

**#29 May 2018 Cameraderie**  
**Robert Capa (1913-1954)**



Robert Capa is mainly remembered for his daring war photography. He went where the engagements were the most dangerous, and caught images, remembered forever, of the most intense moments of warfare. He died young and unexpectedly by stepping on a landmine when he left his jeep and went ahead on foot to shoot a French unit's advance in the first Indochina war.

Here is his Wikipedia biography:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Capa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Capa)

Capa is considered by some as the all-time greatest war photographer. The following two images are his master icons of war photography.

France, 1944, Normandy Invasion, WWII



Capa was the only civilian photographer to land with the Normandy invasion. Through an unfortunate lab accident, nearly all of his images from the Normandy landing were destroyed. A scant dozen or so survived, and this is the most famous of them. The blurred focus somehow adds an emotional intensity to the action—recall how effectively Robert Frank used blurred focus to express emotional content a few years later (#23, Oct. 2017).

Spain, Córdoba front, Early September, 1936, Death of a Loyalist Militiaman



It is shots like this that make fame, although there is an undercurrent of criticism that believes that Capa posed this shot rather than capturing an actual death in battle. Me—I don't know—the image is famous.

Here is a somewhat lighter side of Capa, as he covered the Tour de France bicycle race.

FRANCE. Brittany. Pleyben. July 1939. A crowd gathered in front of M. Pierre Cloarec's bicycle shop. The owner of the shop is racing in the Tour de France.



See all 31 images of Capa's coverage of the Tour de France, and many others of his images, on Magnum's site:

[https://pro.magnumphotos.com/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=MAGO31\\_10\\_VForm&ERID=24KL5353](https://pro.magnumphotos.com/C.aspx?VP3=CMS3&VF=MAGO31_10_VForm&ERID=24KL5353)  
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