

The End of the Ernie Pyle Museum?

A Call to Arms

By: Tom Cundiff

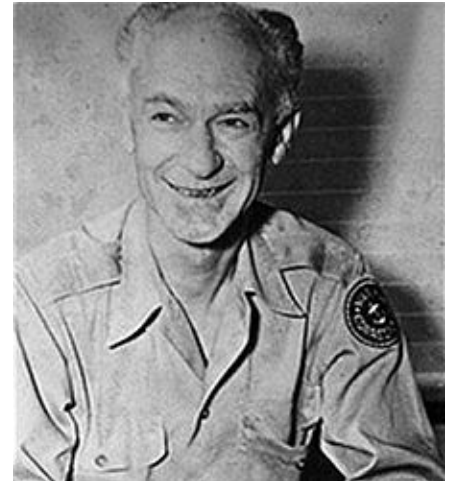
Many of you know who Ernie Pyle was. For those of you who do not, he was a WWII journalist killed by a Japanese machinegun on the island of Ie Shima off Iwo Jima in 1945. Here where I live he is revered and remembered as a home town boy who brought the war home to us in a way we all could understand. I went to the gradeschool named for him, the Ernie Pyle Memorial Grade School, He grew up in the same cornfields and roamed and hunted the same ground as a kid that I grew up on and around. He lived a scant 7 miles from where I now sit. He wrote a number of books (*Ernie Pyle in England*, *Here is Your War*, *Brave Men*, and *Last Chapter*), all of them illuminating not the famous generals of WWII, but rather the trials and tribulations of men in combat, men covered in mud and doing their very best to live amongst the carnage of war. He was a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist writing for Scripps Howard. He was in London when the bombs fell, he lived amongst the flies, sand, and mud of North Africa while young men were fighting and dying at Kasserine. He was in Sicily, and in Italy, and most importantly he struggled amongst the mud and snows of France. He decried the paltry sums paid to young men risking their lives, resulting in the "Ernie Pyle Bill" which increased the pay of soldiers by \$10 a month for what we now call Hazardous Duty Pay. Through it all he never failed to

write not of the strategies and tactics of the generals, but of the humanity of the men at the front. Via this website you can read many of the columns he wrote

<http://journalism.indiana.edu/resources/erniepyle/wartime-columns/>

They are touching, and haunting even today. He described for the people back home the difficulties their boys faced. He told the people back home their sons, when they came home, would never be the same young boys they had been when they left. He tried to help the citizens of the world to understand the war in a way that might begin to prepare the way for young men scarred by war to return to a civilization prepared to help and perhaps understand the horrors war inflicted. All the time he never forgot he was writing so people back home, people in Dana, Bono, and St. Bernice Indiana could understand what he was saying. He was an educated man, Indiana University (where the Ernie Pyle School of Journalism now exists in his honor) yet he never forgot he was just a home grown country boy, raised in the fields of Indiana. In this he and I are very little different, we grew up in the very same place, and I grew up with many of his relatives as classmates. I've walked the same ground, seen the same sights, and known some of the same people he did.

In the early 70's locals banded together to create the Ernie Pyle Foundation with the goal of preserving his boyhood home and



Ernie Pyle

Photo Attribution Unknown
Taken aboard the
USS Cabot

creating it a museum. They fought through multiple fund raising efforts, aided by the Eli Lilly Endowment, the American Legion, and through the American Legion the following allied and associated organizations, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Daughters of American Veterans, and the American Veterans Society, children in Sunday School classes throughout the state, and citizens nation wide to acquire his old home, to restore and remodel it. They moved it from the countryside 2 miles southwest of Dana to a lot inside the town where it could be protected and where it was more easily accessed by visitors. When the donated materials and exhibits exceeded the capacity of the home, Paige Cavanaugh donated about \$65K, and Scripps Howard Publishing donated a quarter of a million dollars to move two of the strongest quonset huts donated by the military to the site to house artifacts. These were erected in

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1995, and the exhibits in them were completed in 1998. People from across the country and indeed from across the world donated money to keep up the site.

