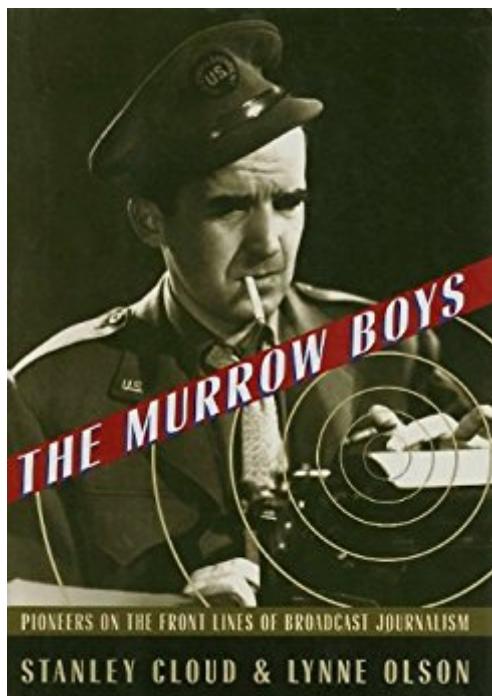


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# The Murrow Boys: Pioneers In The Front Lines Of Broadcast Journalism



## Synopsis

DESCRIPTION "The Murrow Boys" tells the story of the legendary band of correspondents who, under Edward R. Murrow's direction, formed CBS's pioneering World War II news team and, in doing so, invented modern broadcast journalism. All in their twenties and thirties, Murrow and the Boys (who included William L. Shirer, Eric Sevareid, and Howard K. Smith) covered and brought to vivid life the war's great events, from the German invasion of Poland to D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. Young idealists, they believed they were here to change the world. But their triumphant early careers, which made them celebrities in America, would eventually come to grief in the fickle world of broadcasting. The increasing desire for entertainment, McCarthyism, the rise of corporate sponsorship, and ultimately the birth of television all conspired to taint the tradition of serious journalism as the Boys had known it. A dramatic, exhilarating narrative that portrays exceptional lives against the tumultuous backdrop of the last half century, *The Murrow Boys* is both a powerful reminder of the possibilities of broadcast journalism and a sharp-eyed account of where the craft went wrong.

REVIEWS "This is one of those rare books, a history so vivid and clear you get fifty years younger by reading it, about a shining moment in the radio business, CBS's reporting from Europe at the outset of World War II." -- Garrison Keillor "These great correspondents created and set the early standards for broadcast news. They and their dramatic stories represent the 'right stuff' of journalism." -- Walter Cronkite "A lively, colloquial history of broadcast journalism that is so exciting one's impulse is to read it in a single sitting." -- Publishers Weekly (starred review) "One of the most fascinating and important accounts of broadcast journalism I have read." -- Jeff Greenfield, *Time* "A riveting, entertaining, exhilarating, warts-and-all story." -- New York Daily News "A wonderful evocation of a time and of a group of men bound together by their loyalty to Edward R. Murrow. Men of integrity all, but not without petty jealousies, ambition, intrigue, and yes, great courage, too." -- Morley Safer "A greater appreciation of the glories of broadcasting can be gained by reading [this] book than by observing the reporting and interviewing styles of...current news personalities." -- New York Times "A book to savor." -- BookPage "Consistently fascinating, *The Murrow Boys* is essential reading for anyone interested in broadcast journalism...Stanley Cloud and Lynne Olson give us a splendid sense of the professional heritage that broadcast journalists might someday reclaim." -- Dallas Morning News

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A wonderfully well written and attention-grabbing book about the broadcast journalists some of us grew up listening to during the mid-century. An alternative subtitle (to paraphrase William Shirer) could be "The rise and fall of broadcast journalism in America." Cloud and Olson have crafted a fascinating story of how Edward R. Murrow and his team invented broadcast journalism and transported the craft to maturity, and then how CBS and the other major broadcasting networks reduced the profession to its current impotency. Biographical sketches of each team member along with stories about the relationships among the individuals provide much of the substance. To tell this story, the authors relied upon a wide range of sources including personal interviews with surviving members of the Murrow Boys before the book was originally published in 1996. A revised epilogue brings the book up to date. I recommend this book to American history buffs, WWII enthusiasts, and those who are interested in the history of journalism.

One of the best history books I've ever read, if not the best. Olson and Cloud put you with Murrow and the Boys every step of the way, from their beginning to their last days. The book pulls no punches, describing the common love and loathing that transpired over a half century span they lived. I can't wait to go to YouTube (ironically a tech invention the boys would have hated) to find audio and/or video of these guys. Sevareid was one of my personal broadcast idols, but I only knew him from his commentaries on Cronkite's CBS Evening News. This book shows me who he really was, how smart and egotistical he was. Modern CBS, Rather, etc won't like this book. It's too

damned honest. If you have any interest in the real history of radio, please read this book, read it slowly like a student studying a text book. I've never enjoyed a read as much as *The Murrow Boys*.

This was a fantastic account of those years of journalism. The Murrow boys and, of course, Ed Murrow himself, were one-of-a kind and Lynne Olson's narrative of them and the times was very fascinating and readable, especially for those who like that subject matter. Current-day television news will never have the flavor and courage to report what the Murrow Boys did. How sad.

Fantastic history of the early days of radio journalism and WW II. Murrow and "the Boys" had to just make it up as they went along because radios journalism did not exist. There was no model for it. Fascinating links following the Murrow Boys all the way through their careers. Highly recommend.

Edward R. Murrow put together the first real broadcast news team in the late 1930s, on the eve of World War II, without either Murrow nor his bosses at CBS or the people working with him in the field realizing fully that they were doing. It was something no one had ever done before and despite their human frailties, or perhaps enriched by them, they accomplished something wonderful. The story is told marvelously with an appreciation for both the successes and the failures, the strengths and the shortcomings. It's a story of very human and imperfect people who accomplished something great. As a personal reflection, it is sad that the greatness they created and inspired in others and come and largely gone with what passes as broadcast journalism today a shallow reflection of what once was. It probably died or at least dimished sometime after Walter Cronkite and Huntley-Brinkley.

Fascinating view of the early days of broadcast news, the men who invented it, and the corporate concerns that took their high standards and turned it into what it is today.

Olsen and Gould go into a great deal of depth in telling the story of Murrow and his boys, of their closeness and of their of their giant egos. And yet they come off as very human with all the plusses and minuses every human has. Mistakes are made as all humans make mistakes,they are no different. Murrow has the great ability to pick men with talent equal to his own. And with those giant egos, their are bound to be hurt feelings. I read this book immediately after reading " Citizens of London". They go together like ham and eggs. The pair would make a great gift for an older reader.  
Joan Draper

This is the story of foreign correspondents starting in the late 1930's and through World War II. Edward R. Murrow got the team together in England and ran the foreign correspondents from there. Older readers will remember listening to some of these correspondents on the radio or television. Its a story of the experiences the correspondents went through being in a war torn environment including the front lines. Politics are part of the game they must play. If you are interested in early international news this is a great read.

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