter on the way to the base hospital, Dickey Chapelle looked into the face of a corpsman. “I guess it was bound to happen,” she said.  
  
Those were the last words she spoke.  
  
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Jack Denton Scott – Stars and Stripes Reporter and Savior of Mr. Magoo the Mongoose



You are moving at several hundred miles an hour, and things are coming at you at several hundred miles an hour, and you dearly love life and your wife back in the States, and the sooner you get the hell out of there the better it will suit you.” Jack Denton Scott  
  
Jack Denton Scott had a versatile mind and imagination that enabled him to produce newspaper columns and magazine articles and books ranging from cook books, travel books and mystery novels to children’s books. He wrote 41 books and 1,500 magazine articles, and contributed articles to the Reader’s Digest for thirty years.  
  
Born in Elkins, West Virginia in 1915, Jack Denton Scott wrote his first short story at 16 and had his first article published in a national magazine three years later when he turned 19. He studied literature at Columbia and Oxford Universities, and served in World War II as a war correspondent for Yank Magazine. He wrote 41 books and over 1,500 articles during his long and prolific career.  
  
In World War II, Jack Denton Scott was a war correspondent for the Army newspaper Yank Magazine in London, Cairo and Florence and was also a member of the Writing 69th.  
  
The United States Eighth Air Force sponsored a training program in February 1943 to prepare eight civilian and military journalists to take part in a high altitude bombing mission against Germany. The eight men were Homer Bigart of the New York Herald Tribune, Walter Cronkite of the United Press, Gladwin Hill of the Associated Press, Paul Manning of CBS Radio, Robert Post of the New York Times, Andy Rooney of the military newspaper Stars and Stripes, William Wade of the International News Service and Denton Scott of the military magazine Yank.  
  
Originally called The Flying Typewriters, the reporters later decided to adopt the name The Writing 69th, a play on words that referred to the famous fighting 69th that had fought in every war since the American Revolution. In a week long training course at Bovingdon, England, the Writing 69th learned how to adjust to high altitude, identify enemy planes and parachute. They trained to shoot weapons, although noncombatants were not allowed to shoot in combat. The Writing 69th was prepared to fly many missions with the Eighth Air Force, but tragedy struck on their very first mission.   
  
On February 26, 1943, the Writing 69th flew their first and last bombing mission over Wilhelmshaven, Germany. The Germans shot down the B17 bomber carrying Robert Perkins Post and its crew and the Writing 69th flew no more missions together. Denton Scott was one of the most prolific writers of the Writing 69th.  
  
Denton Scott missed the February 26, 1943 mission, but a few weeks later he flew on a raid over Lorient, France. He described it this way: “You are moving at several hundred miles an hour, and things are coming at you at several hundred miles an hour, and you dearly love life and your wife back in the States, and the sooner you get the hell out of there the better it will suit you.”  
  
After World War II, Jack Denton Scott returned to the United States and worked for Field and Stream Magazine as its gun-dog editor. He almost singlehandedly established the Weimaraner breed of dog in the United States. In 1941, the Weimaraner Club of America was formed, and in 1942 the American Kennel Club recognized it, with an official standard following in February 1943, but the German based clubs kept tight control of breeding and selling practices. The American Weimaraner Club followed the same practices of its German colleagues, keeping tight control of breeding and selling practices in the United States.  
  
Then in 1947, the Weimaraner breed came to the attention of Field and Stream gun-dog editor and publicist Jack Denton Scott.  He wrote an article called “The Gray Ghost Arrives,” and his article sparked what was described as a Weimaraner craze in the United States. Shortly after the article appeared in Field and Stream, the Weimaraner Club approached Jack Denton Scott to publicize the Weimaraner breed and he publicized with a skill.Weimaraners appeared on numerous magazine covers across the United States and were stars of multitudes of print advertisements for everything from beer to motor oil. By the end of the 1950s, the Weimaraner had become a status symbol breed that people believed could do anything from tracking game to herding sheep to answering telephones!In 1957, Jack Denton Scott was asyndicated columnist, writing columns about adventure and the outdoor life that appeared three times a week inThe New York Herald Tribune. He and his wife Mary Lou lived on a 150 acre farm in Roxbury, Connecticut, and tiger and buffalo hunting in the forests of India seemed far away from their peaceful lives. Then one day early in 1957, Ashoka Dutt, publicity officer of the Government of India Tourist Office suggested that Denton and Mary Lou Scott journey to Indian and discover firsthand what sports the country had to offer. The Indian Government also said that this is the first time that they had made such an offer to a foreign writer.  
  
Dutt arranged to have Indian tourist office representatives meet them at every stop in India, and gave Jack and his wife Mary Lou a list of what he thought they would need, even though his office didn’t know too much about hunting and hunting big game on safari. By working out the climatic conditions for February and March, the time of year that they would be in the jungle areas, they discovered that they would need both cold and warm weather clothing.  
  
Jack Scott and Mary Lou Scott were grateful to Dutt many times late at night as they shivered on the platform waiting for game in alpaca duck shooting coats and caps and lined shooting pants. Denton Scott said that left to their own resources he and Mary Lou would have taken only tropical gear into the jungles. He said that nearly everything he and his wife had read about Indian concentrated on its steaming climate.     
  
  As well as writing about dogs, Jack Denton Scott was an experienced hunter. He had hunted in Africa, Mexico, Canada, and many other countries. He wrote that he had spent long hours in the most uncomfortable duck blinds known to man and had even perched in the crotch of a mangrove tree for hours in a blinding rain, waiting for ducks to appear. He crawled two miles on his hands and knees, hunting wild sheep and goat. He had waded through hip deep mud in Cuba and Hudson Bay, hunting ducks and geese. He had been torn by the sisal cacti of Yucatan after quail, but he wrote in Forests of the Night, published in 1959, that he never encountered anything that required as much restraint, patience and strength of character as sitting up all night on an Indian hunting platform stalking tigers and leopards.  
Jack Denton Scott remembered a conversation with his wife Mary Lou while they were still in the Indian jungle in Forests of the Night. Mary Lou asked him how many more days they had to spend in the jungle and he replied that they must leave soon.  
  
Speaking about the jungle, Mary Lou said, “I love it. It’s so restful, even when we’re hunting, that I find I’m relaxed and at peace with the world all of the time. I haven’t missed a newspaper or a radio, and I’m beginning to wonder if all that crazy rush and things like that TV nonsense are a dream. This is real.”ack replied in part, “Here we are tracking a leopard in the jungle after sitting up in a tree all night, without sleep, watching murder walk the ground under us and you tell me that you love it. Characteristics like this should be foot-noted in the marriage contract. She likes the faraway places. You must promise not only to love, honor and respect, but you must see that she spends two months every year in the jungle hunting man-eating animals.”“I guess you’re stuck,” she said, smiling as if she had been caught counting the money in my billfold.”  
Mary Lou and Jack Denton Scott continued to collaborate and for their book Passport to Adventure that they published in 1966, they logged some 500,000 miles over five years.  
  
The Scotts also collaborated on writing cookbooks. Scott wrote his first cookbook, The Complete Book of Pasta: an Italian Cookbook, 1968, because he said he considered cooking an art and had made it an “ardent hobby.”  They collaborated on The Meat and Potatoes Cookbook in 1988 and in 1989 they did Rice: A Cookbook. In 1991, the Scotts wrote a successful paperback called The Bean, Pea and Lentil Cookbook.  
  
Jack Denton Scott eloquently expressed his feelings about cooking when he talked about venison filet. A.D. Livingston quoted Scott in the Complete Fish and Game Cookbook.  
  
“How should you serve what most of us consider the best piece of venison, the filet, that tender muscle that can almost be cut with a sharp glance? Although the English have the reputation of being unimaginative cooks, I believe they have a method of serving that prized filet that leads all others – even the French.  
  
“It passes the test of all superior dishes, is dramatically presented, appeals to the eye and is so tasty that once eaten it is never forgotten. I had it in the home of a baronet in Kent who stalked his meal on ancestral acres in Scotland. It was a filet from a royal stag, well hung, and it easily served eight drooling guests. I watched his cook, a gentle and skillful Irish woman, prepare it.”  
  
As well as writing travel, mystery, adventure and cook books, Jack Denton Scott wrote books that introduced children to the animals of the wild. The titles of his many illustrated children’s books reflected his interests as a naturalist. They include Loggerhead Turtle: Survivor from the Sea, 1974; Canada Geese, 1976; Discovering the Mysterious Egret, 1978; Island of Wild Horses,1978; and Moose, 1981.  
  
Other children’s books that he wrote include Orphans from the Sea, 1982; The Book of the Pig, 1981; The Book of the Goat, 1979; Island of the Wild Horses, 1978; City of Birds and Beasts: Behind the Scenes at the Bronx Zoo, 1978 and The Duluth Mongoose, 1965.  
  
One of Jack Denton Scott’s most popular children’s books was The Duluth Mongoose. Jack Scott heard about the story from sources in Duluth, Minnesota, in November 1962. The first story about Mr. Magoo the Mongoose ran in the Duluth News-Tribune of November13, 1962. Duluth News-Tribune staff writer William F. Thompson introduced his readers to a tea-drinking mongoose-tea with sugar that is - at the Duluth Zoo. A foreign ship docked at Duluth and a sailor donated his pet mongoose to zoo director Lloyd Hackl. Mr. Magoo was the first mongoose ever on display in Duluth, and Hackl believed Mr. Magoo probably was the only captive mongoose in the United States.  
  
Jack Denton Scott became intrigued with Mr. Magoo and his story, especially since he had spent time in India and he knew that that Mr. Magoo and his mongoose family usually grow no larger than 16 inches long, but kill six foot cobras, breaking their necks after a furious battle. Zoo director Hackl said that Mr. Magoo did not face the hazards of jungle survival at the Duluth zoo and that he was more like a house pet. He ate a little meat and vegetables and drank a little milk, preferring warm tea with sugar. He had the coloring of a squirrel, but with yellowish brown eyes and the reddish cheeks and throat that distinguish the markings of all mongooses.  
  
 Mongoose visiting hours at the Duluth Zoo for Mr. Magoo and the public were from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Many people came to see Mr. Magoo and he soon became a celebrity. Then someone told customs officials that Mr. Magoo lived at the Duluth zoo and United States customs officials got involved and declared Mr. Magoo an undesirable alien. The Customs officials impounded Mr. Magoo on the strength of a 1909 United Fish and Wildlife Service regulation forbidding people to import mongooses into the United States. A foreign seaman had given Mr. Magoo to the Duluth Zoo and the zoo wanted to keep him.  
  
Harry Nash, head of the Duluth Recreation Department, appealed to F.J. Davis of the Fish and Wildlife Service. He wrote that Mr. Magoo had been “very popular with adults and children and is clean, healthy and well-mannered.” Nash said that he understood that the mongeese weren’t allowed in the United States because it is a prolific animal, but he pointed out that Mr. Magoo didn’t have a mate. He added that if the Duluth Zoo could keep Mr. Magoo, he would be neutered. The Customs Officials imprisoned Mr. Magoo at the zoo where he had always lived and Floyd H. Davis, the federal fish and wildlife official, “said he had no choice,” but to issue a death sentence for Mr. Magoo. The Wildlife Service agent was instructed to go to the Duluth Zoo, pick up Mr. Magoo, kill him humanely and ship his body to the Minneapolis office.  
  
Duluth mobilized to save Mr. Magoo, its pet mongoose from the federal executioner. People circulated petitions. Duluth Mayor George D. Johnson petitioned for a court order and a stay of sentence. People wired their congressmen. Zoo manager Lloyd Hackl, padlocked Mr. Magoo’s cage to ensure his safety. Duluth Mayor Johnson sent a telegram to Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, requesting a stay of execution for Mr. Magoo. He also asked City Attorney Harry E. Weinberg to issue a restraining order to prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from killing Mr. Magoo. Weinberg said a 1960 amendment made it possible for the Department of the Interior to make an exception if a mayor requested it.  
  
Zookeeper Lloyd Hackl said that thousands of people, mostly adults, visited the Duluth Zoo since they read about Mr. Magoo in the Duluth News-Tribune or heard his story from other people. He said that some people had advised him to take Mr. Magoo and hide and others wanted him to disappear with the keys to the cage. The St. Paul Automobile Club sent a telegram to Mayor Johnson offering to pay to fly Mr. Magoo back to India if his life was spared.  
  
Interior Secretary Stewart Udall ordered his legal staff to “take a good, close look at the law to see if there isn’t some way of sparing” Mr. Magoo from the 1909 federal law that bans the importation of mongooses to the United States for any reason, including exhibition at zoos. Udall’s top assistant, Orren Beatty said that he hoped his department could stop the execution.”From what we hear, Mr. Magoo seems to be a good, progressive, New Frontier type mongoose, and after some preliminary checks with some of the experts here, we find it may not be necessary that the mongoose be executed.”  
  
Mr. Magoo’s story spread from Duluth across the country and finally the Department of the Interior announced that Mr. Magoo’s sentence would be commuted from death to temporary residence to deportation to India. Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall signed the reprieve, without a definite deportation date. An Interior Department spokesman said that mongooses multiply so rapidly that they overpopulate their territory and they eat singing birds, ducks, and other birds. The Department of Interior didn’t mind giving Mr. Magoo a temporary home as long as he remained a bachelor and maintained his popularity in Duluth, but the moment he fell out of favor he would be on his way to India.  
  
Mr. Magoo never became unpopular and finally Secretary of Interior Udall granted him permanent nonpolitical asylum in the United States. Duluth Zoo Director Lloyd Hackl ordered a new house for Mr. Magoo and said with the warmer weather his cage would be moved outside so he could enjoy the sunshine.  
  
 President John F. Kennedy said, “Let the story of the saving of Magoo stand as a classic example of government by the people.” The President and Secretary of Interior Udall visited Duluth in September 1963 and they inquired about Mr. Magoo.  
  
Mr. Magoo continued to be the most popular animal at the zoo and he lived the full life span of a mongoose which is about eight years. Zoo keepers estimated that he had been two or three years old when the sailor from India gave him to the Duluth Zoo in September 1962.  
  
Three years later, on January 8, 1968, Mr. Magoo died at the zoo of old age. He was mounted by a taxidermist and put on permanent display at the zoo.  
  
Jack Denton Scott fell in love with Mr. Magoo and his story and wrote a children’s book about him called The Duluth Mongoose, which William Marrow published in November 1965. It was one of his bestselling books and is still popular around Duluth, Minnesota.  
  
After enjoying a long professional writing career and enduring a long illness, Jack Denton Scott, died on Tuesday January 3, 1995, at his home in Corning, N.Y. He was 79 years old. His wife and collaborator Mary Louise Scott survived him for fourteen years. Mary Lou Limoncelli was born April 10, 1918, the daughter of Pasquale and Mary Cifelli Limoncelli. She graduated from St. Joseph’s Hospital School of Nursing and worked as a nurse in New York City during the years her husband Jack Denton Scott served overseas as a war correspondent for Yank Magazine.  
  
After World War II, she and Jack Denton Scott spent 40 years as world travelers and authors. Together they wrote 56 books and countless periodical articles. During their world travels, Mary Louise also hunted. She died at Horseheads, New York on Friday, April 24, 2009 at age 91.  
  
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Walter Chronkite, the Most Trusted Man in American Journalism

The conceit of the powerful is not the reporter’s concern. A good journalist has only one job — to tell the truth.”  
  
The length and breadth of [journalist Walter Cronkite’s career](http://web.archive.org/web/20110402232020/http:/www.historycentral.com/bio/people/cronkite.html)can be traced in part by the news events that he covered. He wrote about World War II ,Vietnam, Watergate, and the moon landing. At CBS, he built on the legacy of Edward R. Morrow and carried CBS to the pinnacle of prestige and popularity in television news. When he left CBS, the pinnacle eroded away.  
  
His signature nightly sign off phrase, “And that’s the way it is,” and then the date of the broadcast gained him national recognition and he became a daily fixture in homes across America.  
  
Broadcast journalist Walter Leland Cronkite, Jr. was best known as anchorman for the CBS Evening News between 1962 and 1981. A 1972 Oliver Quayle poll named him the most trusted man in America. Another national poll found him more trusted than the president, vice president, Senate and the House of Representatives and all other journalists. In the 1960s and 1970s, years of anger and division in the country, Americans implicitly believed that Walter Cronkite would not deliberately deceive them.  
  
The length and breadth of journalist Walter Cronkite’s career can be traced in part by the news events that he covered. He wrote about World War II, covering battles in Europe and North Africa. The United States Army Air Forces chose Cronkite to be one of the eight journalists in a group called the Writing 69th to fly bombing raids over Germany in a B-17 Flying Fortress. He landed in a glider with the 101st Airborne Division in Operation Market-Garden and covered the Battle of the Bulge.  
  