Governor Otis Bowen with law passed specially for the purpose, promised the citizens of the state the museum would be maintained in perpetuity. With this promise, short sightedly, the foundation donated the Ernie Pyle Memorial Museum to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Museum system with the understanding it would forever be taken care of, sealed and signed by the governor and provided for by law. In this they were *very* wrong.

When Mitch Daniels (Republican) was elected to the Governorship of Indiana, he took over a state in deep financial straights. He has indeed worked miracles to make Indiana one of the few states with a surplus of money, but money has been dwindling, and the governor has taken it in his head to sell off many of the state assets to replace money going out quicker than it is coming in. One can't fault him for doing what he has thought best, but in the doing he has been less than reasonable in some of his choices. He has sold off the Interstate I-80 Tollway to a company in Spain. And this was just a beginning. Now minions in the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources who run the state's museums have been tasked with paring down the state museums and selling off their assets to help fund the state.

They describe this process as centralization so the many small local museums can have their artifacts gathered at the central Indianapolis based state museum for display (in fact those artifacts sit in dusty boxes destined never to be viewed by anyone like some Indiana Jones warehouse). A local IN-DNR low level area manager who is a specialist in Amish Quilt History, Mrs Kathleen McLary, and who has no appreciation of or understanding of military history or its importance, decided the Ernie Pyle Museum just wasn't important enough to keep. The museum has been costing the state something in the neighborhood of \$7,000 a year to run (shortfall). Rather than ask the Friends of Ernie Pyle Foundation to carry out fundraisers to keep the museum open, or at least help it break even, that Amish History bureaucrat decided the museum wasn't really important and would serve the state best by selling off its assets.

The normal seasonal closing date for the museum, when run by the State of Indiana, was October to Spring, whenever the snows ceased. October is an important time for this locality because it coincides with the yearly Covered Bridge Festival, which takes place in the neighboring county and brings in millions of visitors every year. The largest part of the visitors to the Ernie Pyle Museum attend during this period. The state sites low visitation as the reason for closing the museum, yet before the peak period of visitation they closed it so revenue and visitation would appear to have significantly declined. Last year, 2009, in

In December 2009 Mrs. McLary met with the Ernie Pyle Foundation (17 December) and notified them the museum would be closing and there was no appeal, or even a process of appeal that could be applied to. She did state at the time all the things in the museum would remain for the time being. Unknownst to the Friends of Ernie Pyle Foundation the museum had already been raided for artifacts which have now been secreted away to the dusty caverns of the Indiana Museum system (where exactly the missing artifacts reside at present is not known). Mrs. McLary was not wrong, the items at the Ernie Pyle Museum at the time of her statement would indeed remain, but many important artifacts had already been confiscated without anyone being the wiser.

Now began a process by which the Friends of Ernie Pyle Foundation (FEPF we will call them for ease of reference) went to various state agency heads trying to reverse the verdict. These treks revealed there was an appeals process, but this did nothing really than draw the process out. At most of the state agencies and addressing people as diverse as the Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (Robert Carter) and the Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman the mantra was that they were "team players" and would do nothing to overthrow the decisions made. Even the Governor, Mitch Daniels was appealed to through his council David Phippen and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the DNR (Doug

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Huntsinger) who all toed the line on closure. Members of the FEPP who attended this meeting got the distinct impression the governor's staff were merely biding their required time (15 minutes) so the process could be said to have run its course, then they said no.

