

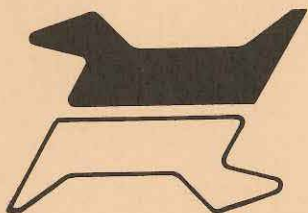
as a reporter for the *LaPorte Herald* newspaper. Soon after, he went to work for the Scripps-Howard newspapers, working for the Washington (D.C.) *Daily News*. He became a roving columnist and, with his wife, traveled the country writing about its people, color, sounds, and sights in a manner that had never been done before. These columns were compiled into a book, *Home Country*.

In 1940, with the coming of war, Pyle went to England to cover the Battle of Britain. The book of his experiences, *Ernie Pyle in England*, was published in 1941. In 1942, he began covering America's involvement in the war. Battle campaigns took him from North Africa, Sicily, Anzio, and Normandy to the liberation of France. These articles were contained in his books, *Here Is Your War* and *Brave Men*.

In 1945, Pyle received his last assignment, the Pacific Theater. He followed the Ie Shima invasion on April 17, 1945 and on April 18 was killed by a Japanese sniper's bullet. After Pyle's death, cartoonist Sgt. Bill Mauldin said, "The only difference between Ernie's death and that of any other good guy is that the other guy is mourned by his Company. Ernie is mourned by the whole Army."

Pyle authored six books and was the subject of three biographies. A motion picture, "The Story of G.I. Joe," was made from his writings. He received national recognition both before and after his death. Indiana University and the University of New Mexico conferred upon him Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degrees, and Indiana University named its School of Journalism for him. The Army, Navy, and State Departments awarded him the Medal of Merit and he was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal from the American Legion. Sigma Delta Chi (the National Journalism Fraternity) twice awarded him the Raymond Clapper Award for best war correspondent. In 1943, Pyle received the Pulitzer Prize for Journalism.

Pyle wrote about the common man. His style and subject matter brought into focus, for his millions of readers, the terror, drudgery, heroism, and joy that only men in battle can feel. For this, he was honored by his profession, and loved by his readers and his subjects alike.



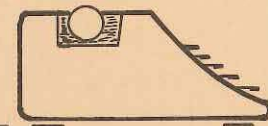
Division of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
202 North Alabama Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
317-633-4948

Indiana - Biography - (CP)

# Ernie Pyle

Vertical File

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## STATE MEMORIAL

# THE MEMORIAL

Located in Dana, Indiana, in Vermillion County, the Ernie Pyle Memorial pays tribute to the man who, more than any other, helped bring World War II home to the millions of Americans who remained behind as their sons, brothers, and husbands went overseas.

The Memorial preserves Pyle's restored birthplace which was moved from its original farm location to Dana in 1976. Ernie Pyle lived in this home for the first 18 months of his life until his family moved to his grandfather's nearby farm.

Although Pyle disliked farm life, his rural upbringing left him with strong feelings for the common man and his native land. These feelings led him to write with simplicity and strength of the fighting men in Europe and in the Pacific during World War II.

His birthplace is typical of many farmhouses in the rural Midwest in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is basically a simple farm structure, but with the addition of the Greek columns and portico there is also a distinct air of grace and comfortable living about the home. The four rooms of the first floor—the dining room, kitchen, parlor, and bedroom—have been furnished in the late "Country Victorian" style that was popular at the time of Pyle's birth. Many of the pieces of furniture, photographs, and other mementos in these rooms originally belonged to the Pyle family and were presented to the Memorial by family and friends.

When the home was restored, a "museum room" was added in the basement to display many items closely related to Ernie Pyle's later life. These mementos, which would have been out of place in the restored rooms upstairs, give an added feeling for the man, his work, and his accomplishments.

Through the efforts of the Indiana Department of the American Legion, Pyle's birthplace was moved to its present location and restored. The restored home became a State Memorial on July 3, 1976, when it was donated to the State of Indiana.

The Memorial is located just north of U.S. Highway 36 in Dana, Indiana. It is open year round and there is a small admission charge for adults.

# THE MAN

Ernie Pyle was one of the foremost American war correspondents of World War II. He was known through his columns by millions of American readers throughout the world. His sensitivity, humor, and easy style endeared him to the G.I.'s who were his subjects, and to their families and friends who remained at home.

Ernest Taylor Pyle was born on August 3, 1900, on the Sam Elder farm where his father was then tenant farming. The farm was located south and west of Dana, Indiana. When Pyle was 18 months old, the family moved to the farmhouse of his grandfather.

In 1919, Pyle enrolled at Indiana University in Bloomington. In 1922, six months before graduation, he left school to accept a position