After World War II, Walter Cronkite covered the Nuremberg trials and worked in Moscow for two years as the main reporter for the United Press. At CBS, he built on the legacy of Edward R. Morrow and carried CBS to the pinnacle of prestige and popularity in television news. When he left CBS, the pinnacle eroded away.  
  
 On November 22, 1963, he announced on CBS television that President John Fitzgerald Kennedy had been assassinated.  In 1969, he reported that the United States had landed a man on the moon and over the years of the American space program he earned recognition for his extensive coverage from Project Mercury, the Moon landings to the Space Shuttle. He covered Watergate, the Vietnam War, and the Iran Hostage Crisis.  
  
His signature nightly sign off phrase, “And that’s the way it is,” and then the date of the broadcast gained him national recognition and he became a daily fixture in homes across America.  
  
Historian and journalist David Halberstam said of him, “Walter’s career curve and the curve of network television absolutely dovetailed. And, he held that position for so long under vastly changing circumstances…that it seemed to most people that as they got their first television set, Walter and CBS News had joined their family.”  
  
David Halberstam also noted Walter Cronkite’s ambition. He wrote that “From his earliest days he was one of the hungriest reporters around, wildly competitive, no one was going to beat Walter Cronkite on a story, and as he grew older and more successful, the marvel of it was that he never changed, the wild fires still burned.

**Walter Cronkite Followed a Linear Career Path**  
  
 Walter Leland Cronkite, Jr., was born in St. Joseph, Missouri on November 4, 1916, the son of Walter Leland Cronkite Sr., and the former Helen Lena Fritsche. His parents moved to Houston, Texas, where he was raised in a middle class home – his father, Walter Sr. and his grandfather were dentists and his mother, Helen, a homemaker.  
  
When people asked Walter Cronkite what he wanted to be when he grew up he always had the answer. At age six, he had raced down the street waving a copy ofThe Kansas City Star and shouting the news of the death of President Warren G. Harding. As a boy he peddled magazines door to door and hawked newspapers.  
  
At age 12, he read about a foreign correspondent in Boy’s Life . He decided that journalism would be his career and it was the only career goal he ever had. Walter Cronkite became the first significant news anchor on American television, an achievement that he handled with innate modesty. His unassuming manner and sincerity were two reasons why people liked and trusted him so much.  
  
  **Walter Cronkite Writes For His School Newspapers**  
  
 Breaking into journalism with his articles for the Purple Pup at Sidney Lanier Middle School, Cronkite continued his early career by writing for the newspaper and working on the yearbook at San Jacinto High School. As a teenager after his family had moved to Houston, he got a job with The Houston Post as a copy boy and cub reporter. He also had a paper route delivering The Post. He wrote in his autobiography, “As far as I know, there were no other journalists delivering the morning paper with their own compositions inside.”  
  
Graduating from San Jacinto High School in Houston in1933, Walter Cronkite entered the University of Texas at Austin, studying political science, economics, and journalism. During his college career, Cronkite worked on his college newspaper The Daily Texan and at the same time for the Houston Press as its campus correspondent. He earned part time wages as a copy boy and occasional reporter for various newspapers at their Capitol bureaus and forged lifelong ties to Austin. He also made his first radio broadcasts when he delivered mid-afternoon baseball scores for KNOW.  
  
These journalistic and broadcasting endeavors kept Cronkite from regularly attending his classes at the University of Texas, and in 1935 he withdrew from college. He later said that he regretted that decision for the rest of his life.  
  
  **Walter Cronkite Works for KCMO and Meets Mary Elizabeth Maxwell**  
  
 In 1936, Walter Cronkite moved back to Kansas City, Missouri, to take a job broadcasting news and sports for radio station KCMO. He broadcast using the name Walter Wilcox because radio stations of the time wanted to brand the names of announcers so the popular ones couldn’t be used outside of the station. He didn’t personally attend the games, but summaries of each play were telegraphed to him and he composed vivid descriptions of the game action. He provided details of what local men in the stands were wearing by calling their wives and he discovered in advance what music the band would be playing so he could describe halftime celebrations.  
  
While working at KCMO, he met an advertising writer Mary Elizabeth “Betsy Maxell”. They read a commercial together with one of Walter Cronkite’s lines saying, “You look like an angel.” They were married in 1940 and stayed together for 64 years until she died in 2005.  
  
  **Walter Cronkite Covers the Oakies and the New London Texas Gas Explosion**  
  
 In Kansas City, Cronkite witnessed firsthand some of the significant historical events that he would spend his career reporting. From 1930 to 1936, severe droughts caused devastating dust storms to sweep through the Midwest and forced farmers, called Okies, to migrate to California seeking a new life. Kansas City was the first stop for the California bound Okies and Cronkite broadcast their stories.  
  
Radio station KCMO fired Walter Cronkite in 1937, after he challenged journalism practices that he considered unethical. In 1939, he went to work with the United Press News Agency, now United Press International, reporting from Houston, Dallas, El Paso and Kansas City.  
  
In 1937, Cronkite left KCMO to work for the United Press Wire Service. He continued reporting historically significant stories when on one of his first assignments for United Press, he was the first reporter on the scene of a massive gas explosion in [New London, Texas](http://web.archive.org/web/20110402232020/http:/www.depotmuseum.com/newLondon.html)that killed more than two hundred children and teachers. Later he said, “I did nothing in my studies nor in my life to prepare me for a story of the magnitude of that [New London tragedy](http://web.archive.org/web/20110402232020/http:/www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqCRNtZ12mo), nor has any story since that awful day equaled it.”  
  
At the United Press he learned to get his facts straight, write them simply, and get them on the wire quickly, and United Press remained his spiritual and working home for most of his career.  
  
**Walter Cronkite, World War II Correspondent**  
  
 In December 1941, right after Pearl Harbor, United Press International reassigned Cronkite to the New York office, Walter Cronkite signed up to be a war correspondent and the United Press International assigned him to the battleship Texas. Aboard the Texas, Cronkite experienced his first combat actions when the Texas escorted tankers and freighters in the North Atlantic and Nazi warships sunk several freighters in their convoy.  
  
He covered the air war against Germany from England, crash landed a glider in the Netherlands, and participated in the Allied invasion for North Africa in 1942 from the deck of a ship bombarding the Moroccan coast.  
  
After the invasion, Cronkite returned to New York .Since Walter Cronkite was the first reporter to return from the front, Paramount Pictures asked him to do a newsreel reporting the North African campaign for them which gave him his first experience on camera.  
  
Then World War II coverage beckoned him once more. In 1943, Cronkite and five other correspondents flew in an Eighth Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress making the first bombing runs over Germany. Cronkite manned a machine gun until as he wrote in his autobiography, he was “up to my hips in spent .50 caliber shells.”  
  
He boarded another B-17 for the [Normandy Invasion](http://web.archive.org/web/20110203083011/http:/www.npr.org/news/specials/cronkite/), flying fairly low over Omaha Beach, but the thick cloud cover prevented much action. The B-17 returned to London still loaded with bombs. He covered the Battle of the Bulge in 1944.  
  
CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow was following Cronkite’s career and he approved of the hard working, young wire service reporter who went anywhere and did anything for a story, including riding a bomber or a glider into combat. In 1943, he asked Cronkite to join his wartime broadcast team in the Moscow Bureau of CBS. Authors Stanley Cloud and Lynne Olson wrote that Murrow couldn’t believe that Cronkite rejected his $125 week job offer and decided to stay with United Press at $92 a week.  
  
In 1950, Cronkite reported for a string of Midwestern radio stations, and then he received a call from Edward R. Murrow. The first time Murrow had asked Cronkite to work for him when they knew each other during World War II, Cronkite had decided to stay with the United Press. This time Cronkite, with a young family to support, accepted a job at CBS to broadcast television news. His television career had begun.  
  
  **Walter Cronkite Starts His Career at CBS**  
  
 Edward R. Morrow hired Walter Cronkite to develop the news department of a new CBS station in Washington and within a year he was appearing on public affairs programs like “Man of the Week,” “It’s News to Me,” and “Pick the Winner.” He also covered the important news events of the day.  
  
At the dawn of television news, Cronkite covered the biggest news events of the time while he and his colleagues pioneered television coverage from the ground up. Television with its unknown territory and unexplored potential was growing. It needed a steadiness, a tone, a voice and Cronkite provided all three. Cronkite was creative enough to make up purpose and material for television as he experienced it day by day and established the strict news standards of print journalism.  
  
Television cameras took the public into unexplored people, places, and events. President Harry Truman gave Walter Cronkite a tour of the White House in 1952, and Cronkite also covered the 1952 Democratic and Republican conventions and he set sterling standards of analysis, suspense, and storytelling. Walter Cronkite had such a natural relationship with the television camera that he could go live on the air and talk about what he was covering without using notes or a script. Without repeating himself, he would always add a little more information, filling time between events, and coordinating the coverage of reporters from all parts of the convention floor. By the time the 1956 conventions began, people knew Walter Cronkite as well as the candidates.  
  
Other significant news stories of the time that he covered included a nuclear test at Yucca Flats and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Walter Cronkite continued to cover the significant news events of the 20th century, this time on television.  
  
In 1954, CBS asked Walter Cronkite to anchor a short-lived new show called “Morning Show” to challenge the popular morning program “Today”, on NBC. He interviewed guests and discussed the news with a witty and discerning puppet lion, Charlemagne. He considered his interactions with Charlemagne to be one of the highlights of the show. He said in his autobiography, “A puppet can render opinion of people and things that a human commentator would not feel free to utter. I was and I am proud of it.”  
  
Cronkite also had a pragmatic side. Almost immediately, Cronkite displeased the sponsor of the “Morning Show,” the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The R.J. Reynolds slogan went: “Winston tastes good like a cigarette should.” Cronkite made the slogan grammatically correct by declaring, “Winston tastes good as a cigarette should.”  
  
**You Are There** **and** **The Twentieth Century**  
  
Cronkite hosted another experimental show, “[You Are There](http://web.archive.org/web/20110203083011/http:/www.nndb.com/people/313/000022247/),” from 1953-1957. Every week Walter Cronkite and team of CBS correspondents would “report” an important historical event, including the assassination of Julius Caesar, the capture of Jesse James, the Alamo, and the death of Socrates. CBS correspondents “interviewed Joan of Arc on the way to the stake and Jefferson initiating the Louisiana Purchase. He ended every show with the same closing lines: “What kind of a day was it? A day like all days, filled with those events that alter and illuminate our times. And you were there.”  
  
From 1957-1970, Walter Cronkite hosted [The 20th Century](http://web.archive.org/web/20110203083011/http:/articles.latimes.com/2010/oct/24/travel/la-tr-cronkite-20101024), a documentary program using archival footage and personal testimony to recreate historical happenings. This format laid the foundation for similar cable shows in the future.  
  
Despite these projects, Walter Cronkite remained focused on the news. He remained at the pinnacle of history, covering the Korean War, the space race between the Soviets and the United States, and the Eisenhower Administration.  
  
Cronkite enjoyed cordial relations with President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The anchorman and the president got along so well together that the next president, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, incorrectly assumed that Cronkite, a political independent, was a Republican.  
  
Walter Cronkite covered the [1960 Nixon Kennedy debates](http://web.archive.org/web/20110203083011/http:/news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/26/newsid_3104000/3104393.stm)for CBS in 1961, he replaced Edward R. Murrow as CBS senior correspondent. On April 16, 1962, he began anchoring the CBS Evening News, succeeding Douglas Edwards. He would anchor the news for almost 20 years.  
  
When the news graduated from fifteen minutes to half an hour, Walter Cronkite introduced his signature closing of the broadcast, “And that’s the way it is.” He later wrote that the idea had been to end each broadcast with an offbeat news item and then he would recite his line with humor, sadness, or irony.  
  
CBS News President Richard S. Salant hated the line from the beginning – after all it gobbled four seconds a night – and the offbeat news items never became part of the broadcast.  
  
“I began to think Dick was right, but I was too stubborn to drop it,” [Cronkite wrote.](http://web.archive.org/web/20110203083011/http:/www.museum.tv/eotvsection.php?entrycode=cronkitewal)  
  
Walter Cronkite Reports the Events of the Newsworthy 1960s On Friday, November 22, 1963, Walter Cronkite broke into the broadcast of As The World Turns, a television soap opera, to announce that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas, Texas. Cronkite covered the assassination with several other anchors, but he remained the dominant, steadying figure. He sat behind the news desk in his shirt sleeves with his horned rimmed glasses on, and continuously updated the story.  
  
He calmly provided additional details as they filtered in, and squelched information that hadn’t been verified until he received a message confirming that President Kennedy was dead. Obviously fighting to control his emotions, [Cronkite announced](http://web.archive.org/web/20110202050127/http:/www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CjWbemTNcw)that President Kennedy had died.  
  
By allowing his feelings about the [assassination](http://web.archive.org/web/20110202050127/http:/www.museum.tv/eotvsection.php?entrycode=kennedyjf)of an American President to show, by displaying humanity over professionalism, Walter Cronkite helped millions of Americans grieve one of America’s most tragic events.  
  
  **CBS Briefly Replaces Walter Cronkite**

Walter Cronkite interviewed Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower at his former Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) headquarters in Normandy, France telecast on June 6, 1964. The program was a CBS News Special Report called “D-Day Plus 20.” By the time he returned to Omaha Beach 20 years after the invasion of Normandy, he had served two terms as President of the United States, and Walter Cronkite had climbed the career ladder from war correspondent to the best known television anchor man in America.  
  
In 1964, CBS briefly interrupted Cronkite’s career with the network, when it tried to replace him. Network officials were determined to conquer the ratings gap between the CBS Evening News and NBC’s Huntley and Brinkley, so they decided to replace Cronkite as anchor of the 1964 presidential nominating conventions with the team of Robert Trout and Roger Mudd.  
  
Walter Cronkite publicly accepted the network decision, but privately he contemplated leaving CBS. Then the public spoke in over 11,000 letters protesting the change and these letters helped convince both Cronkite and the CBS executives that he should stay in his news spot. By 1966, Cronkite had overtaken the Huntley-Brinkley Report in the ratings and he took the lead in 1967. From 1967 until he retired in 1981, Cronkite and the CBS Evening News were at the top of the ratings chart.  
  
  **Walter Cronkite and Vietnam**

At the beginning of the [Vietnam War](http://web.archive.org/web/20110202050127/http:/www.pbs.org/weta/reportingamericaatwar/reporters/cronkite), Walter Cronkite tended to be more of a hawk than a dove. Then, in February 1968, yielding to the urging of his executive producer Ernest Leiser, he agreed to go to Vietnam. He and Leiser traveled to Vietnam to cover the Tet offensive.  
  
When Cronkite returned, he broadcast “Report from Vietnam: Who, What, When, Where, Why?” and closed his CBS Evening News broadcast on February 27, 1968, with Leiser’s report. He also initiated a dramatic departure from what were considered the traditions of objective journalism. He introduced what he called “an analysis that must be speculative, personal, subjective.” He said in part, “Who won and who lost in the great Tet offensive against the cities? I’m not sure. The Vietcong did not win by a knockout, but neither did we. The references of history may make it a draw.”  
  
He expressed his strong belief that the war would end in a stalemate and he advocated a negotiated peace with North Vietnam. He concluded by stating that “but it is increasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out then will be to negotiate, not as victors, but as honorable people who lived up to their pledge to defend democracy, and did the best they could.”  
  
Most evenings Cronkite ended his broadcasts with “And that’s the way it is.” He ended the February 27, 1968, broadcast by saying somberly, “This is Walter Cronkite. Good night.”  
  
As he wrote and broadcast it, Cronkite’s statement enhanced the credibility and importance of all of the television network anchors. He stepped away from the objectivity he had worked so hard to cultivate to add his personal commentary to the news, something that had not been done before. When he did this, Cronkite gave unspoken permission for his colleagues to interject personal opinions into the factual reporting of the news. Cronkite clearly labeled his report as personal opinion, but in future decades many news anchors wove their opinions into their reporting without labeling them as such.  
  
In January 2006, reminiscing about his [1968 Vietnam broadcast](http://web.archive.org/web/20110202050127/https:/facultystaff.richmond.edu/~ebolt/history398/cronkite_1968.html), Cronkite said that this was his proudest moment. When a reporter asked him if he would gave the same advice about Iraq, without hesitating, Cronkite said, “Yes.”  
  
  **The Moon Landing and other News Stories**  
  
 Walter Cronkite was one of the biggest boosters of America’s technological might and the moon landing kept Cronkite in a state of excitement in July 1969. Once again he lost his objectivity and shouted, “Go baby, Go!” he said as Apollo 11 took off.  
  