During this appeals process it turned out the DNR was in the process of "deaccession" which was the administrative process by which the DNR overturns state law denying the ability of the state to dispose of state assets such as museums, which are supposed to be cared for in perpetuity. In this case it was law specifically organized by the state legislature and ex-Governor Otis Bowen for the express purpose of creating the Ernie Pyle Museum. It was only via a reporter, Mike Harden, of the Columbus Dispatch (Ohio), who happened accidentally to be attending the Deaccession meeting at which the DNR was seeking to dispose of the Ernie Pyle Museum behind the backs of the FEPP, that the FEPP discovered the state was attempting a back door method of disposing of the museum and its assets without anyone knowing about it. The Deaccession process requires two "public," or in this case Not So Public, hearings before the State of Indiana can dispose of a property absent the legislature knowing about it. At the second of these meetings the FEPP and as many reporters as the FEPP could convince to join them attended the meeting. The

process was cancelled only when the perfidious efforts of Governor Daniel's minions were brought to light. Still, the governor officially rejected the appeals process, a process originally described by Mrs. McLary as not existing, and the governor demanded the closure of the museum.

However, the governor has provided a means by which the FEPP can regain ownership of the museum, confirmed by an e-mail from Huntsinger (Deputy Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources) dated 20 May 2010 sent to the board members of the FEPP. The State of Indiana is willing to return the museum to the FEPP by an imposed August 1st deadline, if the State of Indiana can be convinced the FEPP has a viable plan to acquire and maintain the museum.

At a meeting on the 24th of June 2010 at the Dana Community Fire House, attended by me and other interested parties, the FEPP discussed various methods by which they might reacquire the museum, its artifacts, those not pillaged by the State of Indiana, and take responsibility for the operation of the museum. At the meeting the board and attendees discussed 5 possible outcomes:

1. Aided hopefully by State of Indiana representatives to the Congress in Washington, D.C. perhaps the United States Federal Government and its museum system can be persuaded into taking ownership of the facility.
2. The FEPP and any local government entities (City of

Dana, Helt Township, or County of Vermillion) take ownership of the museum with the hope to eventually return the museum to the State of Indiana when economics permit it to again be possible for the state to economically run the facility. *[In discussions with Phil Hess, one of the board members of the FEPP I have personally described this as ill advised, the state of Indiana has already proven unreliable, why allow the shark that bit you an opportunity to do it again? What was it Scotty said on Star Trek, "Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me!"]*

3. The FEPP and any local government entity take ownership of the site permanently, operating it as long as financially possible. *[Again in discussions with Phil Hess I have described this as unwise as the local government entities are financially broke and just as likely to end up viewing the museum as a source of revenue one day, rather than a national treasure to be preserved. Further, even under the best of conditions, the local entities lack any resources to help.]*

4. The FEPP takes sole ownership of the museum and operates it on their own. *[This is an expensive proposition, and one which may end up with the museum being closed within 10 years if funding cannot be driven to support the museum. It is to this end, however, I appeal to the readership to donate money for the museum. If enough up front*

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money is invested by the foundation, then it has an honest chance at preserving the museum for the future. The Ernie Pyle Museum and the memories to which it is dedicated and the man who is its subject, and the men to which he dedicated his writing are truly national treasures. My father, who is 86, is one of the veterans of that war – HQ & HQ Bty, 6th Inf. Div, a gracefully aging man who remembers still the mud of New Guinea and the Philippines. His is a fading populace, veterans of the greatest war known to man, a man of the “Greatest Generation”.]

5. Come August 1st the FEPP simply accepts the verdict of the State of Indiana and the State simply auctions off the property and the artifacts to private collectors to raise money to fund the governors various projects.

In discussions with Phil Hess and the board members, they have agreed the museum realistically would need in excess of a million dollars to insure its future. With that they can invest enough money to provide an interest income that would support the museum, a curator, and perhaps provide advertising money to bring in more visitors. Just what the final estimated amount of need is not yet known. Of course much of it relies upon the economy and the return one might expect from investments over the years. For instance if the museum needs \$100,000 a year to operate, an income of 6%

on investments providing that amount would require a base capital of \$1.7 Million, if you can get 6% interest, and no one is getting 6% these days.

Below are local news articles appearing in the Terre Haute Tribune Star, and one of Ernie Pyle’s columns written for Scripps Howard January 10, 1944.

