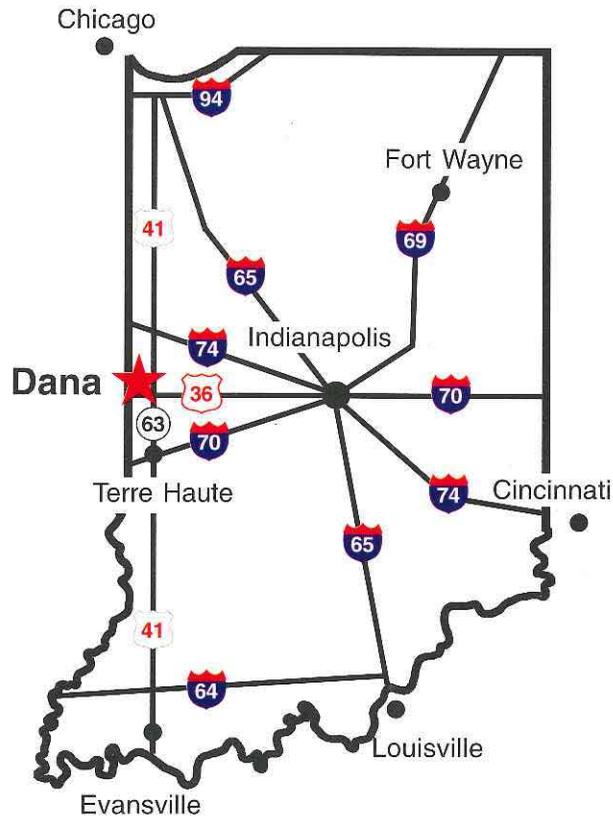


The Ernie Pyle State Historic Site is 1/2 mile north of U.S. 36 on Ind. 71 on the south edge of downtown Dana, Indiana. Just to the east, Parke County, Indiana, is home to 31 historic covered bridges, Turkey Run and Shades state parks, Raccoon State Recreation Area, and Billie Creek Village, a re-created turn-of-the-Twentieth-Century settlement.



Ernie Pyle State Historic Site

120 W. Briarwood Ave.
 P.O. Box 338
 Dana, Indiana 47847-0338
 (765) 665-3633

Ernie Pyle

State Historic Site Dana, Indiana



Steve Polston

The state-of-the-art Ernie Pyle Visitor Center and beautifully restored Historic House are dedicated to preserving the memory of America's most beloved World War II civilian newspaper correspondent and the GIs he admired and wrote about in his daily column.

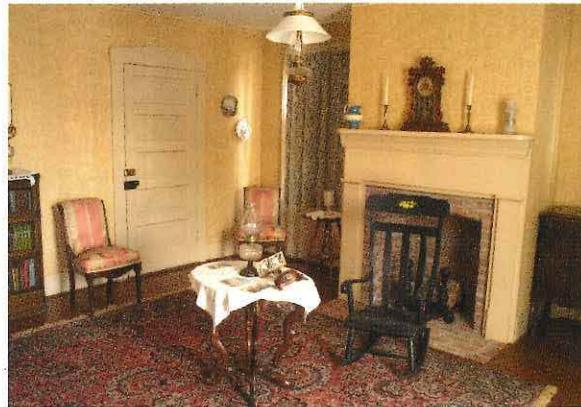


Ernie (center) shares a cigarette with some GIs.

Open seasonally. Please call ahead for current operating hours, to schedule tours, or for more information: (765) 665-3633.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources
 Division of State Museums & Historic Sites

Ernie Pyle's childhood was typical for a rural Indiana farm boy. He helped with farm chores and attended church and a small township school. Ernie was born August 3, 1900, and grew up on a farm near Dana, Indiana. The 1851 Historic House from the farm where Ernie was born was donated by the Elder family, the Pyle's landlords. With grants from the Indiana American Legion and the Eli Lilly Foundation, the Dana community relocated and restored the farmhouse. The finished home was given to the State of Indiana and has been operated as a state historic site since 1976. The Greek Revival farmhouse includes furnishings typical of the early 1900s. When Ernie was 18 months old, the Pyles moved in with Ernie's grandfather.