The third lunar mission of NASA’s Apollo space program was launched from Florida on July 16, 1969 and the Apollo 11 space flight landed the first humans on the moon on [July 20, 1969](http://web.archive.org/web/20110202050127/http:/www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwaA-hbvYF8).  
  
Walter Cronkite couldn’t contain himself when Americans finally sent a man to the moon on July 20, 1969. It is considered a major accomplishment in the history of space exploration and a Cold War victory for the United States in the Space Race with the Soviet Union.  
  
The mission crew was Commander Neil Alden Armstrong Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin Eugene “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr. On July 20, 1969, Armstrong and Aldrin landed in the sea of Tranquility and on July 21, 1969, they became the first humans to walk on the moon.”Whew, boy…There he is,” Cronkite chuckled as he watched Neil Armstrong.  
  
The Eagle landing craft of Aldrin and Armstrong spent 21 hours and 31 minutes on the lunar surface while Collins orbited above in the command ship, Columbia. The astronauts returned to earth with 47.5 pounds of moon rocks, landing in the Pacific Ocean on July 24, 1969.  
  
Cronkite ended up performing what his critics described as “Walter to Walter” coverage of the lunar mission. He stayed on the air for 27 of the 30 hours of the Apollo 11 mission.  
  
**Walter Cronkite Reports the Events of the Newsworthy 1960s-1980s**  
From 1962 to 1981, Walter Cronkite visited American homes nightly through his broadcasts. As an anchorman and reporter he had covered wars, natural disasters, nuclear explosions, social upheavals and space flights. He guided viewers through national triumphs and tragedies, from the Vietnam War to Watergate in a time when network news occupied the center of many people’s lives. He became as much of a national institution as the White House and as distinctive as the American flag. He broadcast the news calmly, and ended it with the daily benediction, “And that’s the way it is.” People respected, liked, trusted and listened to him.  
  
Walter Cronkite had a clear picture of himself and his role in the news. “I am a news presenter, a news broadcaster, an anchorman, a managing editor – not a commentator or analyst,” he said in an interview with The Christian Science Monitor in 1973. “I feel no compulsion to be a pundit.”  
  
**Cronkite Broadcasts His Last CBS Evening News Program**  
  
On Friday March 6, 1981, he broadcast the CBS evening news for the last time. He said, “This is my last broadcast as the anchorman of the CBS Evening News. For me it’s a moment for which I long have planned but which nevertheless comes with some sadness…This is but a transition, a passing of the baton. A great broadcaster and gentleman, Doug Edwards, preceded me in this job and another, Dan Rather, will follow. … Furthermore, I am not even going away. I’ll be back from time to time with special news reports and documentaries. … Old anchormen, you see, don’t fade away; they just keep coming back for more. And that’s the way it is, Friday, March 6, 1981. I’ll be away on assignment and Dan Rather will be sitting in here for the next few years. Good night.”  
  
Walter Cronkite always advocated the right and duty of people to know what is happening in the world. He set television news standards when television was new and flexible. He remained loyal to those standards and his large audience remained loyal to him. His legacy of separating reporting the news from editorializing and advocacy remained the standard in television news for decades. His name has come to mean news anchor worldwide. Swedish anchors are known as Kronkiters and in Holland they are called Cronkiters.  
  
Some people criticized Walter Cronkite for not taking more risks in television news coverage, and other felt that these very qualities enhanced his credibility and prestige. Some people criticized him because he liked short, breaking stories that originated from the CBS News Washington bureau instead of the longer coverage that dealt with long range and outside of Washington stories. Some people felt that Cronkite’s news time – about six minutes out of the 22 minutes of the on an evening newscast focused on him- subtracted time from in-depth news coverage.  
  
**"Didn't You Used to Be Walter Cronkite?"**  
  
In company with Chet Huntley and David Brinkley on NBC, Walter Cronkite was one of the first celebrity anchormen. In 1995, a TV Guide poll ranked him number one in seven of eight categories for evaluating television journalists 14 years after he had retired from the CBS Evening News. He said he didn’t understand why Maria Shriver beat him in the eighth category – attractiveness.  
  
Many awards came Walter Cronkite’s way, Emmy Awards, a Peabody, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1981. He continued to accumulate awards. Arizona State University named its journalism school after him.  
  
Yet, Walter Cronkite didn’t seek the limelight. He was honestly puzzled when people came to see him instead of the politicians that he covered and astonished by people repeatedly suggesting that he run for office. He saw himself as an old-fashioned newsman and still wearing his well-worn title from the 1950s, managing editor of the CBS Evening News. His audience felt the same way about him.  
  
He knew that sometime he would have to stop chasing stories, he said in autobiography, but he promised to continue to follow news developments “form a perch yet to be determined.  
  
“I just hope that wherever that is, folks will stop me, as they do today, and ask, “Didn’t you used to be Walter Cronkite?”  
  
**The Other Walter Cronkite**  
  
 Besides his purely political activities, Walter Cronkite made more than 60 documentaries and in 2005 and 2006 contributed to the Huffington Post. He also contributed his voice to be the voice of Benjamin Franklin on the PBS cartoon series, “Liberty’s Kids.” For many years he served as host of the annual Kennedy Center Honors.  
  
Walter Cronkite spent a great deal of time at his summer home in Martha’s Vineyard, sailing “The Betsy,” a sailboat that he had named for his wife. Betsy Cronkite died in 2005 after a battle with cancer.  
  
In 2005, Walter Cronkite took the opportunity to express an honest opinion about a colleague. Dan Rather was leaving the CBS Evening News and Cronkite, uncharacteristically, decided to stop speaking with measured judgment. He criticized Rather as “playing the role of newsman”, rather than being one and said that Rather should have been replaced years earlier.”  
  
When Katie Couric took over the CBS Evening News in September 2006, Walter Cronkite introduced her on the air and sang her praises in interviews. He made another contribution to the “CBS Evening News with Katie Couric.” The network used his voice to open the broadcast since its debut in 2006, a gesture that bridges generations and cements the indelible link of the CBS Evening News to its legendary past.  
  
  
**Still Capable of Covering A Story**  
  
Walter Cronkite told the New York Daily News on his 90th birthday, on November 4, 2007, “I would like to think I’m still quite capable of covering a story. “He still was capable of covering stories and forging meaningful relationships. In his last years he “kept company” as he put it with Joanna Simon, a former opera singer and sister of Carly Simon.  
  
Walter Cronkite died in New York City on July 17, 2009, at age 92. His son Walter Leland III, his daughters Nancy Elizabeth and Mary Kathleen and four grandsons survived him.  
  
Katie Couric wrote of Walter Cronkite on July 20, 2009, “No network or cable anchor will ever take his place. But to honor Walter, we can continue to uphold the standards he established when TV was the exciting new technology of the moment. We can all strive for excellence- to be the kind of player he was, even if we’re doing it on a smaller field.” Walter Cronkite’s name is synonymous with television news and journalism and integrity and perseverance. As he said on March 6, 1981, when he concluded his final broadcast as anchorman, “Old anchormen, you see, don’t fade away; they just keep coming back for more. And that’s the way it is.”  
  
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Robert Cromie Builds a Chicago Media Career on Love of People



Building on his love of people, Robert Cromie wrote for the Chicago Tribune and created two television shows and a radio show about books and authors.  
  
[Robert Cromie](http://web.archive.org/web/20110618160822/http:/www.illinoisauthors.org/authors/Robert_Cromie)covered World War II for The Chicago Tribune, reporting the action of the Pacific Theater and marching through Europe with General George Patton’s Army. Returning from World War II service, Cromie became a sportswriter before he switched to reporting and writing about books. He became famous for his Chicago Tribune columns about books and interviews with fellow writers and graduated to television and radio programs. WGN television broadcast "Cromie’s Circle" from 1969 to 1980 and WTTW television broadcast "Cromie’s Book Beat" nationwide from 1964 to 1980. As a reporter, he was enchanted with people and their life stories and he despised injustices and revealed them through vivid newspaper stories.  
  
Cromie often entered a battlefield by asking whether there were any soldiers from Chicago or Illinois, present, and he often helped carry wounded soldiers to safety. In 1944, flak overcame the B-26 bomber Cromie rode in and it crash landed in England. Without hesitating, he stepped aboard another bomber headed for another raid. Like Ernie Pyle, Cromie interviewed individual soldiers and wrote their stories for the people back home.  
  
On September 2, 1945, the press scrambled for places on the Battleship Missourifor the signing of the document ending the war. General MacArthur presided, wearing the gold-braided cap he had worn at Corregidor. General Wainwright who had surrendered and remained a Japanese prisoner was there, emaciated but happy. Robert Cromie covered the Japanese surrender.  
  
**Robert Cromie, Chicago Tribune War Correspondent and Sports Reporter**  
  
According to his son Richard Cromie, [Robert Cromie](http://web.archive.org/web/20110618160822/http:/articles.chicagotribune.com/1999-05-24/news/9905240090_1_everyday-heroes-books-war-correspondent)rarely talked about his war experiences, because he enjoyed his present adventures more than his past experiences. "He wasn’t seeking excitement, just the story and the story he often told was that of the average man, the everyday heroes."  
  
Early in his life Robert Cromie decided that he wanted to be a writer. Born February 28, 1909, in Detroit, Michigan, he grew up in Detroit and Birmingham, Michigan. He graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio where he majored in Spanish and History. In 1936, he joined the staff of the Chicago Tribune and six years later became the Tribune war correspondent. From 1942 to 1946, he worked as a Chicago Tribune war correspondent.  
  
When Cromie returned to the United Sates, he began a sports writing stint for the Tribune, covering sports ranging from boxing, basketball, curling and golf. Cromie was also an avid Chicago White Sox fan and was always on the lookout for ways to help his team. In 1978, while he was Chicago Tribune book critic, Bob Cromie discovered Robert Britt Burns, a former Major League Baseball pitcher from 1978-1985. Burns had pitched for Huffman High School in Birmingham, Alabama, from 1975 to 1977 and when he graduated he held the state record for career victories, 35 wins and two losses. Cromie’s influence helped bring Burns to Chicago to pitch for the Chicago White Sox.  
  
Cromie also loved golf and continually threatened to retire from his broadcasting and writing so he could devote more time to his game. No matter how much he threatened to give up everything for golf, he always showed up on time for his book interviews and managed to write several of his own books.  
  
**Robert Cromie Writes a Liberal Column For The Conservative Chicago Tribune**  
  
In 1969, Robert Cromie began writing a column for the Chicago Tribune that made him the first staff writer to write from a liberal perspective for a newspaper renowned for its conservative leanings. He earned the respect for his colleagues for his liberal leanings and they agreed that Robert Cromie always cheered for the underdog.  
  
His colleagues described Cromie as affable and disheveled, but dedicated, sensitive, and always focused on people and their stories. He enjoyed meeting and interviewing people more than sitting behind his desk. "Interviewing people was the best thing he did," Polly Goodwin, a children’s book editor who worked with Cromie at the Tribune said. "He was so good with people. He would talk to them and get something out of them. He wasn’t an office person." His journalistic style was vigorous but always sensitive.  
  
His colleagues described his desk as more of a depository than a work area, with stacks of books and piles of paper balanced precariously all over its flat surfaces. A photographer once climbed atop a ladder to document Robert Cromie’s desk.  
  
During nearly forty years as a reporter for the Chicago Tribune, Robert Cromie also hosted a nationally syndicated radio show about books and two television shows – "Cromie Circle" on WGN and "Book Beat" on WTTW. He earned an impressive list of writing and broadcast awards. He retired from the Chicago Tribune in 1974, but not from writing and broadcasting.  
  
**Robert Cromie’s Radio and Television Book Shows**  
  
After a rescue that Robert Cromiie himself called "a cliffhanger rescue worthy of Pearl White," the silent movie heroine of ‘The Perils of Pauline,’ his radio show, "About Books and Writers" survived a grave threat to its survival. After about six years on WBEZ National Public Radio, "About Books and Writers" was supposed to be off the air at the end of March 1986. The show with 148 subscribing stations, was number two in popularity, surpassed only by Garrison Keillor’s "The Prairie Home Companion." The problem was the ongoing problem with public radio and television-funding.  
  
The problem also seemed to be an ongoing problem for Robert Cromie who had two television shows, "Book Beat: and "The Cromie Circle," cancelled for budgetary reasons. He had resigned himself to the cancellation of "About Books and Writers."  
  
"I’ve been on the air consistently for more than 20 years. That’s a long run. It has to come to an end sometime. I’m just pleased that it’s lasted this long," he said in a newspaper interview. "Besides, I’m a little lazy and I get annoyed when I have to tape the show on nice days during the golf season."  
  
**Robert Cromie, Skilled Interviewer**  
  
Edward Morris, Robert Cromie’s producer, wasn’t going to let the 77-year-old Cromie permanently retire to the gold course without a fight. Although Cromie appeared to be resigned to the cancellation of "About Books and Writers," Morris said that Cromie’s commitment to the show was just as strong as his own, attested to by the quality of the show.  
  
Exercising his influence as chairman of the television department at Columbia College in Chicago, Edward Morris found rescue close at hand. Mike Alexandroff, president of Columbia, agreed to provide the funding needed, about $10,500 annually, on an indefinite basis. Morris said that he couldn’t allow Cromie to disappear from the radio as he had disappeared from television. He said that Cromie was the best interviewer of authors around and "it would be a terrible waste for a man with his talent not to be heard."  
  
The authors who had been guests on Cromie’s shows agreed, although Cromie himself insisted that he had no special skills for the job. "I read the book, I show up on time and talk to the author," he said.  
  
Edward Morris also originated "Book Beat" in 1964 which Robert Cromie broadcast over WTTW-TV Channel 11 from 1964 until 1980. Cromie won a Peabody Award for Excellence for "Book Beat." Famous authors that he interviewed on "Book Beat" included Anais Nin, Robert Traver, Saul Bellow, and Evan Hunter. Cromie was also host of "Cromie’s Circle" on WGN-TV Channel 9 from 1969 to 1980.  
  
As an author, Robert Cromie explored many different subjects. His book titles included The Little People, A Short History of Chicago, The Great Chicago Fire, Dillinger: A Short and Violent Life, and Chicago: A CelebrationandIllinois Trivia. He also wrote for several national magazines, including the Saturday Evening Post.  
  
Robert Cromie died at his home in Grayslake, Illinois on May 22, 1999, at age 90. His wife, Alice, three sons Richard, Michael, and James and daughter Barbara Custer survived him, as well as 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.  
  
"The thing about Bob was that he was a decent man," commented his friend and photographer Archie Lieberman, who collaborated on several books with Robert Cromie. "Part of that feeling was that he hated injustice and loved humanity – all kinds…Everybody he touched was influenced by him."  
  
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Joseph Morton, Journalist Executed at Mauthausen



Associated Press reporter Joseph Morton was executed in Mauthausen-Gusen Concentration Camp for reporting on the Czech Uprising, but the Nazis couldn’t kill his free spirit.  
  
Associated Press reporter [Joseph Morton’s](http://web.archive.org/web/20110317022846/http:/www.twwb-movie.com/TWWB-MOVIE/Document.html)final date line was January 26, 1945 – Mauthausen-Gusen Concentration Camp, twelve miles from the city of Linz, Austria. According to the [Associated Press](http://web.archive.org/web/20110317022846/http:/www.ap.org/wallofhonor/1940_1949.html), he is the only journalist that the Axis powers executed during the Second World War.  
  
**The Dawes Mission**  
  
[Joseph Morton](http://web.archive.org/web/20110317022846/http:/books.google.com/books?id=jxMLBzrbnFwC&pg=PA233&lpg=PA233&dq=associated+press+correspondent+joseph+morton&source=bl&ots=4vvSpmXJV0&sig=Uhs4YhEKCGWUlS4qed9YAvzMwBk&hl=en&ei=Y3BNTIvSFITlnAe44NTYCw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5&ved=0CCMQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q&f=false)wasn’t an official part of the Dawes Mission that the United States Office of Strategic Services (OSS) created, but he suffered all of the hardships that their agents endured and he died with some of them at Mauthausen-Gusen.  
  
From his base in Bari, Italy, Joseph Morton covered the headquarters of the 15th Air Force and the United States Office of Strategic Services for the Associated Press. He convinced the OSS to let him join an October 7, 1944, intelligence mission in Slovakia, the first OSS unit to operate in Central Europe.  
  