The following two articles are printed with the gracious permission of Max Jones editor of the Terre Haute Tribune Star and the Tribune Publishing Company. They, like I, are trying to aid the Friends of Ernie Pyle in the Quest to save the Ernie Pyle Museum.

Friends of Ernie Pyle Foundation Ponders Next Step State Has Set Aug. 1 Deadline For Transfer Plan For Historic Site

By: Sue Loughlin -

The Terre Haute Tribune-Star
Thursday, June 24, 2010

DANA, IN — With appeals to the state now exhausted, the not-for-profit Friends of Ernie Pyle are exploring options to transfer and reopen the museum dedicated to the well-known World War II correspondent, who was born in Vermillion County.

“Having lost our appeal to the governor’s office ... there is no further appeal,” said Friends’ spokesman Phil Hess.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, citing low visitation numbers and state budget cuts, no longer wants to operate the Ernie Pyle museum

and birthplace, which closed several months ago.

State officials have given the Friends until Aug. 1 to come up with a plan to transfer ownership to the nonprofit group, alone or in partnership with other community or governmental groups. If that doesn’t happen, the state will move the exhibits and sell the real estate of the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site.

The Friends board conducted a meeting Thursday to present the options and to determine if a local government agency – Vermillion County, Helt Township or the Town of Dana – would be willing to accept the transfer of real estate.

The Friends would take ownership of the exhibits and furnishings and would be responsible for funding, operating and managing the site with an expanded Friends’ board of directors.

About 40 people attended the meeting at the town firehouse, including representatives of the town board and township as well as Daniel Holland, representing Congressman Brad Ellsworth.

The main purpose of the meeting, Hess said, was to find out what government organization might accept the transfer of real estate.

Hess outlined some other possible options:

- Making the site a federal museum. Ellsworth and Sen. Evan Bayh have been contacted.

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- In the future, restoring the museum to the state historic site system “when the politics and economy allow,” Hess said. He has been advised that the best way to facilitate that would be for local government to take ownership of the real estate and the Friends to take ownership of exhibits, artifacts and furnishings.

- Transferring all property to the Friends, which Hess described as a “less ideal” option.

- Ceasing operation, with the exhibits transferred to host sites that have more visitors, and the real property transferred to local use.

One option that is not acceptable, Hess said, is allowing the state to take the exhibits and dispose of the real estate. “We can’t allow that,” he said in an interview Wednesday.

Hess also said that “if we [Friends] fail, we want to relocate that property ourselves ... We’ll look for the best place to transfer the exhibits.”

Among those attending Thursday’s meeting was Tom Gilbert, the Dana town board president, and Scott Craig, the town attorney. The town board is receptive to the possibility of accepting the property transfer, Gilbert said after the meeting.

Craig suggested that if the town could use part of the museum for office space, such as for the town clerk-treasurer, it also could assist with some operating costs, such as for

utilities.

Leonard Akers, who contacted the offices of Ellsworth and Bayh, said Pyle was a national figure and he believes the museum should become a federal historic site.

At the meeting’s conclusion, Hess said the Friends will contact and have further talks with the county and town officials about transfer of the real estate. If the Friends does take over operation, it will require fundraising and volunteers. “When it comes time, I’d like for you to volunteer,” he told those assembled.

DNR informed the museum’s board in December it intended to close the historic site, located in Dana, and move the memorabilia to Indianapolis. Hess and others began rallying to save the historic birthplace and museum.

Pyle, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, was killed during a Japanese attack on Le-Shima on April 18, 1945, while traveling with U.S. troops there. He generally wrote from the perspective of the common soldier, and his columns were widely read. During Thursday’s meeting, Hess outlined the various appeals Friends’ have made since learning the state wanted to close the historic site.

On May 6, Hess, Friends’ president Cynthia Myers and Norton Newcomb met with representatives of the governor’s office – general counsel David Phippen and policy director Doug Huntsinger.

But in a letter dated May 19, Phippen and Huntsinger said that continued state funding isn’t justified, and they reiterated two options previously presented by the DNR.

