

# Ballad of Ira Hayes

## Peter Lafarge

Ira Hayes, Ira HayesCall him drunken Ira Hayes  
He won't answer anymore  
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian

Nor the Marine that went to warGather 'round me people there's a story I would tell  
About a brave young Indian you should remember well  
From the land of the Pima Indian, a proud and noble band

Who farmed the Phoenix Valley in Arizona landDown the ditches for a thousand years  
The water grew Ira's people's crops  
Till the white man stole their water rights

And the sparklin' water stoppedNow Ira's folks were hungry  
And their land grew crops of weeds  
When war came, Ira volunteered

And forgot the white man's greedCall him drunken Ira Hayes  
He won't answer anymore  
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian

Nor the Marine that went to warThere they battled up Iwo Jima's hill  
Two hundred and fifty men  
But only twenty seven lived

To walk back down againAnd when the fight was over  
And 'Old Glory' raised  
Among the men who held it high

Was the Indian, Ira HayesCall him drunken Ira Hayes  
He won't answer anymore  
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian

Nor the Marine that went to warIra Hayes returned a hero  
Celebrated through the land  
He was wined and speeched and honored

Everybody shook his handBut he was just a Pima Indian  
No water, no home, no chance  
At home nobody cared what Ira'd done

And when did the Indians danceCall him drunken Ira Hayes  
He won't answer anymore  
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian

Nor the Marine that went to warThen Ira started drinkin' hard  
Jail was often his home  
They'd let him raise the flag and lower it

Like you'd throw a dog a bone!He died drunk early one mornin'  
Alone in the land he fought to save  
Two inches of water in a lonely ditch

Was a grave for Ira Hayes  
Call him drunken Ira Hayes  
He won't answer anymore  
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian  
Nor the Marine that went to war  
Yeah, call him drunken Ira Hayes  
But his land is just as dry  
And his ghost is lyin' thirsty  
In the ditch where Ira died

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