The OSS, forerunner of the CIA, created the Dawes Mission in response to the Slovak National Uprising, a Slovak resistance movement launched against the Nazis in August 1944. Using the city of Banska Bystrica in central Slovakia, as its base of operations, the Slovak resistance movement worked to overthrow the Slovak State of Jozef Tiso which collaborated with the Nazis. The OSS supplied the Slovak resistance movement and rescued downed Allied airmen.  
  
**The Mission Expands**  
  
Lt. J. Holt Green, a 35 year old South Carolina textile worker headed the first group which was known as the Dawes team. It included 12 OSS agents and 18 airmen. On October 7, 1944, three additional OSS teams arrived. Although the operation was secret, the OSS permitted Joseph Morton to write a story about the evacuation of some of the rescued flyers.  
  
Morton sent the Associated Press a message that he was leaving to cover the “greatest story of his life.” When he arrived in Slovakia, Morton immediately wrote a story and sent it back on the plane that had flow him there, but the [censors](http://web.archive.org/web/20110317022846/http:/www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,796653,00.html) buried the story. The outside world never heard from him directly again.  
  
**Escape to the Prasiva Mountains**  
  
The Slovak National Uprising against the Nazis raged on into the fall of 1944, but the Nazis soon crushed it. The agents of the Dawes Mission were forced to flee the rebel capital Banska Bystrica, and march into the Prasiva Mountain range where Russians, Americans, and several thousand rebel troops played a deadly game of hide and seek with the Germans. They endured severe winter conditions, but some managed to evade German patrols with help of a 23 year old Slovankian woman by the name of [Maria Gulovich](http://web.archive.org/web/20110317022846/https:/www.cia.gov/news-information/featured-story-archive/2010-featured-story-archive/maria-gulovich.html).  
  
**The Dawes Mission Meets Maria Gulovich**  
  
Since she was fluent in five languages including Russian, Hungarian, Slovak, German, and a little English, the Czech resistance assigned [Maria Gulovich](http://web.archive.org/web/20110317022846/http:/www.czechjournalist.com/mortonclip.html)to work as a translator for the resistance. During the Slovak National Uprising she worked in rebel headquarters translating documents from Slovak into Russian for Russian military intelligence.  
  
During the summer of 1944, the resistance fighters introduced Maria to American OSS agents who were there to assist the Slovak uprising and rescue downed American airmen. The Americans asked Maria to join them as their translator and guide. She agreed and helped the Americans obtain supplies and intelligence as they made their way through the Slovak countryside  
  
**The Edelweiss Anti-Partisan Unit Hunts the Dawes Agents**  
  
The elite German Edelweiss Anti-Partisan unit was sent to the mountains to track down the Dawes mission. A blizzard enveloped Maria and the Americans as they climbed Mt. Dumbler, the highest mountin in the Low Tatra Range in central Slovakia. Years later, she remembered that the wind blew so hard that it upended people and freeze dried their hair and eyebrows. They kept moving, especially after passing 83 partisans frozen stiffly to death on the mountain.  
  
By December 1944, Marie and the Americans had been holed up at the Homolka cabin above the village of [Polomka](http://web.archive.org/web/20110317022846/http:/www.polandinexile.com/exile10.htm) where one of the American officers was born and where his cousin still lived, for two weeks. They had planned to leave the lodge on Christmas Day, but stayed over a day waiting for an airdrop of supplies that were overdue.  
  
**Joseph Morton and the Dawes Agents are Captured**  
  
Maria, two Americans and two British fugitives left the lodge on December 26, 1944, seeking food and shelter and medical supplies at a resort hotel farther up the mountain. While they were gone the Edelweiss Anti-Partisan Unit, 300 strong, under Commander Ladislav Niznanzy, surrounded the hunting lodge and captured the Americans. Morton’s translator Josef Piontek, wrote in his diary that he watched the Nazis burn down the cabin and the flames swallowing a thick stack of notes belonging to Morton who he noted “fed on the news more than on food.”  
  
Between November 6 and December 26, 1944, 15 Dawes agents were captured along with two American civilians, two British officers and one private, and a Czech officer who had joined the group. Maria and her party escaped.  
  
**At Mauthausen-Gusen**  
  
In January 1945, Werner Mueller, one of Berlin's top linguists and Dr. Hans Wihelm Thost, an interpreter for the Reich Security Main Office, were ordered to [Mauthausen-Gusen](http://web.archive.org/web/20110317022846/http:/www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/ww2/ossops.html)to interrogate a group of captured English and American officers, including Joseph Morton. After the war, Dr. Thost testified that the Camp Commandant, Frank Ziereis, and his deputy interrogated and tortured the prisoners with sadistic composure and pleasure. When the Germans had gotten as much information as they could, they shot the prisoners. The Americans were executed on January 24, 1945, and cremated.  
  
Joseph Morton lived and died for his craft. His memory lives on in his legacy at the Associated Press, in his impact on the lives of Maria Gulovich and Ladislav Niznanzy and through his family and friends.  
  
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Robert St. John: The War Correspondent Who Hated War



Why a war correspondent if I’m a pacifist? Because I hate war so much and I was very eager to show war as it really is…Everything about war is horrible and what happens to human beings is the most horrible of all.”   Robert St. John  
  
Robert St. John was a crusading journalist and an investigative reporter as well as a broadcast journalist and a war correspondent. The newspaper reading public pictured foreign correspondents roaming the world from country to country, sipping coffee in sidewalk cafes, and meeting mysterious blondes in dark, smoky bars. [Robert St. John](http://www.albionmonitor.com/0306a/robertstjohn.html) fit this image, especially near the end of his long life. His white flowing hair, moustache and beard made him resemble a Twentieth Century Father Time, which in a sense he was.  
  
He covered countless major news stories, from the 1920s to the 1980s, traveled more than four million miles, and reported from more than 85 countries. Robert St. John started his crusading career early, when he was expelled from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, for writing an expose about the college president. He continued his crusading pattern when he used his Cicero Tribune to fight against mobster Al Capone and his gang’s violence and corruption. He spent the last days of his career writing books and stories about Israel.  
  
Robert St. John lived a life full of milestones. Al Capone’s men beat him, the Nazis wounded him in the Balkans, and he lost his NBC job to the Red Scare in the 1950s. He was a pacifist who fought in World War I, reported World War II, and covered five Mideast wars including the 1948, 1956, and 1967 Israeli-Arab conflicts. He became a full time author who wrote 23 books on a manual typewriter using his two finger typing technique. He kept up the pace until he died at age 100, in February 2003.  
  
**Robert St. John Grew Up in Oak Park, Illinois**  
  
Born in Chicago on March 9, 1902, [Robert William St. John](http://www.monitor.net/monitor/0306a/robertstjohn.html) grew up in Oak Park, Illinois. His father John was a chemist- a pharmacist in today’s world- who moved his family to Oak Park to escape the squalor of the big city and open a drugstore. Robert and his brother Archer quickly discovered that they lived on the wrong side of the track in the privileged community. “South of the trolley tracks” was light years away from the privileges of the north side where their family doctor, Dr. Hemingway, who had a son named Ernest, lived.  
  
Amy St. John had dreams for her sons.  She wanted Archer to become an officer in the Army or Navy, and she wanted Robert to become a minister. The St. John’s suffered a setback when Archer was in an automobile accident. He was thrown from the car and his skull was crushed on a manhole cover. Robert and Archer’s mother Amy, who had been a nurse before she married John St. John, insisted on assisting the surgeon who operated on Archer and saved his life. When John St. John died of cancer in 1917, the family suffered a severe financial setback. Amy returned to nursing, but the family lost the drugstore in Oak Park and one they had owned in Chicago.  
  
In an interview with The Washington Times in 1994, St. John recalled that he took a high school writing class with Ernest Hemingway in Oak Park, Illinois, and the teacher kept both after class. According to St. John, their English teacher told them both, “Neither one of you will ever learn to write.”  
  
Robert St. John left school to get a job and eventually at age 16, he lied to the Navy about his age so he could enlist to fight in World War I. He shipped over to France. After he returned from France, he attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and he worked as the campus correspondent for the Hartford Courant. When he wrote exposes about the college president censoring an outspoken English professor, Trinity College expelled him.  
  
**Robert St. John Challenged Al Capone**  
  
Giving up on formal education, Robert St. John went to work as a reporter for the Chicago Daily News and the Chicago American. In 1923, St. John and his brother founded the Cicero Tribune in suburban Cicero, Illinois, which made Robert St. John, at age 21, the youngest editor-publisher in the United States. He published a series of exposes about gangster Al Capone and his operation of Cicero brothels.  
  
Four of Al Capone’s men waylaid St. John on the way to his office one morning and severely beat him. He complained to the police and the next day Al Capone invited Robert St. John to meet him in person. Al Capone offered St. John money which he rejected and then Capone apologized. He told St. John, "I have always instructed them not to bother newspaper men because the papers give me good advertising for my joints when they write about me."  
  
Since St. John refused to take any of Capone’s bribes, Capone resorted to other measures. Through bribes and treachery, he acquired the ownership of the Cicero Tribune. Robert St. John could not work for Al Capone, so he walked away from the Cicero Tribune without looking back. He accepted a job on a newspaper in Rutland, Vermont, and never returned to Cicero, Illinois.  
  
**Robert St. John Reported World War II**  
  
After he worked on several other newspapers, [Robert St. John](http://www.unz.org/Pub/SaturdayRev-1953sep05-00029a02) joined the Associated Press and covered Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s first presidential campaign. Then he decided to buy a farm in New Hampshire with his wife, Eda.  St. John’s attempts to become a gentleman farmer and write a novel had not been successful and he had isolated himself from the world. When his friend, International News Service reporter Frank Gervasi, came to visit him in the summer of 1938, St. John knew little about the momentous events taking place in Europe.  
  
Frank Gervasi begged St. John not to retire until he had covered the impending war in Europe. Gervasi believed that war would soon break out in Europe, on about September 1, 1939. He urged St. John to come to Europe to work with him as a partner on a daily syndicated column on European affairs.  
  
The St. Johns made arrangements to go to Europe in august 1939, but Gervasi’s plans didn’t materialize. Robert St. John applied at the news service in New York, including The Associated Press, his former employer, but the news agencies told him that at 37, he couldn’t withstand the rigors of being a foreign correspondent.  
  
The St. Johns sailed for Europe even though Robert didn’t have a job, hoping that something would work out in Europe. During the voyage, Robert St. John read that two books that his friend Frank Gervasi gave him to read as background for covering a war in Europe. The two books were Hitler’s Mein Kampf and Machiavelli’s The Prince.  
  
The St. Johns landed in Paris, and then traveled onto Hungary. On September 1, 1939, the St. Johns went to a restaurant in Budapest, Hungary, but neither of them could read the menu. Robert went to the Budapest bureau of the Associated Press to find an American who knew enough Hungarian to order lunch. The office was in uproar and when St. John asked what had happened he discovered that the German army had invaded Poland. St. John told the editor that he was a journalist and the editor asked St. John if he could type.  When St. John answered yes he could type, the editor hired him immediately. “The Luftwaffe is bombing Warsaw!” his new boss shouted.  
  
From 1939-1941, St. John covered the war in Central Europe and the Balkans for the Associated Press. He experienced the terror and destruction of war, but there were a few light moments. Robert Kaplan described one of those moments when he wrote about Robert St. John and the Athenee Palace Hotel in Bucharest, Romania in his book Balkan Ghosts, A Journey Through History.

At this point in his career, Robert St. John headed the Associated Press Bureau in Bucharest, and he spent much time at the Athenee Palace Hotel as did many war correspondents, assorted military men, and German soldiers as well. St. John said that “there were seldom less than fifty correspondents housed in the Athenee Palace at any one time.”  
  
**Robert St. John Wrote *From the Land of Silent People***  
  
In the book he wrote a year later about his Balkan experiences, From the Land of Silent People, St. John recalled a far more somber experience in Bucharest, Romania. A Jewish newspaper editor in Bucharest told St. John that he had received a tip that there was going to be a pogrom and that the editor and his family were on the list of people to be rounded up. St. John hid the editor and his family while a Christian fascist group called “The Brotherhood of the Archangel, Michael” captured several hundred Bucharest Jews.  
  
The next morning, St. John discovered what had happened. The Brotherhood of the Archangel Michael took the Jews they had captured to a stockyard at the edge of the city. They stripped the Jews naked and led them up a ramp where cattle were slaughtered. One by one, the Brotherhood of the Archangel Michael members clubbed the Jews and slit their throats. Then their hung their bleeding corpses on meat hooks.  
  
St. John said that that he had to take some of the responsibility for what had happened that night in Bucharest because he was a Christian and the members of the Brotherhood of the Archangel, Michael were Christians. They sang Christian hymns as they killed the Jews. St. John said that he promised himself that if he lived through what was happening in Rumania, if he lived out World War II, he would live out his life “trying to atone for the sins of my group.”  
  
When Hitler’s troops invaded Yugoslavia in April 1941, St. John fled from Belgrade with other newsmen. He and the other western journalists tried to follow the retreating Yugoslav government to Sarajevo, but the military situation deteriorated. He next escaped in a small fishing boat for Corfu, just as the Italians overran it. Again barely escaping Axis forces, he traveled across Greece to Crete where the British were preparing to evacuate in the face of German pressure.  He rode a Greek troop train and was wounded in the leg by shrapnel.  
  
St. John also tells this story in his book, From the Land of Silent People. Immediately after the air attack on the Greek troop train, St. John spent the night in an overcrowded hospital, recovering from his wounds. As he laid on the floor in the darkness, he heard a child whimpering. When a nurse came by flashing a torch around the room, St. John got up on one elbow and saw where the voice came from. He described the little girl as being about five years old, a pretty child with jet black hair. “But there wasn’t anything pretty about her right arm. It hung in black, tattered shreds.”  
  
What was the girl saying, St. John asked the nurse. The nurse replied that the girl was sobbing for her mother. When he asked why someone hadn’t sent for the little girl’s mother, the nurse replied that her whole family had been killed in that day’s air raid. “I think all the misery of war was wrapped up in that child’s whimpering.”  
  
The next part of St. John’s trip involved a 400 mile trip down the Albanian coast in which he called “a 20-foot sardine boat” with an outboard motor.  
  
During the month that St. John and the other refugee reporters had made their escape, they couldn’t find telephone or wireless instruments to send their stories out to the world. After he safely reached Cairo and Alexandria, St. John and the other reporters had yet another fight on their hands. This time they had to fight the British censors who didn’t want the terrible facts of the Axis victories to be publicized.  
  
Working without notes because he had lost them on the journey, St. John filed his dispatches, made his way to Cape Town, South Africa, and then sailed home to New York. In New York, he sequestered himself in the Roosevelt Hotel. Using his two-finger typing skills and a $7.00 Yugoslavian typewriter that he had carried his entire trip, he began writing “what I saw and smelled and heard.” He called the book that he wrote, From the Land of Silent People, and when Doubleday published it in 1942, it became a best seller.  
  
**Robert St. John Broadcast the News of D Day and the End of World War II**  
  
When he had finished his book, St. John switched from worked for the Associated Press which did not allow its reporters to write books to broadcast reporting for NBC radio. In 1942, he moved to London and spent a year there reporting on the Nazi bombing and then he came back to work in Washington D.C. and New York.  
  
On D-Day, June 6, 1944, St. John broad cast the NBC report about D-Day. “Ladies and gentlemen, we may be approaching a fateful hour. All night long bulletins have been pouring in from Berlin claiming that D-Day is here. One..unconfirmed by Allied sources, of course, says that heavy fighting is taking place between the Germans and invasion forces on the Normandy Peninsula, about 31 miles southwest of Le Havre. St. John broadcast for 117 hours, until it was clear that the D-Day landings had been successful.  
  
In August1945, in the last hours of World War II, Robert St. John demonstrated his steel nerves in NBC’s New York studio. The network usually rang five bells to announce big news and ten for sensational news. In a National Public Radio interview in 2001, St. John remembered that day. He said that he was sitting in the broadcasting booth talking to the entire NBC network when he heard the bells. He stalled until he heard six rings and then he said, “Ladies and gentlemen, World War II is over. The Japanese have agreed to our surrender terms.”  
  
His gamble had earned Robert St. John a 20 second scoop over the other networks. He continued to broadcast an excellent report about the end of the most destructive war in human history.  After an hour or so, NBC executives took Robert St. John down the hall for one final task. They wanted him to recap the story for a significantly smaller audience than his radio listeners. Robert St. John announced the end of World War II on television as well as radio.  
  
Later, a colleague asked him what he would have done if the president had been assassinated or some other noteworthy news event had happened. “I would have put on my hat and coat, walked out of that broadcasting booth, out of the NBC newsroom,” he said. “I wouldn’t have even stopped to collect my pay.”  
  