Those options are for the Friends group, alone or in partnership with other community groups, to accept ownership of the site. The property would retain the title of “State Historic Site” and DNR would list and promote the site, the letter said.

If no outside organization takes ownership, the DNR would remove exhibits and the real estate would be sold by the Department of Administration. Exhibits would be delivered to the Indiana State Museum and other potential partners (such as the Ernie Pyle School of Journalism) for display, the letter said.

In the letter, Phippen and Huntsinger asked the Friends to contact DNR by Aug. 1 with their plan.

Also up for discussion Thursday was how the Friends could fund and operate the facility. Hess talked about expanding the board of directors from the current five to 13 members.

The board members could rotate weekly supervision of volunteers, and the goal would be to recruit 40 volunteers who would work one day a month. The museum would be open from April 1 to mid-October.

Other possibilities would include using interns and a paid, part-time manager. Friends does have funding to operate the site

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for a few years, Hess said. Also, anticipated revenue would come from visitors, gift shop sales and donations.

Among those attending the meeting was Evelyn Hobson, the museum's curator for 20 years who helped gather many of the artifacts and exhibits. "I can't believe they [the state] could do what they are doing. Ernie Pyle is a hero of all of the veterans of World War II because he cared about them ... He dug a foxhole right alongside the boys."

The effort by Friends of Ernie Pyle to save the museum "has got to work out," she said.

Indiana Editors Visit Threatened Ernie Pyle Museum

By: Sue Loughlin

The Terre Haute Tribune-Star
Friday, June 25, 2010

DANA, Ind. -- Tim Harmon never before had visited the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site. But on Friday, the managing editor of the South Bend Tribune joined a group of editors and journalists from across the state - with a few from Illinois - to see firsthand the museum dedicated to the famed World War II journalist.

Harmon studied journalism at Indiana University, where Pyle also studied from 1919 to 1923. It's now known as the Ernie Pyle School of Journalism. "I've never felt so moved by his writing as I was today," Harmon said after the tour ended. "The exhibits and the film really show me what a great

journalist he was and what a wonderful job he did. This is a great exhibit. I hope they can keep this going."

The editors didn't visit the historic site with any set agenda, but they are aware the museum's future is in question.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, citing low visitation numbers and state budget cuts, no longer wants to operate the Ernie Pyle museum and birthplace, which closed several months ago.

State officials have given the nonprofit group Friends of Ernie Pyle until Aug. 1 to come up with a plan for the museum's future. The Friends can accept ownership, alone or in partnership with other community or governmental groups. If that doesn't happen, the state will move the exhibits and sell the real estate of the Ernie Pyle State Historic Site.

On Friday, Harmon wasn't prepared to say who should own and operate the museum, but "somebody should," he said.

He suggested that journalistic organizations may be able to provide support in some way, by getting the word out and perhaps by assisting financially. "These are tough times but there's not that much money that is needed," Harmon said. "It would be a terrible shame for it to close." He believes journalists from across the country should make a pilgrimage to the historic site. Terre Haute Tribune-Star editor Max Jones, who arranged the tour, said the visit "was not hatched as a crusade of any sort." Several of the

editors had been at a state meeting and began talking about the possibility of the museum closing. Many never had visited the site and wanted to do so "before something happens, such as it being completely gone," Jones said. The editors and journalists decided to meet at the museum as a group. "The state was kind enough to give us access, and we really appreciate that," Jones said. Friends of Ernie Pyle led the tours, attended by about 30 editors, journalists and spouses. Jones said both World War II veterans and journalists feel a connection with Pyle. "He has a special place in Indiana history," Jones said.

"My dad was in World War II and he talked about Ernie Pyle when I was a kid. I could always tell that men of his generation had a special affection for Ernie Pyle," Jones said.

Journalists also have a great admiration for the Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent, whose widely read columns told the stories of average soldiers. From a personal standpoint, Jones hopes something can be worked out and the museum remain open.

