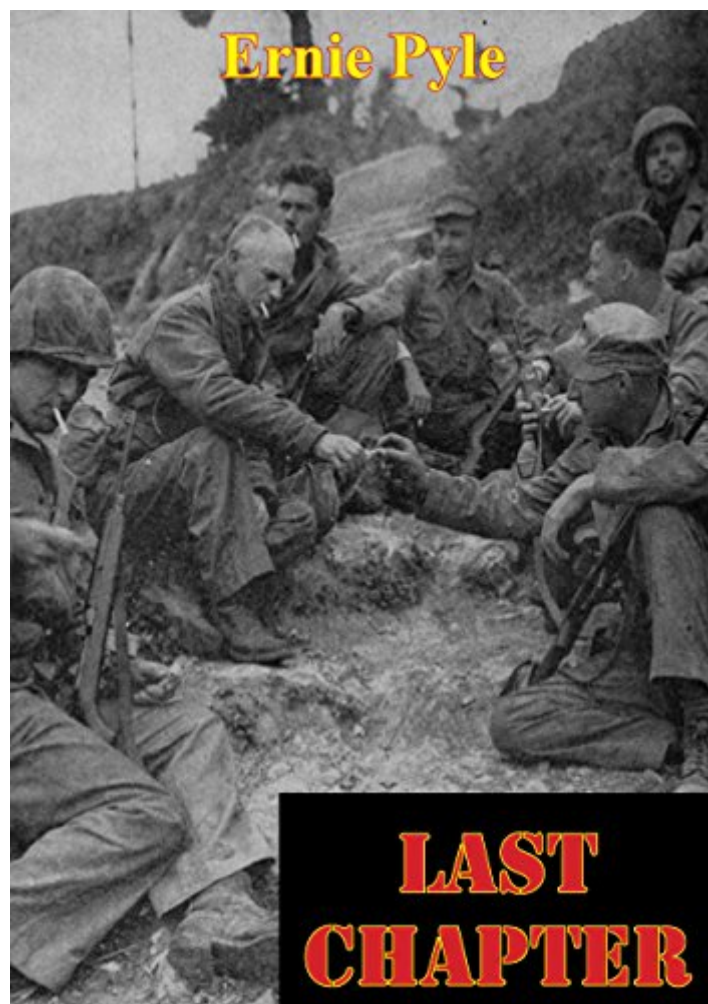


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Last Chapter



Synopsis

"No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told," wrote Harry Truman. "He deserves the gratitude of all his countrymen." THIS is the final book of Ernie Pyle's war reporting. After Africa, Italy, and D-Day on the European continent, Pyle took it the hard way again. There was still the Pacific war to win, and where the fighting was Ernie had to go, soul-sick though he was with the thousands of scenes of death and destruction he had already witnessed. He was attached to the Navy early in 1945. In the Marianas first and then living with the boys who flew the B-29s over the Japanese homeland, Pyle was experiencing a side of the war that was new to him. Next he joined an aircraft carrier on the invasion of Okinawa. He made the landing with the Marines and saw Okinawa secured. Then his luck ran out. A Japanese bullet killed Ernie Pyle on April 17th, 1945 on Ie Shima, and Americans lost their greatest and best-loved correspondent. Millions mourned the going of this modest man who wrote of the war with all honesty and no pretensions, and whose writings will stand as one of the most vital records of the struggle. LAST CHAPTER is a brief, brave little book to complete that record permanently. There is a sixteen-page picture section and an index of names and places.

Book Information

File Size: 2121 KB

Print Length: 133 pages

Publisher: Pickle Partners Publishing; PPP1 - Kindle Formatted edition (April 16, 2015)

Publication Date: April 16, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B00WAK44K0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #12,361 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #36 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > World War II #39 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Military History #68 in Books > History > Military > World War II

Customer Reviews

This is the type of book that you can read over and over again. While reading this book, I felt as though I was transported back in time to the places that Ernie Pyle wrote. Most of the other war books that I have read have been either really technical or unemotional. The way Ernie Pyle would write about people as people and not just another number in a battalion of numbers is what separates his works from others. Right now, I am living in Okinawa, not far from where Ernie Pyle was killed. After reading this book, it provoked me to go visit his memorial and pay my respects. I highly recommend this book.

I loved reading this book. It is the second Pyle book that I have read. If you are a history enthusiast or a baby boomer, I think you would enjoy reading about this time in history which enveloped our parent's lives. My father was in W.W. I I. I find that time before my birth so interesting. I feel like I am reliving my parent's lives and it has helped me to understand them better and to appreciate the lives they led.

Like other of Ernie Pyles' writings this book focuses on the individual soldiers. He talks about their fears, their homes, their dreams, their families, and their experiences. The historical facts are only mentioned to provide context. Reading this book will not give you the history of the war, but will provide experiences of war. The mention of so many men's addresses helps readers identify. Suddenly you say to yourself, I walked past that house everyday on the way to ... It makes the whole book more personal.

Like many people I had heard of Ernie, however, this is the first of his books I have read, because as A Marine I had spent time in that part of the World, and especially Okinawa, and troop transports...Pyle's writing is slow and easy to read, yet moves right along...I really like where he identifies the people he is talking too, name, where they are from,, etc...For some of these troops, that might be the only written word, that they were there...I am starting on his book, "Brave Men"...Ernie gives us a feel about the times and the people, what their , military and civilian lives were like...Another time, another place, Highly Recommended...Dutch.....

Anybody who has read anything of WW II knows the name of Ernie Pyle. He was the voice of the common soldier, airmen, sailor or marine . He is missed. I will read every book he has written. This is the second book of his I have read. I highly recommend to all to read his books. Ralph G

Pyle's books should be required reading in school. He is as current today as he was in the war. It's not just the realism of his recounting the individuals' situations around him, but also that he provides a wisdom of those moments in such poignant detail, wisdom that he and the people he wrote about knew, yet we have collectively forgotten. This book picked up where *Brave Men* left off, the abruptness of its end being the crowning touch of what he had already conveyed about so many others, only of course, it was our loss of him. It may be to macabrely reflect on this, but his death in a way represented all that he was trying to show us about war and the war experience.

Unfinished manuscripts collected at the time of his death on Okinawa at the hands of a Japanese sniper. It's Ernie Pyle alright, but you keep having the feeling that he had more to say, as I'm sure he did. He was, I think, 44...

Ernie Pyle's reportage in World War II made him famous and, as they say, "beloved." He liked the grunts and army more than he did the brass, and his sympathies are obvious. His collected writing from the front should be read chronologically -- "Ernie Pyle in England," "This Is Your War," "Brave Men," "Last Chapter." He was a folksy writer, maybe naive and with Pollyanna tendencies, sort of at the opposite end of the spectrum from A.J. Liebling. But as the war went on he grew wiser and less optimistic. Naive maybe, but an authentic voice. He thrust himself into the war and suffered along with the troops. He was killed in combat just before Japan surrendered. He was a famous part of World War II and deserves attention for that reason alone. On top of which, his prose is still pleasant to read.

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