**Robert St. John Focused on the Middle East**  
  
In 1948, St. John wrote a second book about Yugoslavia, called The Silent People Speak which Doubleday published. In the New York Times Book Review, C.L. Sulzberger suggested that St. John’s reliance on Communist sources made him “a subconscious follower of the ‘party line.’”  
  
His wife and his close friends said that St. John never liked communism, but he became one of 151 writers, performers, directors and others listed in the 1950 Red Channels, an American Business Consultant’s report of communist influence in radio and television.NBC fired St. John. Even after he died, St. John’s second wife, Ruth, whom he married in 1965, insisted he did not like communism.  
  
St. John spent the next 15 years based in Switzerland, and there he reinvented himself once again. The pogrom that St. John had witnessed in Bucharest, Romania, during World War II had created in him a deep and lasting interest in Israel, Jewish issues, and anti-Semitism. This time he focused on the [Middle East,](http://www.jweekly.com/article/full/19325/robert-st-john-non-jewish-zionist-mideast-journalist/) and eventually made more than 40 reporting trips to the Middle East. He covered the birth of Israel in 1948, and the Eichmann trial in 1962. He became regarded as a Middle East specialist after covering the war of Israeli independence and Israel’s later wars, including the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. At the time he was 80, by far the oldest of the hundreds of reporters on hand. He was the only one who had covered all four previous Arab-Israeli conflicts.  
  
He wrote eight books about the Middle East, including well accepted biographies of David Ben-Gurion, and Gamel Abdel Nasser. He also wrote [Tongue of the Prophets,](http://www.archive.org/stream/tongueoftheproph001031mbp/tongueoftheproph001031mbp_djvu.txt) the first extended study of Eliezer Ben Yehuda and the revival of the Hebrew language. St. John developed an interest in Eliezer Ben Yehuda during one of his stays in Israel. Mrs. Ben Yehuda gave St. John much help as did other scholars and laymen and he wrote an excellent account of Ben Yehuda’s career and a full description of the way Hebrew was transformed from a written language into one of the important modern vernaculars. He also researched around the world for the World Book Encyclopedia and roamed the world to write and broadcast major events on radio or in magazines and books.  
  
“[The Living Century”,](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0927332/) a documentary series consisting of interviews with outstanding centenarians, was one of the last projects that St. John was involved in before he died. St. John was interviewed for the documentary and provided some insight about why despite the fact he was a pacifist, he became a war correspondent. He said that he hated war so much that he felt compelled to reveal all of its ugliness and its devastating effect on people. [Robert St. John](http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/08/obituaries/08JOHN.html) was also the Dean of the Directing Faculty of the Career Division of Famous Broadcasters which produced 36 LP records containing home study lessons and a copy of his textbook, Encyclopedia of Radio and Television Broadcasting.  
  
[Robert St. John](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2003-02-08/news/0302080279_1_al-capone-foreign-correspondent-oak-park-high-school) died on February 6, 2003, at age 100, at his home in Waldorf, Maryland. The unfinished manuscript he was currently working on sat on the table beside his bed.  
  
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 **Ernie Pyle Wrote About Aviation and the Blitz**

"Of course I am very sick of the war and would like to leave it and yet I know I can't. I've been part of the misery and tragedy of it for so long that I've come to feel a responsibility to it or something. I don't know quite how to put it into words, but I feel if I left it would be like a soldier deserting."  Ernie Pyle to Geraldine Seibolds Pyle, 1944  
  
Ernest Taylor Pyle, a roving war correspondent for the Scripps Howard Newspaper chain never returned from the front lines to his front porch on the farm in Dana , Indiana.   One of the 36 American war correspondents killed in World War II, he died on April 18, 1945, the victim of a Japanese sniper’s bullet, on Ie Shima, a small island off the coast of Okinawa.  
  
In the homey style of a personal letter to a friend, Ernest Taylor Pyle wrote articles about off the beaten track and remote places across America and the people who lived there.  In 1940, he went to London in time to witness the great fire bombing at the end of December.  When America entered World War II, he became a war correspondent for Scripps-Howard newspapers. He accompanied Allied troops on the invasions of Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France, using his homey reporting style to tell the story of the beaches and foxholes of World War II. Ernie Pyle humanized the most complex, mechanized, destructive war in history and told the stories of the men and women who fought it with empathy, humor, and sensitivity.  
  
As John Steinbeck said, “regiments- and that is General Marshall’s war. Then there is the war of homesick, weary, funny, violent, common men who wash their socks in their helmets, complain about the food, whistle at Arab girls, or any girls for that matter, and lug themselves through as dirty a business as the world has ever seen and do it with humor and dignity and courage – and that is Ernie Pyle’s war. He knows it as well as anyone and writes about it better than anyone.”  
  
Over 300 newspapers carried Ernie Pyle’s columns and he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1944 for distinguished correspondence during 1943. He also received the Purple Heart for being wounded in action on the Anzio beachhead.  
  
Ernie Pyle worked as an editor and not a reporter on just a few occasions. He was the first editor of a special edition of Indiana University’s student newspaper, the Daily Student, that was produced for more than 30 years at the Indiana State Fair. Two times during World War II, he helped Naval personnel edit newspapers on board ships.  
  
Modern journalism has been hard pressed to produce an equal to Ernie Pyle, partially because of his talent and storytelling ability. His ability to tell interesting stories about ordinary people explains some of his success. Readers at home and the soldiers and sailors overseas didn’t remember all of the facts, but they did remember the stories he told. It appears that even censors were fascinated by his stories and found it difficult to black out even one line from the stories that Ernie Pyle told.  
  
Journalism itself has changed much since Pyle’s time. Modern technologies such as the Internet and its instant communications have somewhat removed the journalist as the middleman, interpreter and teller of the stories and placed the individual in the middle of the storytelling equation**.**Ernie Pyle’s stories would still survive the Internet.  
  
**Ernest Taylor Pyle, Shy and Insecure**  
  
Throughout his life, Ernie Pyle said over and over again,” I suffer agony in anticipation of meeting people for fear they won’t like me.”  Ernie Pyle’s fears about not being liked were seldom realized.  
  
Like the places he would writer about later in his career, Ernest Taylor Pyle’s birthplace was remote, located born in a corner of Indiana farm country near Dana, Indiana. His parents, William and Maria Taylor Pyle, lived in a small white farm house on a dusty country road and had spent their entire lives in farming country. They were tenants on the Sam Elder farm, located south and west of Dana. Ernest, they never called him Ernie, was born on August 3, 1900, their only child.   His parents assumed that their son would follow in their farming footsteps, but even at a young age, Ernie had other ideas. He and his dog Shep would patrol the chickens. and he and Shep lay under the canopy of the ancient maple trees in his front yard dreaming of faraway places.  
  
Ernie’s father, William “Pop” Pyle, said that Ernie liked to ride horseback but he didn’t like working with horses because horses were too slow for him. “He always said that the world was too big for him to be doing confining work here on the farm.” Ernie Pyle disliked farming and said one that “Anything was better than looking at the south end of a horse going north.”  
  
Shy and introspective, Ernie Pyle often sat by himself during games at the country school house he attended, and later in high school he went for walks by himself. In 1918, when he was almost 18, Ernie joined the United States Navy Reserve, but World War I ended shortly after that. Ernie served only three months in World War I.  
  
**Ernie Pyle, Journalist**  
  
After the War, Ernie went to At Indiana University he worked on the Indian Daily Student in the one story brick building where the paper was assembled. Early writers about Ernie said that he Ernie Pyle took up journalism because campus wisdom rated journalism as an easy major, but the in reality Indiana University didn’t offer journalism courses until the 1930s.When he was a junior, Ernie traveled to the Orient with his fraternity brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.  
  
In 1923, Ernie quit Indiana University a few months before he would have graduated to take a job as a cub reporter on the La Porte Indiana Herald-Argus. Some earlier versions of the story say that he left the Indiana University because of a broken heart. A girl that he had been dating gave him back his pin so she could date a doctor ten years older than she, whom she would eventually marry. Other friends said that after traveling to the Far East during his junior year, Ernie felt too confined by the university. Another story goes that when the chairman of his department heard that a newspaper in LaPorte, Indiana, needed a reporter and he recommended Ernie. The newspaper had an outstanding staff for its day. Five of its reporters had college degrees or like Ernie, had almost finished.  
  
Within a year, Ernie went to Washington D.C. to join the staff of the Washington Daily News, a new tabloid that Roy W. Howard, head of Scripps-Howard had founded. He had also grown his journalistic roots in Indiana.  
  
All the of the editors on the News were young, including Editor-in-Chief John M. Gleissner, a friend of Warren G. Harding, Lee G. Miller who would later write the Ernie Pyle Album-Indiana to Ie Shima.  The staff of the Washington Daily News tended toward the young and Hoosier. Nelson Poynter, an Indiana University graduate later made a new for himself at the St. Petersburg, Florida Times, and Lee Miller, Ernie’s immediate boss for most of his career also came from Indiana and graduated from Harvard at age 19.  
  
Ernie was named managing editor of the Washington Daily News and served in the position from 1923-1926. During the entire time, he fretted that he couldn’t get any writing done.  
  
He later recalled that the story that Kirke Simpson, an Associated Press Reporter, wrote about the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery heavily influenced him the most at this point in his life. “I cried over that and I can quote the lead or almost any part of the piece,” he told friends  
  
**Ernie Pyle’s Writing Style**  
  
Ernie loved working at the Washington Daily News. He wrote to a friend that he had covered a press conference that President Calvin Coolidge gave, and noted that a Washington Post photograph showed him at the edge of the president’s desk.  
  
He worked for three years as managing editor of the Washington Daily News. Copies of the memos he wrote to the staff reveal someone requiring tough, persistent, reporting and good writing.  He also recognized that the placement of a story played an important part in its readership.  
  
As Ernie matured, so did his writing and in some ways he was a writer struggling to escape a journalist’s skin. He was learning how to tell stories. He could meet journalistic deadlines, but he preferred the time to craft his work. He saw his stories. As a reporter, he rarely took notes except to record information like names and dates. He stored stories, often more than a dozen, in his mind until he had a chance to write them.  
  
He struggled to get the words from his head and fingers to the typewriter and paper. He wrote and edited and rewrote and reedited, sometimes multiple times, trying to get the exact rhythm and the exact words. Sometimes, he admitted, his columns weren’t very good, but he was learning his craft. For much of his journalistic life he turned out six columns a week, 700 words in each column.  
  
Ernie Pyle didn’t have to pad or embellish his stories, because he had the ability to hear and see them. He had very few complaints about the accuracy of his stories and when someone complained Pyle immediately acted. He reached back in his mind and looked at the “recordings” in his brain and recalled practically word for word, picture for picture, what had happened. Paradoxically, Ernie constantly monitored the quality of his writing and suffered deep bouts of depression about it because it never measured up to his expectations.  
  
**Ernie Pyle Married Jerry Siebolds**  
  
While Ernie worked in Washington, he met Geraldine “Jerry” Siebolds, a government worker from Minnesota. Their courtship and early married years are shrouded by time and privacy, but correspondence indicates that Ernie Pyle quickly realized that Jerry had severe problems. In fact, Jerry endured bouts of what modern doctors would call maniac depression and alcoholism and they began a tumultuous relationship. Ernie described her as “desperate within herself since the day she was born.” Apparently Jerry loved to manipulate words like Pyle did and she inspired him. Friends say that she wrote some of the columns that were credited to him.  
  
They were quietly married in 1925 and they didn’t have a honeymoon. They went back to work after the ceremony. Until his death, Pyle struggled with his wife's illness. He started traveling across the country in 1935 with her by his side, writing columns and perhaps hoping that they might find a solution to the demons that were destroying her from both within and without.  
  
Often the Pyle drove without speaking to each other and they usually booked separate rooms in hotels. By the late 1930s, both Pyles well acutely aware that their marriage was on the verge of collapse, but neither knew how to solve their problems. When Ernie went to London to cover the London Blitz, he installed Jerry in a new house in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but their marriage continued to be troubled.  
  
Time Magazine noted on April 27, 1942, that Scripps-Howard Columnist Ernie Pyle had divorced Geraldine Siebolds Pyle. He referred to her in many of his columns as “that girl,” and after sixteen years of marriage they were divorced in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Pyles were actually divorced on April 14, 1942, and Ernie Pyle said that he hoped the divorce would shock Jerry into treatment and recovery. Before he went to Africa, he left a proxy with a good friend that Jerry could use to remarry him if she felt she was on the road to recovery. On March 10, 1943, while still in Africa, he received the news that he and Jerry had been remarried.  
  
**A Road Trip and Aviation Writing**  
  
About a year after he and Jerry were married, Ernie and Jerry took $1,000 in savings, quit their jobs, bought a Ford Roadster and camping equipment and embarked on a tour of the United States, traveling more than 9,000 miles. Ten weeks later, they pulled into New York City, broke, hungry, and with a broken down Ford Roadster.  
  
Almost immediately Ernie found a job working nights at the Evening World and eventually moved to the day shift at the New York Post. By 1928 Ernie and Jerry had moved back to Washington, D.C. and he created a position of aviation writer for himself at the Daily News.  
  
From 1928-1932, Ernie Pyle wrote about aviation for the Scripps-Howard papers. While he wrote about aviation, he sharpened his story telling ability and profiled the aviation profession, highlighting its 1920s heroes and heroines. He knew everybody or as Amelia Earhart said, “any aviator who didn’t know Ernie Pyle was a nobody. “  
  
In 1932, he became managing editor of the Daily News. In 1934, Ernie returned from a trip to California where he had recuperated from a severe bout of flu. When he returned, his publisher suggested that he write some columns about his trip to fill in for Heywood Broun, the vacationing syndicated columnist. He wrote a series of eleven columns that were such a hit that G.B. Parker, editor in chief of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, said that he found Ernie’s vacation articles had “a Mark Twain quality that knocked my eye out.”  
  
The first Ernie Pyle column appeared on August 8, 1935, and he and Jerry traveled around North and South America while he wrote human interest features. From 1935 to 1942, Ernie and often Jerry Pyle roamed the western hemisphere and he wrote a column about his wanderings and developed into a consummate craftsman of short prose.  One of his biographers, James Tobin, noted that “in the process he created “Ernie Pyle” and he studied unknown people doing extraordinary things and wrote about them.”  
  
He traveled to Canada and wrote about the Dionne quintuplets. He visited Flemington, New Jersey and reported about the Hauptmann trial there. He and Jerry toured drought seared Montana and the Dakotas and recorded what they saw. In 1937, he wrote about people and their work and hopes and desires in Alaska. He went 1,000 miles down the Yukon and sailed Arctic seas with the Coast Guard. He wrote captivating pieces about the five days he spent with lepers at Molokai and recorded his feelings. “I felt unrighteous at being whole and clean,” he told his readers. He wrote about Devil’s Island, toured South America by plane. He crossed the United States 35 times.  He covered 150,000 miles of the Western Hemisphere, wearing out three cars, and three typewriters.  
  
Ernie Pyle wrote these experiences like a letter home to people whose life circumstances allowed them to experience such journeys only through his eyes. Ernie Pyle’s column earned a national audience when The United Features syndicate sold it to papers outside of the Scripps Howard chain in 1938, but Ernie didn’t reach his largest audience until World War II when more than 200 newspapers across the country carried his column. Later, Ernie compiled some of his columns and published them under the title of Home Country.  
  
**The London Blitz, 1940 -“They Came Just After Dark”**  
  
A trip to London at the end of 1940 to report on the Nazi bombing there catapulted Ernie Pyle to international fame. In one of his first columns, he wrote a brilliant word-picture of the biggest attack of the war. He opened his column about the Blitz in London by writing," It was a night when London was ringed and stabbed with fire…” He went on to describe the terrible beauty of myriads of fires from the bombing lighting up the London sky. He wrote that it was “the most hateful, most beautiful single scene I have ever known.” His coverage of the Nazi bombing of London in 1940 was so graphic that his dispatches were cabled back for British readers.  
  
With his elegant and eloquent columns about the Blitz, Ernie Pyle showed Scripps-Howard that he commanded words as surely as an RAF pilot zooming in on a Heinkel bomber. Americans for the first time read word pictures about the impact of war in Europe. In 1941, a book of his columns about the Blitz in England, titled Ernie Pyle in England, was published.  
  
Ironically, Ernie Pyle nearly missed the big London attack. For several weeks he had been marooned in Lisbon, Portugal, trying to get a flight to London. If he had been delayed for a few more weeks, he would have missed the final large scale German air attack on London.  
  