Another first-time visitor to the site was Craig Klugman, editor of the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. "I think Ernie Pyle deserves a memorial. I'm not sure what it should be," he said. He didn't necessarily believe it had to be located in Dana, Pyle's hometown.

Klugman believes a memorial is important because of

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what Pyle meant "not only to people who lived and fought during World War II, but also to journalists everywhere."

Dennis Ryerson, editor of the Indianapolis Star, is not a native Hoosier. As a journalist, he knew about Pyle, but he learned a lot during Friday's tour. "I just hope they find a way to continue this wonderful tribute, not only to him but to his incredible writing," he said.

Pyle's writing had a simple elegance that told a simple truth, Ryerson said. He's glad that local government groups are working with the Friends "to make something good happen."

Locating the exhibits to a more populated area would enable larger numbers of people to experience it and learn about Pyle, "but you'd sure hate to jerk it away from Dana," Ryerson said.

Mike Marturello, editor of the Angola Herald-Republican, said the tour was "very informative." The National Military History Center in Auburn is working on an Ernie Pyle display, he said. The Center would be interested in the exhibits, if they were to become available.

Whatever lies in the museum's future, Marturello believes the exhibits should remain together in one place. "I don't know where the perfect place is," he said.

Phil Potempa, a columnist for The Times of Northwest Indiana, said that going through the museum gave him the feeling

that he was walking in Pyle's footsteps.

"I'd like them to continue to keep everything open," he said.

"Everything is here, and it's set up and it's so beautifully designed the attention to detail is just amazing."

He doesn't believe the display in Dana could be replicated at another site, such as the Indiana State Museum. He's concerned some of the exhibits would be archived and kept in storage.

The museum "needs to stay right here where it belongs," Potempa said. He hoped that the editors and journalists assembled Friday would help get the word out. "I don't think people are aware. I wasn't aware this was something that was going to happen until two days ago," when he was informed the tour might be his last chance to see the museum. The editors and journalists, with their outreach potential, "could certainly make a difference," said Potempa, who plans to write a column about the museum and its uncertain future. He personally believes the state should maintain the historic site.

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The Death of Captain Waskow By Ernie Pyle

AT THE FRONT LINES IN ITALY, January 10, 1944 - *In this war I have known a lot of officers who were loved and respected by the soldiers under them. But never have I crossed the trail of any man as beloved as Capt. Henry T. Waskow of Belton, Texas.*

Capt. Waskow was a company commander in the 36th Division. He had led his company since long before it left the States. He was very young, only in his middle twenties, but he carried in him a sincerity and gentleness that made people want to be guided by him.

"After my own father, he came next," a sergeant told me.

"He always looked after us," a soldier said. "He'd go to bat for us every time."

"I've never knowed him to do anything unfair," another one said.

I was at the foot of the mule trail the night they brought Capt. Waskow's body down. The moon was nearly full at the time, and you could see far up the trail, and even part way across the valley below. Soldiers made shadows in the moonlight as they walked.

Dead men had been coming down the mountain all evening, lashed onto the backs of

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mules. They came lying belly-down across the wooden pack-saddles, their heads hanging down on the left side of the mule, their stiffened legs sticking out awkwardly from the other side, bobbing up and down as the mule walked.

The Italian mule-skinners were afraid to walk beside dead men, so Americans had to lead the mules down that night. Even the Americans were reluctant to unlash and lift off the bodies at the bottom, so an officer had to do it himself, and ask others to help.

The first one came early in the morning. They slid him down from the mule and stood him on his feet for a moment, while they got a new grip. In the half light he might have been merely a sick man standing there, leaning on the others. Then they laid him on the ground in the shadow of the low stone wall alongside the road.

I don't know who that first one was. You feel small in the presence of dead men, and ashamed at being alive, and you don't ask silly questions.

We left him there beside the road, that first one, and we all went back into the cowshed and sat on water cans or lay on the straw, waiting for the next batch of mules.

