

# He Was Like Character From Own Book

Compiled from Wire Reports  
Many of the swashbuckling characters portrayed in the books of Ernest Hemingway might well have been autobiographical sketches of the author.

Hemingway flirted with death many times before a shotgun blast ended his life Sunday.

Hemingway purposely plunged himself into two wars and unnumbered tangles with men and beasts.

In January of 1934 he and his wife, Mary, were reported lost in a plane crash in the wild Upper Nile country of Uganda and for nearly two days they were believed to have perished. But Hemingway strolled through elephant and crocodile country from his crashed plane, ambled into a civilized clearing with Mary on one arm and a bottle of gin in the other, and announced:

"I feel wonderful."

Violence was his hobby, his true love and almost his profession.

The six-foot, 200-pound Pulitzer Prize winner was born in Illinois and lived a comparatively quiet childhood. A neighbor back in Oak Park remembers his first clear picture of little Ernest—marching in a decoration day parade with his grandfather's pistols strapped to his hips.

Hemingway's father, Dr. Clarence Hemingway, shot himself to death when he became despondent over illness.

While Ernest started his career as a cub reporter, aged 17, on the Kansas City Star. When the first world war broke out, he went to Italy and got, for his patriotism, an aluminum knee-cap. He also boasted that he suffered 247 wounds from mortar. But he liked war and continued from there to cover a series of minor wars in the Near East.

After those days he fought bulls in Spain and boxers in the ring. In the Spanish Civil War, he was nearly killed when three shells plunged into his hotel room. Later, in World War II, he was smashed up in a London black-out taxi accident.

Because he wrote so much of bravery and challenge, there were some who doubted that he really was as virile as his words implied. Max Eastman, essayist, was one of them. He wrote a piece in which he doubted, publicly, that there was any hair on Hemingway's chest.

The novelist called the essayist into his publisher's office. He ripped open his shirt to show off a wild growth of hair. And then, neatly and without comment, he socked Eastman with a copy of Eastman's book.

On another occasion, a socialite approached Hemingway in the Stork Club and called him a "pro-



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

Author Ernest Hemingway is shown in earlier years. The left and center

pictures were made in the 1930's. The picture on the right was made in 1946.

fessional) he-man." Hemingway knocked him cold.

In early middle-age, Hemingway began marrying and taking African safaris. On one of the safaris he nearly died from blood poisoning.

The marriages were not so dangerous. First came Hadley Richardson, whom he wed in 1921; next, Pauline Pfeiffer, 1927, and then Martha Gellhorn, 1940. All these were St. Louis girls.

With all his writing, Hemingway carried on a voluminous personal correspondence. Once, at the peak of his career, he wrote and thanked a 19-year-old aspiring author for the opportunity of reading a story the youth had submitted.

"I can't help you, kid," he wrote. "You write better than I did when I was 19. But the hell of it is you write like me. That is no sin. But you won't get anywhere with it."

Hemingway's prose style, which his early training as a newspaper reporter helped him to formulate, was the model for scores of writers. Though he did much of his writing abroad, its principal characteristic was its sensual American speech. He used Anglo-Saxon words, short sentences, monosyllables loaded with meaning and filled with emotion.

He wrote some in long-hand—"the scenery and the descriptive stuff"—but used the typewriter for conversation "so it doesn't get too far ahead of me."

He wrote and rewrote time and time again to achieve the fullest meaning in as few words as possible.



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

Novelist Ernest Hemingway and his wife, whom he called "Miss Mary," are pictured aboard the liner Ile de France as they returned from Europe in 1957.