

Robert Capa

1. Robert Capa is a name that has for many years been synonymous with war photography.
2. Born in Hungary in 1913 as Friedmann Endre Ernő, Capa was forced to leave his native country after his involvement in anti-government protests. Capa had originally wanted to become a writer, but after his arrival in Berlin had first found work as a photographer. He later left Germany and moved to France due to the rise in Nazism. He tried to find work as a freelance journalist and it was here that he changed his name to Robert Capa, mainly because he thought it would sound more American.
3. In 1936, after the breakout of the Spanish Civil war, Capa went to Spain and it was here over the next three years that he built his reputation as a war photographer. It was here too in 1936 that he took one of his most famous pictures, *The Death of a Loyalist Soldier*. One of Capa's most famous quotes was 'If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough.' And he took his attitude of getting close to the action to an extreme. His photograph, *The Death of a Loyalist Soldier* is a prime example of this as Capa captures the very moment the soldier falls. However, many have questioned the authenticity of this photograph, claiming that it was staged.
4. When World war II broke out, Capa was in New York, but he was soon back in Europe covering the war for Life magazine. Some of his most famous work was created on 6th June 1944 when he swam ashore with the first assault on Omaha Beach in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Capa, armed only with two cameras, took more than one hundred photographs in the first hour of the landing, but a mistake in the darkroom during the drying of the film destroyed all but eight frames. It was the images from these frames however that inspired the visual style of Steven Spielberg's Oscar winning movie 'Saving Private Ryan'. When Life magazine published the photographs, they claimed that they were slightly out of focus, and Capa later used this as the title of his autobiographical account of the war.
5. Capa's private life was no less dramatic. He was friend to many of Hollywood's directors, actors and actresses. In 1943 he fell in love with the wife of actor John Austin. His affair with her lasted until the end of the war and became the subject of his war memoirs. He was at one-time lover to actress Ingrid Bergman. Their relationship finally ended in 1946 when he refused to settle in Hollywood and went off to Turkey.
6. In 1947 Capa was among a group of photojournalists who founded Magnum Photos. This was a co-operative organization set up to support photographers and help them to retain ownership of the copyright to their work.
7. Capa went on to document many other wars. He never attempted to glamorize war though, but to record the horror. He once said, "The desire of any war photographer is to be put out of business."
8. Capa died as he had lived. After promising not to photograph any more wars, he accepted an assignment to go to Indochina to cover the first Indochina war. On May 25th 1954 Capa was accompanying a French regiment when he left his jeep to take some photographs of the advance and stepped on a land mine. He was taken to a nearby hospital, still clutching his camera, but was pronounced dead on arrival. He left behind him a testament to the horrors of war and a standard for photojournalism that few others have been able to reach.
9. Capa's legacy has lived on though and in 1966 his brother Cornell founded the International Fund for Concerned Photography in his honor. There is also a Robert Capa Gold Medal, which is given to the photographer who publishes the best photographic reporting from abroad with evidence of exceptional courage. But perhaps his greatest legacy of all are the haunting images of the human struggles that he captured.

Questions:

Choose the correct option (A, B, C, or D):

1. **What was Robert Capa's real name?**

- A) Ernő Robert
- B) Friedmann Endre Ernő
- C) Endre Robert
- D) John Capa

2. **Why did Capa leave Hungary?**

- A) He got a job in Berlin
- B) He was escaping World War I
- C) He was involved in anti-government protests
- D) He wanted to be a photographer

3. **Why did he change his name to Robert Capa?**

- A) To avoid being arrested
- B) To sound more American
- C) To honor a famous writer
- D) To start a new life in Spain

4. **Where did Capa take *The Death of a Loyalist Soldier*?**

- A) Normandy
- B) Berlin
- C) Indochina
- D) Spain

5. **What happened to most of Capa's D-Day photographs?**

- A) They were never developed
- B) They were destroyed in a fire
- C) They were ruined in the darkroom
- D) They were stolen

6. **What inspired the visual style of *Saving Private Ryan*?**

- A) Capa's letters
- B) Capa's Normandy photographs
- C) Interviews with soldiers
- D) Photos taken by Spielberg

7. **What was the name of Capa's war memoir?**

- A) The Horror of War
- B) In the Eye of War
- C) Slightly Out of Focus
- D) The Soldier Falls

8. **Why did Capa's relationship with Ingrid Bergman end?**

- A) She moved to Spain
- B) He refused to live in Hollywood
- C) He married someone else
- D) He was sent to prison

9. **What organization did Capa help found in 1947?**

- A) Life Magazine
- B) Magnum Photos
- C) War Photographers Guild
- D) Concerned Photojournalists Group

10. **How did Capa die?**

- A) He was shot
- B) In a plane crash
- C) He stepped on a land mine
- D) He drowned in Normandy

✎ Fill in the Blanks

11. Capa originally wanted to become a _____ before turning to photography.

12. One of Capa's most famous quotes is: "If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not _____ enough."

13. Capa used only _____ cameras during the D-Day invasion.

14. The photo *The Death of a Loyalist Soldier* was taken in _____.

15. In 1966, the International Fund for Concerned Photography was founded by his _____.

✓ True / False / Not Given

16. Capa took more than 500 photographs during the D-Day landing.

17. Capa glamorized war through his photography.

18. His affair with the wife of actor John Austin ended before the war.

19. Capa kept taking war photos until the day he died.

20. The Robert Capa Gold Medal is awarded for bravery in writing war novels.