Somebody said the dead soldier had been dead for four days, and then nobody said anything more about it. We talked soldier talk for an hour or more. The dead man lay all alone outside in the shadow of the low stone wall.

Then a soldier came into the cowshed and said there were some more bodies outside. We went out into the road. Four mules stood there, in the moonlight, in the road where the trail came down off the mountain. The soldiers who led them stood there waiting. "This one is Captain Waskow," one of them said quietly.

Two men unlash his body from the mule and lifted it off and laid it in the shadow beside the low stone wall. Other men took the other bodies off. Finally there were five lying end to end in a long row, alongside the road. You don't cover up dead men in the combat zone. They just lie there in the shadows until somebody else comes after them.

The unburdened mules moved off to their olive orchard. The men in the road seemed reluctant to leave. They stood around, and gradually one by one I could sense them moving close to Capt. Waskow's body. Not so much to look, I think, as to say something in finality to him, and to themselves. I stood close by and I could hear.

One soldier came and looked down, and he said out loud, "God damn it." That's all he said, and then he walked away. Another one came. He said, "God damn it to hell anyway." He looked down for a few last moments, and then he turned and left.

Another man came; I think he was an officer. It was hard to tell officers from men in the half light, for all were bearded and grimy dirty. The man looked down into the dead captain's face, and then he spoke directly to him, as

though he were alive. He said: "I'm sorry, old man."

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, and he sat there for a full five minutes, holding the dead hand in his own and 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 his uniform around the wound. And then he got up and walked away down the road in the moonlight, all alone.

After that the rest of us went back into the cowshed, leaving the five dead men lying in a line, end to end, in the shadow of the low stone wall. We lay down on the straw in the cowshed, and pretty soon we were all asleep.

I had read these words before, but in 1990 I was fortunate enough to attend the Ernie Pyle Festival in Dana, Indiana where Mr. William Windom (the actor) was putting on a one man play reading the works of Ernie Pyle. Now when I read this, I hear it in his voice, a

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sad dolorous voice, tired and weary. It's something you don't forget, the words or his voice. And I am somehow sure, that had I not grown up here in the shadow of Ernie Pyle, I would never have thought to write as I do now, as a semi-professional writer. It just would never have occurred to me.

I hope you all will do your level best to send what donations you can to support the museum. The members of the foundation believe they can get by with just a few thousand a year in needed support. I've run companies, start up companies, and I know better than that. The facility will need to pay for things like hook up to the new sewage treatment facility being constructed for the City of Dana, Indiana where the museum rests. This will not be an inconsiderable bill, and monthly sewage/water bill will skyrocket too. Cities routinely underestimate these costs, and when the bills come they are usually 2 to 3 times their estimates. There will be new roofs and a myriad of things that will crop up. It's certain the museum will need to obtain donations of something north of \$150K a year just to maintain itself. And, if the time comes when it has excess, perhaps the Ernie Pyle Foundation can become a benefactor by offering scholarships to worthy students of history, foreign affairs, and of course, journalism. This can in fact become a means in itself of driving visitors to the museum in that the universities from which

students apply for the scholarships can be encouraged to send expeditions to the museum, collections of students, who would visit the facility. But in order for the museum to be viable they need a significant amount of money. In a way perhaps I am a beneficiary of the influence of Ernie Pyle, though I never thought in those terms. Maybe though there are things subliminal no one ever thinks about that influence our lives. Maybe perhaps for me that influence was Ernie Pyle. Certainly his words have never failed to move me. I hope they will not be forgotten. I know Old Soldiers Magazine has subscribers who are millionaires, people who can be significant supporters. And there are those like me who don't have much, please do what you can to financially support the effort to retain the Ernie Pyle Museum in its present form, a benefit to his home community and to the memory of those he wrote about.

