



## This Week in Indiana History

April 18th, 1945:

### Ernie Pyle Dies During the Battle of Okinawa

Ernie Pyle, war correspondent during some of the toughest fighting of the second world war in the in both the European and Pacific Theaters died in the battle of Okinawa on the island of Lejima. From Dana, Indiana, the Hoosier was known for reporting battles from the perspective of the common soldier. One of the most popular war time reporters at the time, Ernie Pyle was a beloved journalist who raised morale with the troops and put himself in the line of danger so that other's stories could be told.

## *Ernie Pyle Killed in S. Pacific*

The Daily Clintonian, April 18, 1945 -  
Indiana Newspaper Collection

### Dana-born Writer Killed With U.S. Troops in Advance on Ie Shima

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The Navy announced today that Ernie Pyle, famed war correspondent, was killed yesterday during the battle for Okinawa.

Pyle, known around the world as the "Doughboys" war correspondent, was killed by a bullet from a Japanese machine gun, the Navy announcement said.

#### Dies With Army Men

The writer was advancing with a regiment of the 24th Army Corps in the battle to take Ie Shima, Japanese held island near the gateway to Tokyo.

Thus Pyle who lived in intimate terms with the foot soldier through the battles, dirt and grime of Africa, Sicily, Italy and France, died with the men he loved and who loved him.

Pyle was on the war fronts from the time of the London blitz.

He wrote shortly before he left for the Pacific that he did not want to go back to the wars, that he had seen enough of death and destruction, but he felt it his duty to return. He said at the time he thought his luck might be running out but he would have to take his chances.

#### With First Wave

For the past two months Pyle had been with the Navy, writing of the  
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Want to learn more? Visit the library and read these books!

The Story of Ernie Pyle / ISLI 920.5 P996MI

An Ernie Pyle Album: Indiana to Ie Shima / ISLI 920.5 P996M

The Soldiers' Voice: The Story of Ernie Pyle / ISLI 920.5 P996O