

Pyle's Old Coat Gives Finishing Touch To Applicant for His Role in Movies

By ERSKINE JOHNSON
NEA Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 8. — He looked like Ernie Pyle. He talked like Ernie Pyle. Same height, weight and build. But his name was Albert Kennedy Rowsell.

"Just call me Rosey," he said. He had just stepped out of a plane into Ernie Westmore's make-up chair. Westmore looked at a photograph of Ernie Pyle and then looked at Rosey.

"Hmmm," said Westmore. "There isn't much to do."

He broadened Rosey's nose a little with liquid rubber, highlighted his cheek bones and fluffed up his hair on the sides.

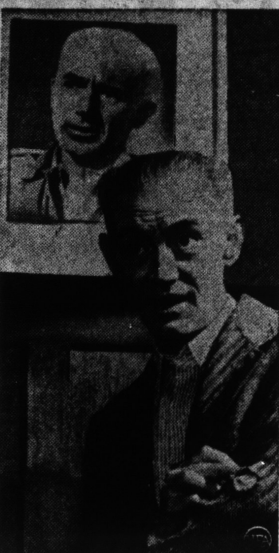
"That's it," Westmore said. Producer Lester Cowan beamed.

"The coat—the coat," Cowan said. Somebody handed Cowan an undersized coat with ragged holes in the elbows. It was the coat Ernie Pyle had worn to the White House last winter. It has been hanging in the office of Producer Cowan ever since he purchased the film rights to Pyle's book, "Here Is Your War."

Whoever played the role of Pyle in the movie had to fit the coat, Cowan said.

It was Rosey's turn to beam. The coat fit perfectly.

"I feel like Cinderella," he said. Albert Kennedy Rowsell, who flew in from Pittsburgh, was the first to take a screen test for the



The first of hundreds of applicants for the role of Ernie Pyle, famed Scripps-Howard war correspondent, in the forthcoming film, "G. I. Joe," is A. K. (Rosey) Rowsell, radio sports commentator. He is pictured before a portrait of Pyle, wearing the torn coat the correspondent wore on a visit to the White House before going overseas.

role of Columnist Ernie Pyle for "G. I. Joe," the movie version of his book.

There will be other tests, probably of Walter Brennan and Jimmy Gleason, of a New York actor named Teddy Newton and, perhaps, of one or two of a thousand "write in" candidates.

It's Hollywood's toughest casting problem of the year and Producer Cowan has to be careful. Twelve million readers of Pyle's column stand ready as a jury to push Cowan off the nearest cliff if he doesn't do right by their Ernie. Also, Ernie himself has threatened dire things if he's pictured as a "movie reporter."

A couple of Ernie's pals, including United Press Writer Chris Cunningham, still thinks Burgess Meredith would be the ideal screen Pyle. Burgess doesn't look as much like Pyle as Albert Rowsell or even Walter Brennan, but they figure he could do a better acting job. The army, they believe, would loan him to Cowan.

But Producer Cowan, it seems, has different ideas.

Kaspar Monahan, drama editor of the Pittsburgh Press, sent Cowan a photograph of Albert Kennedy Rowsell. Cowan immediately invited Rowsell to Hollywood to take a screen test. "Rosey" has no acting experience. He is a "humorist, philoso-

pher and author." Also an after-dinner speaker on such subjects as "The Value of a Laugh" and "From the Heart of the Poet." Also a radio announcer for the Pittsburgh baseball games. Rosey has been married for 30 years, has two sons, 25 and 17. The for-

mer is a lieutenant in the air corps. Albert Kennedy Rowsell hasn't got the role of Ernie Pyle yet. But, naturally, he'll be a little disappointed if he doesn't. He is the spittin' image of Pyle and the same kind of a homespun guy.

FALL LIP READING CLASSES OPEN HERE

Opening of fall and winter classes in lip reading was announced today by the Indianapolis Society for the Hard of Hearing. Advanced lip reading will be

taught at 7:30 p. m. each Tuesday, starting Sept. 12. Beginning lip reading classes are scheduled at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday, starting next week. All classes are to be held in the chapter rooms in the Board of Trade building, and registration may be made in the chapter rooms,

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