**World War II Correspondent**  
  
After the United States entered World War II, Ernie Pyle became a war correspondent for Scripps Howard. In 1942, he went to the front in Northern Africa and followed the infantry to Sicily, Italy, and France. In one of his first columns from Africa, Ernie Pyle told the story of the time that he found shelter in a ditch with a frightened Yank when a Stuka dived and strafed. When the Stuka had gone, he tapped the soldier’s shoulder and said, “Whew, that was close, eh?” The soldier didn’t answer. He was dead.  
  
His reporting from North Africa in late 1942 and early 1943, his working methods, and his memory secured Ernie Pyle’s reputation as a war reporter. Ernie did not file daily stories on the fighting and the strategic situation. He looked for stories, filed them in his mind, and when he left the front lines, he wrote the stories. His readers usually read a story several weeks after Pyle had written it.  
  
Writing from Tunisia, in April 1943, Ernie Pyle told how the Americans laid out their dead in cemeteries with hundreds of graves, marked with crosses and the Star of David. He said that in contrast, the Germans buried their dead in smaller roadside plots outlined with white stones.  
  
"In one German cemetery of about a hundred graves, we found 11 Americans... Their graves are identical with those of the Germans except that beneath the names on the wooden crosses is printed 'Amerikaner,' and below that the Army serial number. We presume their dog tags were buried with them. On one of the graves ... is also printed: 'T-40.' The Germans apparently thought that was part of his number. Actually it only showed that the man had his first anti-tetanus shot in 1940."  
  
**Ernie Pyle Has Connections in High and Low Places**  
  
Although Ernie and his Scripps-Howard bosses often contacted each other by cable, he operated autonomously most of the time, without editors supervising him. He roamed around following stories and telling them. Not all of his stories were about men in foxholes. General Omar Bradley and General Dwight Eisenhower were his friends and he even had friends in the White House.  
  
When Ernie needed air plane passage home from England as he did in 1941, he asked his bosses to contact the president of Pan American Airlines for a seat on one of their new Clippers. Or he asked his friend from Indiana, Lowell Mellett, adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to intervene at the White House. President Roosevelt’s wife, Eleanor, complimented Ernie in her column “My Day,” and Ernie wrote her several letters thanking her for her support. Ernie thanked the people who praised his work, another secret to his success.  
  
He interrupted his reporting several times to return home on leave to care for Jerry while they were still married and to recuperate from combat. His reputation and popularity continued to grow, mostly because he wrote about soldiers, not the battles they fought, in his columns. He named names, which endeared him to soldiers and their families. Ernie Pyle had a talent for telling the story of “G.I. Joe,” sons, brothers, husbands. He became the friend of fighting men from the lowliest private to the four star general.  
  
**World War II Correspondent-Europe**  
  
One of Ernie Pyle’s most widely read and reprinted columns, "The Death of Captain Waskow," appeared when the Allied forces were bogged down at the Anzio beachhead in Italy in January 1944. Ernie wrote about the death of Captain Henry Waskow of Belton, Texas, an exceptionally popular leader in January 10, 1944.  His men brought his body down from a mountainside by mule and placed it next to four others, but the soldiers didn’t want to leave Captain Waskow.  
  
"The men in the road seemed reluctant to leave ... one soldier came and looked down, and he said out loud, 'God damn it.' That's all he said and then he walked away ...  
  
"Then a soldier came and stood beside the officer and bent over, and he too spoke to his dead captain, not in a whisper but awfully tenderly, and he said: 'I sure am sorry, sir.'  
  
"Then the first man squatted down, and he reached down and took the dead hand in his own, he sat there for a full five minutes ... looking intently into the dead face, and he never uttered a sound all the time he sat there.  
  
“And finally he put the hand down, and then reached up and gently straightened the points of the captain’s shirt collar and then he sort of rearranged the tattered edges of the uniform around the wound and then he got up and walked away down the road in the moonlight, all alone.”  
  
Ernie Pyle wrote a column in 1944 advocating “fight pay” for all of the soldiers in combat to match the “flight pay” that airmen were paid. Congress passed a law awarding $10 a month extra pay for combat infantrymen which they named “The Ernie Pyle Bill.”  
  
In 1944, Ernie Pyle won the Pulitzer prize for distinguished correspondence, one of a number of prizes he won during the war. He wasn’t at the New York ceremonies for the presentation of the award which took place on D Day.  
  
Instead, he went ashore in Normandy on D Day plus one. He wrote about preparations to invade at Normandy, “The best way I can describe this vast armada and the frantic urgency of the traffic is to suggest that you visualize New York city on its busiest day of the year and then just enlarge that scene until it takes in all the ocean the human eye can reach clear around the horizon and over the horizon. There are dozens of times that many.”  
  
Although he didn’t really want to land on the Normandy Beach one day after D Day, Ernie went because General Bradley asked him to go. In June 1944, Ernie Pyle landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day plus one and walked down the coast littered with the flotsam and jetsam of war. The columns that he wrote about Normandy were multi-layered.  He described jumbled rolls of soldier’s packs, socks, sewing kits, diaries, hand grenades and letters from home with the addresses on each neatly razored out for security reasons. Ernie said, “I picked up a pocket Bible with a soldier’s name in it, and put it my jacket. I carried it half a mile or so and then put it back down on the beach. I don’t know why I picked it up, or why I put it back down.”  
  
The Allied drive across France to Paris severely taxed Ernie Pyle’s stamina and his inner resources. The constant encounters with dead people unnerved him, just as it did many soldiers during the war. Ernie nearly died from an accidental bombing by the Army Air Forces at the beginning of Operation Cobra near Saint Lo in Normandy.  
  
When he rode into Paris on August 25, 1944, Ernie Pyle had been overseas 29 months, spent nearly a year on the front lines, and had written more than 700,000 words of newspaper copy. By September 1944, he had gone gray at the temples, his face had seamed, and his reddish hair thinned. He confided to his millsions of readers, "I don't think I could go on and keep sane."   In a September 5, 1944, column Pyle said that he had "lost track of the point of the war," and he hoped that a rest in his Albuquerque, New Mexico, home would restore him enough to go "war horsing around the Pacific." His devoted GI's understood. They wrote him sincere farewells and wished him luck.  
  
**Time at Home, 1944**  
  
Ernie and Jerry Pyle both loved Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ernie noted in Yank Magazine that “Lots of people don’t like the country around Albuquerque, but it suits me fine. As soon as I finish this damned assignment, I’m going back there and settle down for a long time.”  
  
In late 1944, Ernie Pyle returned home to Albuquerque and the adulation that he received frightened and overwhelmed him. His books, Here Is Your War and Brave Men, compiled from his columns, were on the best seller lists. He received honorary degrees from Indiana University and the University of New Mexico. Over the past two years he had earned more than half million dollars and his name was a household word. Whenever he showed himself in public, he attracted attention.  
  
For a time Ernie Pyle loafed at the white clapboard cottage that he and Jerry shared in Albuquerque. He would sit there with “That Girl” and stare for hours across the lonely mesa, but the front haunted him.  He wanted to spent time alone with Jerry to rebuild their relationship, but tourists, a movie, and just being famous constantly interrupted him. So many tourists stopped by his home that he had to rent a hotel room in town to do his writing. Jerry tried to commit suicide during this visit home. Despite the pull of “That Girl” and home, Ernie Pyle headed to the Pacific Theater of World War II.  
  
**Ernie Pyle in the Pacific**  
  
After less than six months at home, Ernie Pyle headed to the Pacific Theater of war early in 1945.  Friends speculated about why Pyle went to the Pacific. When Roy W. Howard suggested Ernie go to the Pacific in the fall of 1943, he opposed the idea. Perhaps Ernie didn’t want to return to the bloody fighting in Europe that he had witnessed in 1944. He did tell friends that he didn’t want to go to the Pacific, but publicly he said that he owed it to the men and women serving there to tell their stories. He knew that he would be deemed unpatriotic if he stopped writing about the war.  
  
After he decided to cover events in the Pacific, Ernie argued with the United States Navy about its rule that he couldn’t use the real names of sailors in his columns. The Navy bent the rule just for him which caused some jealous among the other war correspondents. He took his first cruise aboard the aircraft carrier USS Cabot and he categorized his life on board as easy compared to his infantry experience in Europe.  
  
He wrote unflattering portraits of the Navy and soon he weathered a storm of criticism for apparently short changing the perils of war in the Pacific. During the controversy he admitted that his heart still marched with the infantrymen in Europe, but he set his jaw and resolved to report the Navy efforts in the invasion of Okinawa. Aboard ship, Ernie seemed distant and impersonal, but his attitude changed when he went ashore.  
  
Erie Pyle had plans for after the War. He thought he would take to the road again with “That Girl” and write in a world returned to peace and quiet. In his last letter to George A. Carlin, head of the United Feature Syndicate which he worked for he wrote: “I was completely amazed to find that I’m as well known out here as I was in the European Theatre. The men are depending on me, so I’ll have to try and stick it out for a long time. I expect to be out a year on this trip, if I don’t bog down inside again, and if I don’t get sick or hurt. If I could be fortunate enough to hang on until the spring of 1946, I think I’ll come home for the last time. I don’t believe I have the strength ever to leave home and go back to war again.”  
  
Ernie Pyle landed with Marines on Okinawa on April 1, 1945. He explained why he focused on the ordinary GI’s instead of officers and war strategy in his columns:  
  
"I haven't written about the Big Picture because I don't know anything about it ... our segment of the picture consists only of tired and dirty soldiers who are alive and don't want to die; of long darkened convoys in the middle of the night; of shocked silent men wandering back down the hill from battle; of chow lines and atabrine tablets and foxholes and burning tanks and Arabs holding up eggs and the rustle of high-flown shells; of jeeps and petrol dumps and smelly bedding rolls and C rations and cactus patches and blown bridges and dead mules and hospital tents ... and of laughter too, and anger and wine and lovely flowers and constant cussing. All these it is composed of; and of graves and graves and graves."  
  
On April 18, 1945, Ernie Pyle found himself landing on the tiny island of Ie Shima, off the coast of Okinawa with the Army’s 77th Division. He was headed for the front lines. Contrary to some reports, Ernie Pyle did not predict his own death. His letters reveal that like most of the troops he dreaded invasions and landings. Once he reached the shore, he went about his normal business. He was nervous about the landings on Okinawa, but he landed on a part of the beach with practically no Japanese resistance.  
  
A story about Ernie Pyle on Ie Shima in the Stars and Stripes records that a wounded soldier with a bloody bandage on his arm came up the slope and asked Pyle for his autograph. “Don’t usually collect these things, but I wanted yours. Thanks a lot,” he said sheepishly.

**Ernie Pyle Is Killed on Ie Shima**  
  
Many of the correspondents had left, but Pyle was writing a story about a tank destroyer team so wearing green fatigues and a cap with a marine emblem on April 18, 1945, Ernie Pyle traveled in a jeep with Lieutenant Colonel Joseph B. Coolidge, of Helena, Montana, commanding officer of the 305th Infantry Regiment, 77th Infantry Division and three other men. The Army had cleared the road running parallel to the beach and two or three hundred yards inland, free of mines and hundreds of truck, tanks and jeeps had driven over it.  
  
As the jeep reached a crossroads, laying in open country with no cover, an enemy machine gun stationed on a coral ridge about a third of a mile away opened fire on them. The men stopped the jeep and jumped into a ditch. Ernie Pyle and Lt. Colonel Coolidge raised their heads to look for the other men. They spotted the other and Ernie smiled and asked Lt. Colonel Coolidge, “Are you all right?”  
  
Suddenly, the machine gun opened fire again and Ernie Pyle died instantly from a bullet that penetrated the left side of his helmet and entered the left temple.  The Ernie Pyle State Historical site in Dana, Indiana, has a Government telegram to Ernie’s father stating that he had been killed by a sniper, but whether by machine gun fire or sniper, Ernie Pyle died instantly.  
  
Colonel Coolidge told the story of Ernie Pyle’s death as reported in the New York Times. “We were moving down the road in our jeep. Ernie was going with me to my new command post. At 10 o’clock we were fired on by a Jap machine gun on a ridge above us. We all jumped out of the jeep and dived into a roadside ditch. A little later Pyle and I raised up to look around. Another burst hit the road over our heads and I feel back into the ditch. I looked at Ernie and saw he had been hit. He was killed almost instantly, the bullet entering his left temple just under his helmet.”  
  
Colonel Coolidge was visibly shaken as he told the facts of Ernie Pyle’s death.  “I crawled back to report the tragedy, leaving a man to watch the body. Ernie’s body will be brought back to Army grave registration officers. He will be buried here on Ie Shima unless we are notified otherwise.”  
  
According to a story by Evans Wylie, in Yank Magazine, several groups immediately tried to recover Ernie Pyle’s body with tank support, but they were driven back each time. Late in the afternoon, Chaplain N.B. Saucier of Coffeeville, Mississippi, received permission to try to recover Ernie Pyle’s body. Litter bearers T-S Paul Shapiro of Passaic, New Jersey, Sgt. Minter Moore of Elkins, West Virginia; Cpl. Robert Toaz of Huntington, New York and Sgt. Arthur Austin of Tekamah, Nebraska volunteered to go with him. The men reached the crossroads and crawled up the ditch, dragging the litter behind them.  
  
Army Signal Corps photographer Cpl. Alexander Roberts of New York City went ahead of them and was the first man to reach Ernie Pyle’s body.  
  
Ernie Pyle lay on his back, much like he peacefully sleeping, his face unmarked. His hands were fooled across his chest and he clutched his battered cap rumored to be the same one that he had carried through all of his other campaigns. The litter bearers placed his body on the stretcher and slowly inched back along the ditch, still under sniper fire. He was three and a half weeks short of his 45th birthday.  
  
**Ernie Pyle’s Last Column**  
  
His pocket Ernie Pyle carried notes for a last column about where he had been, and the imminent victory over Germany:  
  
"And so it is over. The catastrophe on one side of the world has run its course. The day that it had so long seemed would never come has come at last. ...  
"In the joyousness of high spirits it is easy for us to forget the dead. Those who are gone would not wish themselves to be millstones of gloom around our necks. But there are many of the living who have had burned into their brains forever the unnatural sight of cold dead men scattered across the hillsides and in the ditches along the high rows of hedge throughout the world. Dead men by mass production — in one country after another — month after month and year after year...  
"To you at home they are columns of figures, or he is a near one who went away and just didn't come back. You didn't see him lying so grotesque and pasty beside the gravel road in France ... we saw him, by the multiple thousands. That's the difference ..."  
  
Before the soldiers buried Ernie Pyle, they read the remainder of the column they found in his pocket. "Dead men by mass production, in one country after another, month after month and year after year," he had written. "Dead men in winter and dead men in summer; dead men in such familiar promiscuity that they become monotonous."  
  
Ernie Pyle couldn’t know that he captured not only the lives and deaths of G.I.’s in World War II, but soldiers in every war that human beings have fought before and since then.  
  
**Ernie Pyle is Buried**  
  
World War II would grind on for another four months, but it had ended for Ernie Pyle, one of its most famous war correspondents. He was buried with his helmet on in a long row of graves, with an infantry private on one side and a combat engineer on the other. The Navy, Marine Corps, and Army all sent representatives to the ten minute service. In 1949, Pyle was reburied at the Army Cemetery on Okinawa and then moved to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on the island of Oahu, Hawaii.  
  
The military built a monument on Ie Shima on the spot where Ernie Pyle was killed. The monument resembled a truncated triangle shape of the Statue of Liberty with the Division’s insignia on the upper part with text engraved below. The inscription says: “At this spot the 77th Infantry Division lost a buddy, Ernie Pyle, 18 April 1945.”  
  
When the United States returned Okinawa to Japanese control after the war’s end, the Ernie Pyle monument was one of just three American memorials allowed to stay in place. Ernie Pyle was one of the few American civilians killed during World War II to be awarded the Purple Heart.  
  
The Stars and Stripes newspaper carried the story of his death on Thursday April 19, 1945. In a front article it said:  Ernie Pyle is Killed In Action on Pacific Isle.  “Ernie Pyle is dead. The beloved little guy who lived with America’s fighting men and reported the war through their eyes died as he might have wished – at the front.”  
  
**His Family Mourns Ernie Pyle**  
  
Mrs. Geraldine Pyle, “That Girl”, in the Ernie Pyle stories, was grief-stricken at the news of her husband’s death. She had been notified of his death before it was announced in Washington, but she had received no details.  
  
In Dana, Indiana, William C. Pyle, the father of Ernie Pyle, and Mrs. Mary Bales, his Aunt Mary, were stunned by the news of his death. Mrs. Ella Goforth, a neighbor, told newspaper reporters that Ernie Pyle’s father and aunt had received the news of his death from another neighbor who had heard about it on the radio. “They’re not taking the news very well,” Mrs. Goforth said.  
  
