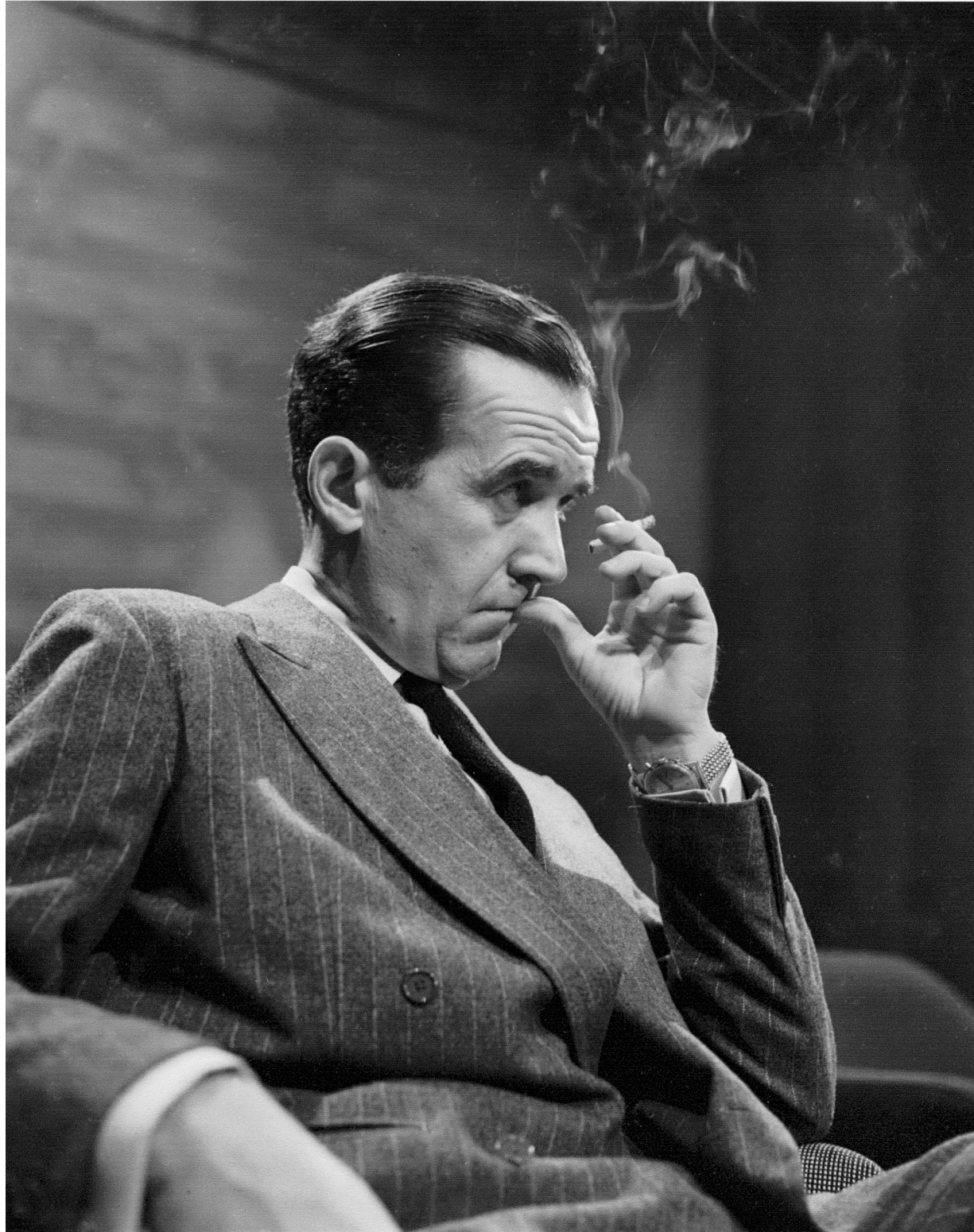


Edward R. Murrow

Journalist (1908–1965)



Murrow was born near Greensboro, North Carolina; when he was four his family moved to Blanchard, Washington. He attended Stanford and the University of Washington, and graduated from Washington State in 1930.

In 1935, he married Janet Huntington Brewster, and their son, Charles Casey, was born in 1945, in West London. Also in 1935, Murrow joined CBS, and, in 1937, he went to London to serve as the director of the CBS European bureau. He recruited journalist WILLIAM L. SHIRER to assist him in reporting events on the continent as war approached. The two men would become the fathers of broadcast journalism.

Murrow gained his first glimpse of fame during the March 1938 Anschluss, in which Adolf Hitler engineered the annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany. During the following year, leading up to the outbreak of World War II, Murrow continued to be based in England where his broadcasts began with the famous line “This . . . is London.” In 1940, he ended one radio segment with “Good night, and good luck,” ushering in his second famous catch phrase.

As the war continued, Murrow expanded the CBS news staff. The result was a group of reporters acclaimed for their intellect and descriptive power, including ERIC SEVAREID, CHARLES COLLINGWOOD, Howard K. Smith, RICHARD C. HOTTELET, Winston Burdett, CHARLES SHAW and LARRY LESUEUR. After the war, he hired WALTER CRONKITE away from AP.

From 1951 to 1955, Murrow was the host of *This I Believe*. He also recorded a series of narrated “historical albums” called *I Can Hear It Now*, which inaugurated his partnership with producer FRED W. FRIENDLY. In 1950, the records evolved into a weekly radio show, *Hear It Now*. In 1951, *Hear It Now* moved to television and was re-christened *See It Now*.

See It Now is best-remembered for the show that criticized McCarthyism and greatly contributed to the political downfall of Senator Joseph McCarthy. In 1953, Murrow launched a second weekly TV show entitled *Person to Person*, which set the standard for celebrity interviews.

Murrow resigned from CBS in 1961 to become the head of the U.S. Information Agency. He left in early 1964, citing illness, and he died the next year of lung cancer two days after his 57th birthday. His colleague and friend ERIC SEVAREID said of him, “He was a shooting star; and we will live in his afterglow a very long time.”