

Collection #  
P 0272

## ERNIE PYLE POSTMORTEM AND INTERMENT PHOTOGRAPHS, 1945, 1949

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 folder with 14 photographs, 1 OVA photograph

COLLECTION  
DATES: 18 April 1945, 19 July 1949

PROVENANCE: Nebraska State Historical Society donation, and auction purchase

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: The postmortem photograph has no identifying information about the photographer, the photograph may still be under copyright.  
The interment photographs have the following stamped on the verso of each photograph:  
PLEASE CREDIT U.S. ARMY PHOTOGRAPH  
The Department of the Army has no objection to the use of this photograph in commercial advertisements provided copy and layout are submitted to review section, Public Information Division, Department of the Army, Washington DC, and written permission is obtained, after this date. [no date given]

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1985.0808, 1999.0056

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Ernest “Ernie” Taylor Pyle (3 August 1900–18 April 1945) was a popular newspaper columnist and war correspondent. Born near Dana, Indiana, Pyle studied journalism at Indiana University, but dropped out during his senior year in 1923. After working various editorial jobs, he began a career as a syndicated columnist in 1935. Pyle began covering World War II in 1940 and received the Pulitzer Prize in 1944 for his work.

On 17 April 1945 Pyle went to Ie Shima in the Ryukyu Islands of Japan. En route to the frontlines, he was caught in a machine gun ambush and killed instantly in a ditch where he was taking cover. Pyle was first buried on Ie Shima. His body was eventually moved to Okinawa and then formally interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl Crater, Oahu, Hawaii.

Sources:  
Dillard, Irving. “Pyle, Ernest Taylor.” *Dictionary of American Biography: Supplement Three, 1941-1945*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1973, pages 612-613.  
Miller, Lee G. *The Story of Ernie Pyle*. New York: The Viking Press, 1950.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection is a combination of two different accessions. The materials have been arranged into two series.

Series 1 contains a single postmortem photograph of Ernie Pyle on 18 April 1945. He is lying on his back, wearing his helmet and clutching the hat he wore in safe areas. One lens from his eyeglasses is missing; a thin line of blood runs from the right corner of his mouth. The photograph has no identification.

Series 2 contains fourteen photographs showing scenes of the interment ceremony of Ernie Pyle's remains at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl Crater, Oahu, Hawaii, on 19 July 1949. United States Army Signal Corps photographer SFC Chang, 8309th Service Unit, made the photographs.

The Signal Corps assigned the code CPA-49 to the photographs and unique sub-numbers to each photograph. The photographs are arranged according to these numbers. Each of the fourteen photographs has an extended caption printed on the verso, the beginning of which is: "The body of Ernie Pyle, late beloved war correspondent who lost his life while serving with first line troops on Ie Shima was laid to final rest Tuesday morning, July 19th in the new Punchbowl Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Oahu, T. H." The remainder of each caption is written after its identifying number in the contents section of this collection guide to describe each photograph.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Postmortem Photograph**

#### **CONTENTS**

Ernie Pyle, 18 April 1945

#### **CONTAINER**

OVA photographs,  
Folder 1

### **Series 2: Interment Photographs**

#### **CONTENTS**

CPA-49-2676 "Picture made during ceremony shows U. S. Army pall bearers and firing squad."

#### **CONTAINER**

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2677 "Pall bearers of U. S. Army move into position flanking caskets during ceremonies. Pyle's casket is shown in foreground."

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2680 "Photo shows group of high ranking military officers who were present at the ceremonies."

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2681 "U. S. Army soldiers who served as pall bearers are shown placing the casket containing Ernie Pyle's remain [sic]."

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2682 "Photo was made during impressive part of the ceremony."

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2683 "U. S. Army Soldiers fire rifle volley during ceremonies."

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2685 "Photo was made during impressive part of the ceremony."

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2686 "A U. S. Army firing squad stands at parade rest in front of high ranking military officers"

Photographs, Folder 1

during part of the ceremonies.”

CPA-49-2690 “Photo shows casket containing the remains of Ernie Pyle.”

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2692 “Photo was made during impressive part of the ceremony.”

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2693 “U. S. Army Guard of Honor folds flags which will be sent to the next of kins [sic].”

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2695 “Photo was made during impressive part of the ceremony. Honorary pallbearers are pictured at right.”

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2697 “Honor guards stand at attention flanking casket containing remains of Ernie Pyle.”

Photographs, Folder 1

CPA-49-2698 “U. S. Army bugler is pictured sounding taps during final part of the ceremonies.”

Photographs, Folder 1

## **CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0272).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.