**A Nation Mourns Ernie Pyle**  
  
Ernie Pyle’s death came just six days after President Franklin D. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945.  When people from President Harry S. Truman to millions of ordinary people heard that he had been killed, they cried. President Truman issued a statement saying, “More than any other man, he became the spokesman of the ordinary American in arms doing so many extraordinary things. It was his genius that the mass and power of our military and naval forces never obscured the men who made them. He wrote about a people in arms as people still, but a people moving in a determination which did not need pretensions as a part of power. Nobody knows how many individuals in our forces and at home he helped with his writings. But all Americans understand how wisely, how warm heartedly, how honestly he served his country and his profession. He deserves the gratitude of all his countrymen.”  
  
Like many of his columns about ordinary soldiers, Ernie Pyle’s death made the front pages of newspapers across the county and an entire nation still at war and mourning a beloved president mourned him as well.  
  
General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff said, “Ernie Pyle belonged to the millions of soldiers he had made his friends. His dispatches reached down into the ranks to draw out the stories of individual soldiers. He did not glorify war, but he did glorify the nobility, the simplicity and heroism of the American fighting man. The Army deeply mourns his death.”  
  
General Dwight D. Eisenhower paid tribute to Ernie Pyle by saying, “The GI’s in Europe – and that means all of us here – have lost one of our best and most understanding friends, Blue Network correspondent Herbert Clark reported in a broadcast from Paris.  
  
General Mark W. Clark paid tribute to Ernie Pyle by saying, “A great soldier correspondent is dead, perhaps the greatest of this war. I refer to Ernie Pyle, who marched with my troops through Italy, took their part and championed their cause both here and at home. His reporting was always constructive. He was ‘Ernie’ to privates and generals alike. He spoke the GI’s language and made it a part of the everlasting lore of our country. He was a humble man and in his humility lay his greatness.  
He will be missed by all of us fighting with the Fifteenth Army group. There could have been only one Ernie Pyle. May God bless his memory. He helped our soldiers to victory.”  
  
Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico were stunned by the news that Ernie Pyle had been killed.  The Seventeenth Legislature of New Mexico, by resolution, declared August 3, Ernie Pyle’s birthday, as “Ernie Pyle Day.”  
  
Mayor of Albuquerque Clyde Tingley said, “Ernie Pyle was Albuquerque’s adopted son and all of us sorely grieve his passing.”  
  
Soldier-cartoonist Bill Mauldin, who had become almost as famous for his GI cartoons as Ernie Pyle had become for his newspaper columns, said, “Ernie is mourned by the Army.”  
Bill Mauldin correctly identified the reaction of the troops. Even in the midst of heavy fighting, the troops mourned the death of Ernie Pyle.  
  
Army photographer Alexander Roberts wrote to Lee Miller, Ernie Pyle’s friend and his first biographer. “If I had not been there to see it, I would have taken with a grain of salt any report that the GI was taking Ernie Pyle’s death ‘hard,’ but that is the only word that best describes the universal reaction out here.”  
  
Newspapers across American editorialized about Ernie Pyle, who gave their readers a front line glimpse of World War II. John Hohenberg, in his book on foreign correspondents, described that contribution best when he said:  
“No reader of Ernie Pyle's World War II pieces for Scripps-Howard newspapers could fail to be moved by his personal involvement with G.I. Joe, a powerful factor in creating a toughened national morale.”  
  
**The Ernie Pyle, B-29 Superfortress**  
  
The employees of Boeing-Wichita using funds earned through the 7th War Loan Drive, paid for and built a Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Serial Number 44-70118. On May 1, 1945, they dedicated The Ernie Pyle. Lieutenant Howard F. Lippincott, USAF, and his crew ferried the Ernie Pyle to the Pacific War Theater.  
  
Initially, The Ernie Pyle was assigned to the Second Air Force, Kearney AAFKS and sent to the Twentieth Air Force, Pacific Theater of Operations on May 27, 1945. When the Superfortress reached its operations based in the Pacific, the nose art was removed because the base commander thought it would become a prime Japanese target for propaganda reasons.  
  
The Ernie Pyle survived the war and returned to the United States on October 22, 1945. It was stored at Pyote AAFTX and disposed as surplus on March 25, 1953.  
  
**The Story of G.I. Joe, the 1945 War Film**  
  
The Story of G.I. Joe, a 1945 American War film, is credited in prints as Ernie Pyle’s Story of G.I. Joe. The story of the film is told through the eyes of Ernie Pyle, Pulitzer Prize winning war correspondent, and Ernie Pyle cooperated in making the film which William Wellman directed. The Story of G.I. Joe was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Robert Mitchum’s only nomination for Best Supporting Actor.  
  
Burgess Meredith played Ernie Pyle, Robert Mitchum starred as Lt. Capt. Bill Walker, Freddie Steele played Sgt. Steve Warnicki, and Wally Cassell played Pvt. Dondaro. Jimmy Lloyd portrayed Pvt. Spencer, John R. Reilly played Pvt. Robert ‘Wingless’ Murphy, and William Murphy played Pvt. Charles R. Mew. Dorothy Coonan Wellman played Nurse Lt. Elizabeth “Red” Murphy. Sicily and Italy combat Veterans of the campaigns in Africa played themselves.  
  
The film’s story is a tribute to the American World War II infantryman, G.I. Joe, told from Ernie Pyle’s perspectives and with dialogue and narration from his columns. The film concentrates on C Company 18th Infantry, that Ernie Pyle follows into combat in Tunisia and Italy.  
  
The Story of G.I. Joe premiered two months to the day after Ernie Pyle was killed in action on Ie Shima. In his February 14, 1945, column that he titled “In the Movies,” Ernie Pyle commented, “They are still calling it The Story of G.I. Joe. I never did like the title, but nobody could think of a better one, and I was too lazy to try.”  
  
**The Ernie Pyle Library in Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
  
Pyle and his wife, Jerry, had this house built in 1940 after years of roving the country as a columnist for Scripps-Howard newspapers. Pyle was born in Indiana and Jerry was from Minnesota, but they chose Albuquerque for a home after visiting many times and developing, in Pyle's words, "a deep, unreasoning affection" for New Mexico.  
  
Jerry Pyle died a few months after Ernie Pyle was killed by a Japanese sniper’s bullet on Ie Shima in May 1945. In 1948, the City of Albuquerque acquired the house from the Pyle estate and converted it into the first branch library of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System, naming it the Ernie Pyle Library.  
  
Although the library is an active branch, the appearance of the Pyle Home was carefully preserved. Both the interior rooms and the landscaping to the picket fence that Pyle built and the grave marker of his dog Cheetah, have been preserved as Pyle memorabilia and archives. Thousands of people from around the world visit the library. The Pyle Library was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 22, 1997, and on September 20, 2006, it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

**Indiana University**  
  
At Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, where Ernie Pyle began his journalism training, the School of Journalism is housed in “Ernie Pyle Hall,” and scholarships created soon after his death with the proceeds of the world premiere of The Story of G.I. Joe, are still awarded to students with ability in journalism and a military service record.  
  
Most of the archives containing his material at found at the Lilly Library at Indiana University, the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site at Dana, Indiana, and the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The Ernie Pyle state Historic site at Dana, Indiana includes Ernie Pyle’s boyhood home which is fully restored. It features a replica of a World War II Quonset hut that contains many of Ernie Pyle’s army artifacts including his Purple Heart and many other mementos that people from the community where Pyle grew up donated.  
  
**Ernie Pyle Obituary Photograph Resurfaces Years After Ernie Pyle’s Death**  
  
Army photographer Alexander Roberts had taken a photo of Ernie Pyle shortly after the Japanese sniper’s bullet had killed him on April 18, 1945. The photograph shows Ernie Pyle shortly after the machine gun bullet killed him. He is wearing Army fatigues, boots and a helmet. He is lying on back, his folded hands holding a military cap. There is a think trickle of blood coming from the corner of his mouth, but otherwise he looks like he is peacefully sleeping.  
  
Although Lee Miller, Ernie Pyle’s first biographer and AP archivists believed that the photograph had never been published, it had indeed been published two times. The December 14, 1979, edition of the Burlington North Carolina Daily Times-News published the photograph and it was published in the 1983 memoir, buddy Ernie Pyle: World War II’s Most Beloved Typewriter Soldier by retired Army and AP photographer Rudy Faircloth.  
  
Alexander Roberts, the Army photographer who had crawled forward under fire to take the picture said that military officials had withheld it. Then in June 2008, 63 years after Ernie Pyle died on Ie Shima, the photograph resurfaced. The Associated Press inquired about the Alexander Robert negative and photo at eight military museums and history centers and none had heard of it. The National Archives & Records Administration was one of the archives that the Associated Press asked about the photograph and the most likely place where it would be. Edward McCarter, NARA’s top still photos archivist, commented that with all of the photo research done on World War II, and thousands of letters requesting information about the holdings of the NARA’s holdings, “My guess is it would have been ‘discovered’ by a researcher of staff member by now.”  
  
Edward McCarter speculated that the prints taken from Army photographer’s negative at the time of Pyle’s death, “would appear to be the only record that the photo was actually made.”  
  
Veterans who served aboard the USS Panamint, a navy combinations ship in the Okinawa campaign kept at least two such prints of the Alexander Roberts photo of Ernie Pyle. The two veterans never met, but they acquired their photos in similar ways and both of them recognized how important the photograph was to posterity. Retired naval officer Richard Strasser, 88, of Goshen, Indiana, remembered Ernie Pyle visiting the Panamint just before he was killed. Strasser said that he had a friend named George who ran the Panamint’s darkroom and George gave him a package of pictures after Japan surrender in August 1945.  
  
Several months after Strasser had returned to civilian life, he opened the envelope and to his surprise, he found the picture of Ernie Pyle. He said that at the time Ernie’s widow Jerry Pyle was still living and he considered sending the photograph to her. “But I had mixed feeling about it and in the end I did nothing,” he said.  
  
Strasser provided his photograph, a crisp contact print from the 4-by-5-inch negative, to the Associated Press.  He also made it available to the Newseum, a $435 million news museum in Washington, D.C. The Newseum’s managing editor, Margaret Engel, said that the photo had strong historical interest, especially because of the circumstances of Ernie Pyle’s death. “It remains a compelling story for students of journalism and the war.”  
  
The other print of the Alexander Roberts picture came from Ex-Petty Officer Joseph T. Bannan, 82, of Boynton Beach Florida, who joined the USS Panamint’s crew in May 1945 after a kamikaze damaged his own ship. He said that he got his Pyle photo from a ship’s photographer that he remembers only as “Joe from Philadelphia.”  
  
Bannan remembered that “Joe” told him that he had been ordered to destroy the negative because it would adversely affect the morale of the American public. In 2004, he donated copies of the photograph to the Wright Museum, The Ernie Pyle State Historical Site at Dana, Indiana, and the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.  
  
James Tobin, is a professor at Miami University of Ohio, and the author of an Ernie Pyle biography published in 1997. He said of the photograph, “It’s a striking and painful image, but Ernie Pyle wanted people to see and understand the sacrifices that soldiers had to make, so it’s fitting in a way, that this photo of his own death…drives home the reality and the finality of that sacrifice.”  
  
**Ernie Pyle's Letters Revealed His Humanity**  
  
Feelings of inadequacy haunted Ernie Pyle for his entire life. “I suffer agony in anticipation of meeting people for fear they won’t like me,” he wrote. Eleanor Roosevelt wrote in her own newspaper column, My Day, “I have read everything he has sent from overseas and recommended his writing to all Americans. For three years Ernie Pyle’s columns had entered more than 14 million homes like personal letters from the front. The families of soldiers prayed for Ernie Pyle like they prayed for their own sons. International fame, love, and admiration didn’t erase Ernie Pyle’s insecurities.  
James Tobin, one of Pye’s biographers, noted that “sadness verging on bitterness always colored Ernie Pyle’s early years,” and Tobin said that Pyle’s adult personal life held much unhappiness.  
  
The office of Owen V. Johnson Indiana University journalism professor and historian is located in Ernie Pyle Hall on Indiana University’s Bloomington campus.  He is working his way through over 1,200 letters that Ernie Pyle wrote to friends, family, and his editors at Scripps Howard. Professor Johnson will publish some of the letters and perhaps a CD of the entire collection.  
  
Some of the letters tarnish Ernie Pyle’s reputation as a saint. Some of the letters contain obscenities, sexual fantasies, despair, accounts of drunken stupors and extra marital affairs and critiques of his colleagues. In a letter to his bosses at Scripps-Howard dated September 24, 1941, Ernie Pyle outlined his situation and explained why he had fallen behind in his work. He offered to resign if he couldn’t be granted a leave of absence to care for Jerry, his wife, who was ill.  
  
During his ten years of writing columns, Ernie Pyle wrote 2.5 million words, but his private letters which have never been published in full, reveal his life in ways that his columns never did. Professor Johnson said, “In reading the letters you understand what great accomplishments that Pyle’s columns were. Despite all these troubles, he turned out inspiring stories.”  
  
Both Lee Miller and Jim Tobin used excerpts from Pyle’s letters, most of which are stored at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. Ernie Pyle’s letters are written with a sense of wartime urgency and drama and are a window to the battlefront realities, according to Tobin who supports Professor Johnson’s book project. “I think Ernie was a hero and I think all cultures, including ours, need heroes. But not phony saints,” he said.  
  
  
  
**Ernie Pyle Museum is Economic Casualty**  
  
The Ernie Pyle State Historic Site at Dana, Indiana, consisted of a Visitor Center and a Historic House. The Visitor Center exhibited feature life-size scenes based on Ernie Pyle’s writing and experiences as a World War II correspondent. The exhibits included state of the art audio and video stations and contained authentic World War II uniforms, weapons, and gear, including a 1944 Willys jeep.  
  
The Historic House is from the farm where Ernie Pyle was born and was furnished as an early 1900s rural Indiana farmhouse.Dana, Indiana residents worked with the American Legion and the Eli Lilly Foundation to move and restore the Historic House from the farm where Ernie was born and the house was dedicated in 1976 as an Indiana State Historical Site. The Friends of Ernie Pyle worked with the Scripps Howard Foundation to build two Quonset huts to become the Site’s Visitor Center in 1995 and the permanent exhibits were completed in 1998.  
  
The Ernie Pyle State Historical Site became a casualty of the economic downturn when the state of Indiana padlocked it in 2010. The state said that it couldn’t afford the $6,000 a year that it costs to operate the site after revenues are deducted. Artifacts are being moved to the Indiana State Museum.  
  
**Ernie Pyle Remains as a Spokesman for His Generation**  
  
For the people who lived during World War II and for those who fought it, Ernie Pyle has remained on a pedestal. Like the other journalists of the time, he supported the cause and he believed his role was helping the troops win the war against evil isms. His writing captures the quiet heroism of American troops and the courage of ordinary men as well as generals. He didn’t picture himself as a watchdog of democracy. In fact, his letters are almost completely devoid of politics.  
  
The fact that World War II made him rich troubled Ernie Pyle. He felt uneasy making money from his books and the movie about his life, although he believed that the money would give him a financial cushion in peacetime and economic hardship. If Pyle had survived the war, his fame would have made it impossible for him to return to his quiet, anonymous travels across North America.  
  
It is difficult to imagine what course he would have taken. Perhaps he would have written more books. His stories are still as readable today as they were when he wrote them and his powers of observation and description are still difficult to match. The generation he wrote about is rapidly passing into time, but Ernie Pyle stories allow a wide open window into that generation’s stories.  
  
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Mother and Daughter Journalists Agnes Meyer and Katharine Graham Influence Journalism

  
With determination and perseverance, Agnes Ernst Meyer pursued a career when women weren’t encouraged to do so and became an influential journalist, philanthropist and activist for education.  
  
**Agnes Ernst is the First Woman Reporter at the New York Sun**  
  
The daughter of German immigrants, Agnes was born and educated in New York City. She won a scholarship to study mathematics at Barnard College and martriculated over her father’s objections, paying for her college education herself through scholarships and wages from part time jobs.  
  
When she was a Barnard senior, Agnes met the young educator John Dewey, and she said that he stirred the "seeds of a social conscience" in her that led her to embrace educational reform and many other social causes. During her student days at Barnard, Agnes became firmly committed to writing, education, and political activism and this committment continued for the rest of her life  
  
The New York Sun hired Agnes as its first woman reporter after she graduated from Barnard in 1907. In the February 1934 issue of the Barnard College Alumnae Magazine, Agnes said that the New York Sun had hired her as a joke and that "they sent me to all the places where a man would have been thrown out. But it was grand! When my husband bought The Washington Post, it gave me no sense of owning the Post, but when I landed that job I thought I owned The Sun, and the earth and moon, too."  
  