Steve Polston

Ernie Pyle Historic House parlor.

"I have no home. My home is where my extra luggage is, and where the car is stored, and where I happen to be getting mail at the time. My home is America."

– Ernie Pyle

Paid for by the
 Friends of Ernie Pyle Development Fund, Inc.



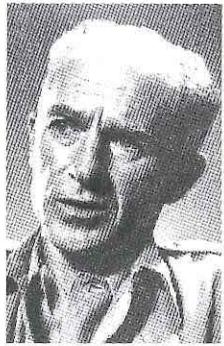
Steve Polston

Ernie Pyle Historic House kitchen.

Ernie studied journalism at Indiana University and soon began his career with the Scripps Howard newspaper chain. He started work as an editor and wrote an aviation column for the Washington Daily News. Feeling trapped behind a desk, Ernie got permission to hit the road with his wife, Jerry, to write a travel column. For seven years, Ernie traveled around the United States writing a syndicated newspaper column, the "Hoosier Vagabond," finding interesting stories about ordinary people. This was Ernie's talent.



Ernie wrote a traveling column as the "Hoosier Vagabond" during the Great Depression.



Ernest Taylor Pyle

August 3, 1900 – April 18, 1945

“In their eyes as they passed . . . there was just the simple expression of being there as if they had been doing that forever, and nothing else.” – Ernie Pyle



Steve Polston

Ernie Pyle Visitor Center dugout scene.

“When we leave here for the next shore, there is nothing we can do for the ones beneath the wooden crosses, except perhaps to pause and murmur, ‘Thanks Pal.’”

– Ernie Pyle

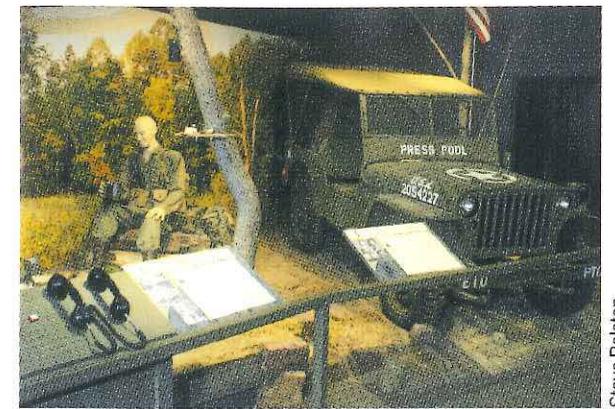
Two Quonset huts house the Ernie Pyle Visitor Center, a multi-media presentation of authentic World War II scenes that are brought to life by Ernie Pyle’s columns. This project, completed in 1998, was made possible by a grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation and the efforts of the Friends of Ernie Pyle Development Fund, Inc.



Ernie Pyle Visitor Center photomural of Ernie (fourth from left) on patrol with Marines on Okinawa.

“That’s the way conversation goes around the dugout at night-time: rumors, girls, hopes of home, jokes, little experiences, opinions of their officers, and an occasional off-hand reference to what may happen to you in the end.” – Ernie Pyle

Ernie Pyle’s reporting experience naturally led him to cover World War II through the eyes of the common GIs. He hated war, admired the GIs, and wrote with compassion as he followed the war through London, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and the Pacific. His column was like a letter written home. Millions mourned when Ernie was killed by Japanese machine-gun fire on Ie Shima, a Japanese island near Okinawa, on April 18, 1945.



Steve Polston

Ernie Pyle Visitor Center jeep scene.

“The jeep – Good Lord, I don’t think we could continue the war without the jeep. It does everything. It goes everywhere. It’s as faithful as a dog, as strong as a mule, and as agile as a goat. It constantly carries twice what it was designed for, and still keeps on going. It doesn’t even ride so badly after you get used to it.”

– Ernie Pyle



Steve Polston

Ernie Pyle Visitor Center Ie Shima scene.

“No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as the American fighting man wanted it told.”

– President Harry S Truman