

**#42 Summer 2019 Cameraderie  
Alfred Eisenstaedt (1898-1995)**



Alfred Eisenstaedt was the photographer's photographer of magazine covers and celebrity shoots. Life Magazine featured more than 90 of Eisenstaedt's pictures on its covers, and more than 2,500 of his photo stories were published. I included above a second photograph of Eisenstaedt because it was shot by Philippe Halsman, who I just reported on in May of this year (#40); note the typical Halsman shot of a man in motion—although not quite jumping.

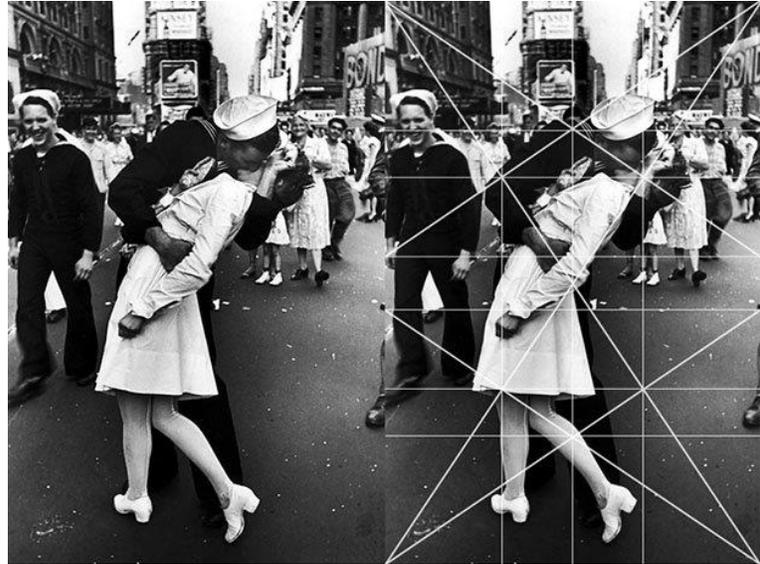
Here is the Wikipedia article on Eisenstaedt:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred\\_Eisenstaedt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Eisenstaedt)

From the Wikipedia article:

Among his most famous cover photographs was V-J Day in Times Square, taken during the V-J Day celebration in New York City, showing American sailor George Mendonsa kissing nurse Greta Zimmer Friedman in a "dancelike dip" which "summed up the euphoria many Americans felt as the war came to a close", in the words of his obituary. He was "renowned for his ability to capture memorable images of important people in the news" and for his candid photographs taken with a small 35mm Leica camera, typically with natural lighting.

We keep hearing about Leicas; Robert Frank used a Leica (#23, Oct. 2017). I will eventually do some equipment history articles, and the first one will be on Leica.

V-J Day in Times Square, 1945, and Compositional Analysis



Interesting as it may be, the compositional analysis is an afterthought, applied to a grab shot. But it does tell us something about why the angles of this shot work so well.

Drum Major and Children, 1951, University of Michigan



The U Mich Drum Major was practicing his high-stepping. This has sometimes been called “the happiest photograph ever shot.” It was in the famous “Family of Man” show in 1955 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, which was curated by Edward Steichen (#9, Sept. 2013).

Feet of Ethiopian Soldier, 1935



I remember seeing this famous shot years ago.

Head Waiter Rene Brequet with Tray of Cocktails as He Skates Around Serving Patrons at the Grand Hotel, St. Moritz, 1932



Eisenstaedt pre-focused on the chair, of course, and this is the famous shot. I included the other because it amused me to find out how versatile M. Bregeut was. I did not include a shot of him shooting seltzer into a glass while gliding on one skate.

German Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels Glares at the Camera, Geneva, 1933



Undoubtedly Goebbels' glare was because he knew Eisenstaedt was Jewish. Pretty much all shots of Goebbels showed him with a glare, or at least a stern expression. This one is worse than most; hence its fame.