**Writer Agnes Ernst Marries Banker Eugene Meyer**  
  
In 1908, Agnes began studying at the Sorbonne where she became friends with Gertrude Stein and Edward Steichen. Throughout her life, Agnes had a gift for friendship and maintained friendships with famous and ordinary people, including Adlai Stevenson and Thomas Mann  
  
On February 13, 1910, the Boston Herald ran the headline "Banker Marries Writer." The story underneath the headline said that friends of Eugene Meyer and [Agnes Elizabeth Ernst](http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/ware/agnes_ernst_meyer.php)were "surprised to learn that the couple had been quietly married yesterday and had started on a trip around the world."  
  
Eugene Meyer was a spectacularly successful investment banker and pioneer in investment analysis. He was chairman of the Federal Reserve Board under President Herbert Hoover and the first president of the World Bank under President Harry S. Truman. He also founded Allied Chemical Company  
  
Although Agnes scoffed at traditional female roles, she eventually had five children, one of them a daughter named Katharine who would one day marry Philip Graham and make trailblazing decisions as editor and publisher of the Washington Post. As Agnes pursued her intellectual interests and political passions, she also raised Katharine and her four other children  
  
**Agnes Becomes and Education Activist**  
  
In 1917, Eugene Meyer moved his family to Washington, D.C., where he worked in several important financial positions within the federal government over the next sixteen years. In 1933, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt won the presidency, Eugene Meyer bought the struggling Washington Post. True to her career woman tendencies, Agnes Meyer often contributed articles that criticized the Works Progress Administration and some of the other New Deal programs and she continued to write for the Washington Post even after her daughter Katharine became its publisher.  
  
Over the next forty years.[Agnes Meyer](http://www.barnard.edu/newnews/news062204.html)explored her intellectual and community concerns and continued to travel and write about education, social problems, and political issues. During World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appointed Agnes as a member of the President’s Commission on Higher Education. In a public speech she urged New Yorkers to support federal aid for schools as a national defense strategy.  
  
The day after her speech, The New York Herald Tribune published a story about her remarks, reporting that five million young men were rejected for military service because they were educationally or physically handicapped. The story underscored her call for change and Agnes herself underscored the importance of education as a defense strategy. "We are again undertaking a vast rearmament program – it is obvious that education at all levels from the lowest to the highest is essential for the achievement of national defense," she said.  
  
**Agnes Meyer is a Social Activist and Tireless Writer**  
  
During World War II, Agnes Meyer traveled through the United States and Britain investigating home front conditions and she was dismayed to discover that government hadn’t provided basic needs like food and housing for its citizens.  
  
She wrote stories exploring the problems of veterans, migrant workers, and African Americans, and she advocated for integration, expanded social security benefits, and an end to racial discrimination. One of her better known quotes concerned the role of [Eleanor Roosevelt](http://www.poemhunter.com/quotations/famous.asp?people=Agnes%20E%20Meyer)in politics. Agnes said, "It certainly must have been a relief for the women of the country to realize that one could be a woman and a lady and yet be thoroughly political."  
  
Agnes spoke out against Senator Joseph McCarthy and his Communist hunting allies as a threat to academic freedom. She wrote literary reviews and lectured on countless college campuses. She challenged Americans to become "global citizens" and hoped that American children would grow up to be "a composite of citizen and scientist." She tirelessly agitated for a Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and federal aid to education. By 1960, Agnes had left the Republican Party and registered as a Democrat.  
  
Throughout the 1960s, Agnes focused her intense energies on improving public education and she created and financed the Urban School Corps. She supported the New School for Social Research and the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation which gave millions of dollars to several health and education projects.  
  
Altogether Agnes wrote hundreds of articles, interviews, speeches, letters and editorials. She published two books. Out of These Roots: Journey Through Chaos published in 1944, was an anthropological prescription for improving community life and moral education. In 1957, she published Education for a New Morality in which she explores the horrifying possibilities of an atomic world. Her third book, Chance and Destiny sits unpublished in her extensive file at the Library of Congress.  
  
When Agnes died of cancer in 1970, newspapers across the country ran her obituary and friends across the country and the world mourned her death. Her daughter Katharine Graham carried on her legacy.

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## Katharine Meyer Graham Leaves Her Mark on the Washington Post



Agnes Meyer, the mother of Katharine Graham, shaped the Washington Post with her writing, and her daughter Katharine added her own imprint to the newspaper.  
  
[Katharine Graham](http://books.google.com/books?id=ukCKZi360lsC&pg=PT457&lpg=PT457&dq=agnes+ernst+graham&source=bl&ots=J8-SWYpu_2&sig=ZA1xP_TW1gSwlixin9ZR6aomxrU&hl=en&ei=MZ9gTLuaKoP58Abxvdm5DQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CBIQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false), who her friends and associates called “Kay”, advanced from a Washington Post reporter to assuming control of the Washington Post in 1963, when her husband Philip committed suicide.  
  
From 1969 to 1979, she was publisher of the Post, and from 1973 to 1991, she was board chairman and chief executive officer of the Washington Post Company. She remained Chairman of the Executive Committee until her death on July 17, 2001. She steered the Washington Post through its intricate coverage of the Pentagon Papers and the Watergate scandal and won a Pulitzer Prize for her autobiography, Personal History.  
  
**Katharine Meyer’s Mother was a Noted Journalist, Her Father a Noted Banker**  
  
Born on June 16, 1917, Katharine Meyer enjoyed a privileged childhood. Her father, Eugene Meyer, earned a fortune as a financier and later served as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board under President Herbert Hoover and the first president of the World Bank when President Harry S. Truman was in office.  
  
Her mother, Agnes Ernst Meyer, forged a career as a newspaper reporter when very few women worked in the profession Both of her parents traveled and socialized extensively, often leaving Katharine with nannies, governesses and tutors in their large home in Mount Kisco, New York or a smaller one in Washington, D.C.  
  
While still in high school at the Madeira School, an independent private girl’s school near Washington DC, Katharine worked as a copy girl for The Washington Post which her father bought at a bankruptcy sale in 1933. She attended Vassar College for two years, and then transferred to the University of Chicago where she became interested in labor issues and developed friendships with people from all social classes  
  
**Katharine Meyer Marries Philip Graham**  
After she graduated from the University of Chicago in 1938, Katharine worked at the San Francisco News for almost a year and one of the stories she helped cover was a major wharf workers strike. In late 1939, she returned to Washington and joined the Washington Post staff, working in both the editorial and circulation departments.  
  
Another Washington Post staff member introduced her to a group of young profession men who lived in a house in Arlington called Hockley Hall. One of the young men was Philip Leslie Graham, a recent Harvard Law School graduate who served as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed in 1939, and for Justice Felix Frankfurter, one of his former Harvard professors. Philip Graham and Katharine Meyer discussed life and politics at the Hockley group’s social gatherings and they fell in love.  
  
Katharine and Philip were married on June 5, 1940, and moved into a two story row house on 37th Street NW. Eventually, the Grahams had one daughter, Lally Morris Graham Weymouth, and three sons, Donald Edward Graham, William Welsh Graham, and Stephen Meyer Graham.  
  
**Philip Graham is a Brilliant, but Troubled Husband**  
  
In 1946, Philip Graham became publisher of the Washington Post and when Eugene Meyer died in 1959, Philip Graham took over as Chairman of the Washington Post Company. Under Philip Graham's leadership, The Washington Post Company purchased television stations and Newsweek Magazine. While running the Washington Post, Philip Graham also played a behind the scenes role in politics. President Lyndon Baines Johnson credited Philip Graham with the outlines for the Great Society Program , and in 1960, Philip Graham helped persuade John F. Kennedy to include Johnson on his ticket as the vice presidential candidate.  
  
At this point in his life, Philip Graham was already visibly suffering from the manic depression that would haunt him until he died. In 1957, he had a nervous breakdown and retired to the family farm in Marshall, Virginia, to recuperate. He returned to work, but endured periods when he functioned brilliantly and times when he was morose, erratic, and drank heavily. At that time, there were no medications to help moderate his moods and his illness.  
  
Twice, Philip Graham was committed to Chestnut Lodge, a psychiatric hospital in Rockville, Maryland. Early in 1963, he left Katharine for a researcher from the Newsweek office in Paris, but in June 1963, he broke off the affair and returned home to enter Chestnut Lodge for the second time.  
  
According to Katharine, Philip Graham was "quite noticeably much better," in August of 1963, and left the hospital for a weekend at their farmhouse. At the farmhouse on August 3, 1963, Philip killed himself with a shotgun. Katharine Graham found her 48-year-old husband in a downstairs bathroom.  
  
**Katharine Graham Takes Over The Washington Post After Her Husband's Death**  
  
After Philip Graham committed suicide, Katharine Graham took over the Washington Post Company at a time when most women were masters of their households but their responsibilities did not translate into the business world. Within days after her husband’s death, Katharine told the board of directors at The Post Company that it would stay in the family.  
  
On September 20, 1963, she assumed the presidency of the company. At the time Katharine Graham was the only woman in a position of power at a publishing company, and many of her male colleagues and employees were skeptical of her ability to handle her position. Later in her memoir, Personal Life, Graham discussed her lack of confidence and faith in her own knowledge. “What I essentially did was to put one foot in front of the other, shut my eyes and step off the ledge. The surprise was that I landed on my feet,” she later said.  
  
**The Washington Post Investigates The Pentagon Papers and Watergate**  
  
Katharine Graham’s assumption of power at the Post and the strong and surging woman’s movement of the time changed her attitude and compelled her to promote gender equality in her own company. She and Ben Bradlee, managing editor of the Washington Post, raised the standards for investigative journalism to unimagined heights. In 1971, the Post began to publish parts of what were eventually called the Pentagon Papers, which contained supposedly secret information about the United States role in Vietnam since the end of World War II. The United States government tried to stop both the Washington Post and the New York Times from publishing the Pentagon Papers, but when the Supreme Court heard the cause, it ruled in favor of the newspapers.  
  
In 1972, Katharine supported the aggressive investigative reporting of Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward when the Washington Post chronicled the story of the Watergate burglary, which eventually forced the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon. The Washington Post won a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its Watergate reporting.  
  
By the time Katharine Graham stepped down as chief executive of the Washington Post in 1991, and as chairman in 1993, the Post Company had expanded into a diversified media corporation with newspaper, magazine, television, cable and educational services businesses. She was the first women to head a Fortune 500 company and the first woman to serve as director of the Associated Press and of the American Newspaper Publishers Association.  
  
**Katharine Graham's Personal History Wins a Pulitzer Prize**  
  
In 1997, Katharine published her memoirs, entitled Personal History, which garnered praise for her honest portrayal of her husband's mental illness and the insights she provided about the changing roles of women over her life time. Personal History won the Pulitzer Prize in 1998.  
  
While [Katharine Graham](http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,167941,00.html)visited Sun Valley, Idaho in 2001, she fell and died three days later on July 17, 2001, as a result her head injury. Her funeral was held at the Washington National Cathedral and she is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, across from her former home in Georgetown.  
  
[Katharine Graham](http://www.washpostco.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=62487&p=irol-historykgrahamobituary)grew from a wife who felt that her sole purpose in life was to care for her husband into a woman of power and influence in the publishing world. She learned that as she put it, “The thing women must do to rise to power is to redefine their femininity. Once, power, was considered a masculine attribute. In fact, power has no sex.”  
  
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## Sigrid Schultz Outsmarted Hermann Goering



Sigrid Schultz worked in Berlin as the Chicago Tribune’s first female Bureau Chief in Central Europe and reported the growth of the Nazi state with insider’s knowledge. As the Chicago Tribune’s ace woman reporter, she beat Hermann Goering at his own game.  
  
Sigrid Schultz’s china doll appearance hid the razor sharp mind that she needed to conceal her animosity for the new Nazi regime in Germany and present a friendly enough face and attitude to get accurate, inside information for her newspaper stories.  
  
Sigrid had an insider’s understanding of the workings of the Nazi machine. Although she had been born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1893, Sigrid’s father who was a well known portrait painter opened a studio in Paris. Sigrid graduated from the Sorbonne in 1914, and then she joined her parents in Berlin where they had settled. They remained in Berlin throughout World War I, protected by their American citizenship, and Sigrid studied history and international law at Berlin University  
  
In 1919, the Berlin office of the Chicago Tribune hired Sigrid as an interpreter, a job that suited her well since she spoke English, French, Dutch, German, and Polish. Her command of the German language helped her report German politics from an insider’s perspective. In 1926, the Tribune made her its Bureau Chief for Central Europe, the first time a media organization had ever promoted a woman to such a position.  
  
**Sigrid Schultz Interviewed Hitler Several Times and Documented Nazi Germany**  
  
Although Nazism repelled Sigrid, she cultivated her connection with World War I ace pilot Captain Hermann Goering. She made such a good impression that Goering introduced her to Hitler. Sigrid joined the small group of correspondents who interviewed Hitler several times in the early 1930s. Her intimate knowledge of Germany’s leaders helped her accurately report their goals as Nazi Germany became a looming threat to world peace.  
  
Berlin had changed since Sigrid had first come to Germany. Now it was hard to stroll down the Unter den Linden without running into goose stepping, saluting soldiers. Neighbors who had been once been friendly would no longer speak to Sigrid because her anti-Nazi views were well known. Eventually Hermann Goering decided to eliminate Sigrid Schultz.  
  
**Hermann Goering Plotted to Eliminate Sigrid Schultz**  
  
One day while Sigrid was at her office, a man arrived at the apartment that she and her mother shared with a large sealed envelope . He handed it to her mother with the instructions that Fraulein Schultz was to open it when she returned that evening. Frau Schultz phoned Sigrid and Sigrid rushed home. She took one look at the design for an airplane engine inside the envelope and burned it to ashes in the fireplace.  
  
On her way back to her office she passed a man she knew heading toward her apartment with two criminal types behind him. She planted herself squarely in their path and told them that it would be a waste of time to continue because she had already burned the envelope. Then she flagged down a taxi and loudly ordered the driver to take her to the American embassy.  
  
   
  
**Sigrid Schultz Confronted Hermann Goering**  
  
Sigrid decided that the time had come to protest directly to Goering. In April 1935,she approached him at a luncheon that the Foreign Press Association gave to honor him and his new bride, Emmy Sonnemann.. Goering scowled down the long banquet table and said that it was time that reporters began respecting the new Germany instead of constantly writing about concentration camps, which were needed to teach discipline to people who had forgotten about it during the days of the weak Weimar Republic.  
  
Ignoring his belligerent speech, Sigrid spoke quietly about the agents that he had sent to trap her and told him that she had informed the American embassy. Goering lost his temper. He called Sigrid Schultz the “Dragon Lady from Chicago,” and he said that she didn’t have enough respect for the authority of the state since she was from “the crime ridden city of Chicago.”  
  
**Mutual Broadcaster and "John Dickson"**  
  
In 1938, Sigrid began to report for the [Mutual Broadcasting System](http://www.otr.com/schultz.html)as well as the Chicago Tribune. During 1938 and 1939, Sigrid filed some of her dispatches under an assumed name so she could continue to work in Germany without being jailed or expelled. Many of her stories were published in the Tribune’s weekly magazine under the fictitious name of “John Dickson.”  
  
She also filed her dispatches outside of Germany, usually from Oslo or Copenhagen with false datelines. Her articles reported the German government attacks on churches, and exposed the concentration camps and the persecution of the Jews. Under her Dickson byline, Sigrid forecast the Munich Agreement, and the 1939 non-aggression pact between German and the Soviet Union. Sigrid’s colleague William L. Shirer wrote that “No other American correspondent in Berlin knew so much of what was going on behind the scenes as did Sigrid Schultz.”  
  
**Normandy, Buchenwald, and Beyond**  
  
During the first year of World War II, Sigrid reported the progress of the German Army, but she couldn’t travel to the front because she was a woman. After she was injured in an Allied air raid on Berlin, she went to Spain where she caught typhus. She returned to the United States in early 1941 and spent the next three years convalescing from the disease. During her convalescence, Sigrid wrote a book about Germany titled [Germany Will Try It Again](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1964&dat=19440115&id=K1kyAAAAIBAJ&sjid=2bYFAAAAIBAJ&pg=906,1090485)and lectured nationwide about her 25 years in Germany.  
  
Finally returning to Europe in 1944, Sigrid landed in Normandy with the United States Army, and reported the liberation of France and the conquest of Germany. She was one of the first journalists to visit Buchenwald and covered the Nuremberg trials.  
  
Back in the United States Sigrid continued reporting and wrote several books. She died in 1980 before she could complete her history of Anti-Semitism in Germany.  
  
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