

From Vincent Sheean:

Sirs:

Capa was at Bilbao in 1937 when the Germans bombarded it—that was at the same time as the evacuation of the Basque children to England. Guernica time too. A hellish time. Capa was going along taking his pictures when a Stuka or a JU-88 came bang over. He jumped for a ditch and two other people jumped into the same ditch at the same time.

He thought it only right and proper that he should introduce himself somehow, so he said: "I am a photographer." The next man said: "I am a Basque Catholic." The third man said: "Those are two professions that are of no use at this moment."

Perhaps it didn't happen. Perhaps only part of it happened. Perhaps it all happened. That's what is curious about the Capa mythology.