



Name: Edward R. Murrow

Years: April 25, 1908- April 27, 1965

Residence: Pawling, NY

Brief Biography: Egbert Roscoe Murrow was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, but grew up in the state of Washington. He changed his name to Edward in his second year of college. He graduated from Washington State College in 1930 and soon married Janet Huntington Brewster, with whom he had a son. Murrow began his broadcast career in 1935 when he was hired by CBS as the director of talks and education. From there his career blossomed as he was made the director of CBS' European Bureau in London. With the start of World War II, Murrow's voice was brought to the listening public as he began his radio broadcasts of the Battle of Brittan. He became famous for these broadcasts, always starting with "This... is London". He was known for reporting descriptively from the scene and flew in 25 missions during the war, to the horror of CBS officials who regarded him as too valuable for such dangerous tasks. He was the first allied correspondent inside a Nazi concentration camp and during the London air raids, his office was bombed three times. Each time he escaped without injury. After the war, Murrow became a vice president of CBS in news operations in America. However, he was only away from the microphone

18 months when he realized that broadcast was his true calling. He soon began a radio news show, "Edward R. Murrow with the News" which ran for daily for 13 years. He ended every news report in radio, and later in television with his famous sign-off "good night and good luck". In 1951 Murrow made his switch from radio to TV with the beginning of a series of documentaries entitled "See It Now", the most famous of which examined McCarthyism. The program showed film clips of Senator McCarthy and his methods of crusade against communism. The program depicted McCarthy in an unfavorable light, and the movement soon lost popularity. Today, many speculate that a program of this nature would have never been allowed to air had it been done by anyone but Murrow. He had built up such a level of respect and prestige that he was nearly free from authority. Murrow continued working for CBS up until 1961, when President Kennedy chose him to be the director of the United States Information Agency where he was in chief in charge of propaganda. Throughout his career Murrow and his wife held two residences, one on Park Avenue and the other, a log home in Pawling, New York. In 1965, at age 57, Murrow passed away from Lung Cancer, however, his legacy lives on. He is noted for his unwavering truth in reporting and dedication to the art of journalism. To this day he remains an undisputed idol of what journalists aspire towards.

Major Accomplishments: Repeatedly won the Peabody award for excellence in Radio and Television. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1964). Named an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II, received similar honors in Belgium, France and Sweden. Won George Polk Awards (1951 & 1952) and a Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album (1967).

References:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/edward-r-murrow/this-reporter/513/>,
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/bday/0425.html>,
<http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/M/htmlM/murrowedwar/murrowedwar.htm>,

More Information:

Movies: *Good Night and Good Luck (2005)*, *Sink the Bismarck (1960)*

Books: Edwards, Bob "Edward R. Murrow and the Birth of Broadcast Journalism", Kendrick, Alexander "Prime Time: The Life of Edward R. Murrow", Murrow, Edward R. and Ed Bliss, "In Search of Light: The News Broadcasts of Edward R. Murrow"