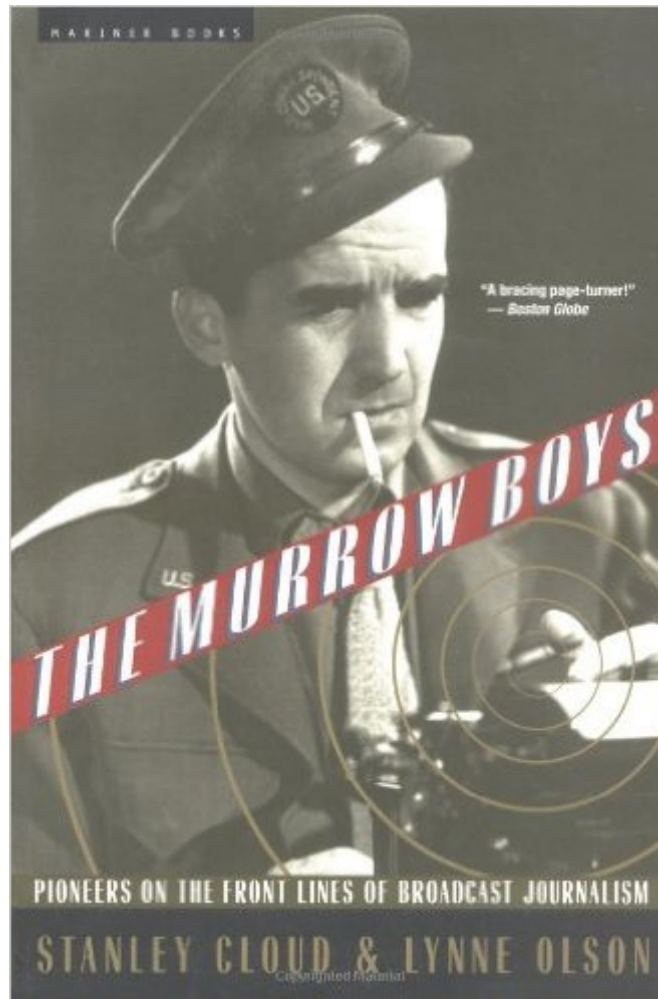


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# The Murrow Boys: Pioneers On The Front Lines Of Broadcast Journalism



## Synopsis

Publishers Weekly described *The Murrow Boys* as "a lively, colloquial history of broadcast journalism that is so exciting one's impulse is to read it in a single sitting." It tells the swashbuckling tale of Edward R. Murrow and his legendary band of CBS radio journalists - Charles Collingwood, Howard K. Smith, William Shirer, Eric Sevareid, and others - as they "paint pictures in the air" from the World War II front. Brimming with personalities and anecdotal detail, it also serves up a sharp-eyed account of where the craft went wrong after the war, when vanity and commercialism increasingly intruded. "This is history at its best," said Ted Anthony of AP News.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (98 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I have always been fascinated by radio/television journalists of the 1930's-1950's. They started off by literally making up the rules to radio broadcasting as they went along...and with this little news story called WWII to get started with. Then, just when they were getting good at it, television showed up and rewrote the rules overnight. I always found it to be an interesting meeting of technology, history and journalism. I hoped that *The Murrow Boys* would capture and explain these times, but came away somewhat disappointed.=== The Good Stuff ===\* Lynne Olson does a credible job on the biographies of "The Murrow Boys", namely Edwin R. Murrow and a group of CBS radio (and later television) reporters who were his proteges. She captures both the good and the bad, including their professional and personal successes and vices. They are a rather unconventional group of people, and the biographical sketches are interesting.\* The book captures the men and the times

they were reporting on. It is almost impossible to separate the story of William Shirer from the rise of Hitler's Germany, and Olson captures both well. She relates the trials of American reporters in Europe, including the difficulties of gathering information and transmitting their reports back to CBS/New York.\* Many of the "Murrow Boys" run afoul of the McCarthy era in the US. Some are better than others at maintaining their objectivity and values, and one or two seem to lose their way. I had never come across some of this material before, and found it quite interesting.=== The Not-So-Good Stuff ===\* Much of the material is taken from other sources, and unfortunately I have read many of these. For example, much of the story of William L.

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