Donations can be sent to:

The Friends of Ernie Pyle
Foundation
(a certified 501c3 not for profit
organization)
Post Office Box 345
Dana, IN 47847

[For those who need paypal, please contact me directly and I will make arrangements. The Friends of Ernie Pyle Foundation is at this moment building a website and making arrangements for paypal. Until then, it is possible to arrange donations from outside the country via other

means. But, by the time this is published, paypal may already be available.]

[Post Script: 29 June, 2010]

At a the Dana Indiana Community Fire House another meeting was held by the Friends of Ernie Pyle. At the meeting were the Hoosier State Press Association (represented by Max Jones of the Tribune Publishing Company – articles above were provided via his and the Tribune Publishing Company), the board of directors of the Vermillion County Historical Society, the Helt Township Trustee, and the President of the Dana Town Board, the lawyer for the town of Dana, and of course me.

The discussion was again what course to take regarding the future of the museum. It was noted the State of Indiana has already expressed its hostility regarding the museum, and it was expressly said by several there was nothing to stop the state from coming in and raiding the museum further. Speedy action was deemed a necessity, both legally and financially. The Vermillion County Historical Society has offered to take the museum upon its own shoulders to preserve it. Yet they have even less funding than the FEPP, they don't even have the funds necessary to repair the building in which the Vermillion County Historical Society is lodged. Certainly though they were concerned with further state looting of the site. The attorney for the City of Dana said legally

End of the Ernie Pyle Museum

Continued

there wasn't any way to prevent the state from taking what was "theirs" and did the FEPP wish to spend money and time trying to fight the state if became necessary? The Hoosier State Press Association stood ready to provide legal aid and press exposure throughout the state, and through the larger publications, nationally and internationally, regarding the ongoing situation with the museum. It is their hope the governor and his brood will see discretion as the better part of valor and do their level best to act in a way more helpful to their public image, i.e. resist the urge to pillage the site further and indeed perhaps be persuaded to return that which was removed in the dark of night. Further the Press Association hopes to urge the Governor and the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources to give the FEPP the time necessary to conduct fund drives and to organize the legal documents necessary and personnel necessary to run the museum. It is their proposal the state give the FEPP and the Hoosier State Press Association a year in which to prepare the ground work to take ownership of the facility. As of this writing, the attorney for the town of Dana is writing a letter to the Governor and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, in concert with the attorneys of the Hoosier State Press Association. Nothing more is currently known.

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 Set of 40 Cards
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#1 Sgt. Mallard **CCV: 8/5 SL**
 Machine Pistol: **X6**

Range	FP
0	0
1	0
2	0
3	1
4	3
5	5

MORALE: 5 PT: 51 KIA: 8

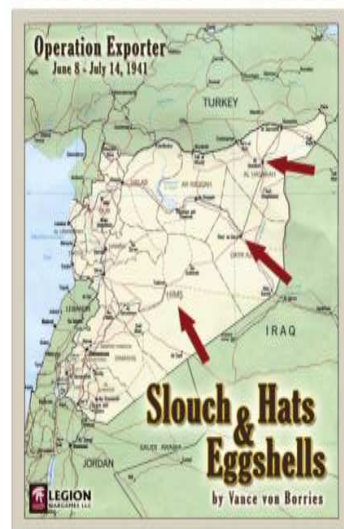


Maylah Ghat **India**
 1859

VC
 Pvt. Cook



PANIC: 4 CCV: -1/-1 KIA: 9
ROUT: 0r RNC > 4
Available: 4/43
No Secondary Weapons Allowed
No Moving Fire



Slouch Hat & Eggshells
 Operation Exporter June 8 - July 14, 1941
 Designer: Vance von Borries

This game covers the World War II campaign in French-held Syria and Lebanon. One player will control the Axis forces, Vichy French, French colonial troops, and Germans, while his opponent controls the Allied forces, consisting of Australian, British, and French.

Players can combine play of this game with that of Rommel's War, scheduled to be published by L2 Design Group. Both games include the same historical moment, have identical scales, and some of the same historical units. To facilitate such play, this game uses many of the same rules, charts, and tables that are found in Rommel's War.

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