



## PREMIERE EVENT

20 OCTOBER 2025 / 6:00 PM

Join Veteran and War Artist Roger Chabot and his team as they walk in the footsteps of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and the 1st Canadian Corps to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands and Victory in Europe. This significant journey honours the bravery, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of those who fought to free Europe from tyranny during World War II.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY      Members of Parliament,  
Room 310      Senators, their staff and  
Wellington Building,      guests are welcome.  
180 Wellington street.  
Ottawa

# What's This About?

There are other people out there that are as interested in some of the same Canadian military history as we are.

- Some of these people are here in Canada.
- Others are in other countries, particularly the Netherlands.

Some of these people have made, or are actively making, relevant historical information content (e.g., documentaries, social media content, etc.).

This is about one example – a very recent Canadian Military History documentary produced by a Canadian, with help from a couple buddies in the Netherlands.

And this is another example of a learning opportunity (for me) about Canadian Military History.

# Background

I recently saw some references to “Path to Total Victory” on the following Facebook group.

- “Canadians in Northwest Europe in the Second World War”

The references mentioned a plan to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in Europe by creating a three-episode documentary to give a general overview of the crucial combat operations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion and the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Corps during the final battles to liberate the Netherlands.

- Episode 1: The 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion – Operation Varsity
- Episode 2: The 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division – Operation Cannonball
- Episode 3: The 5<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division and the Dawn of Peace – Operation Cleanser

# “Path to Total Victory”

## 80 Years of Victory in Europe:

To honour this milestone, Bravery In Arms has produced a three-episode documentary series to give a general overview of the crucial combat operations of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and the 1st Canadian Corps during the final battles to liberate the Netherlands and secure total victory over Nazi Germany in May 1945.

### **Topics covered:**

#### ***Episode 1: The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion – Operation Varsity***

March 24th 1945, Focus on the elite 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, whose daring airborne operation as part of the British 6th Airborne Division, played a significant role in securing key positions across the Rhine, into Germany. The episode chronicles the parachute drop on top of enemy lines, and highlights their daring courage to secure vital grounds in support of the Allied invasion of Germany.

# “Path to Total Victory”

## ***Episode 2: The 1st Canadian Infantry Division - Operation Cannonshot.***

On April 11th, The 1st Canadian Infantry Division undertook the daring assault crossing of the Ijssel River. Following the capture of Wilp, the division pressed forward, liberating numerous towns en route to the Grebbe Line. Among these was the city of Apeldoorn, an important regional center. The seizure of Apeldoorn dealt a severe blow to German occupation forces and provided a morale boost to the local population who were long awaiting their day of liberation.

## ***Episode 3: The 5th Armoured Division and the Dawn of Peace - Operation Cleanser***

The final episode reflects on the momentous conclusion of the campaign— The rapid advance of the 5th Armoured Division from Arnhem, moving North towards Ijsselmeer Lake. Including the infamous battle of Otterlo and the official surrender of Nazi forces at the De Wereld Hotel in Wageningen on May 5th 1945. This instalment emphasizes the suffering of the Dutch People, honouring the sacrifices made and the enduring legacy of the Canadian forces in bringing freedom to Europe.

# Background

The documentary plan involved deploying, in April 2025, a small filming crew in the Netherlands together with a group of volunteer re-enactors to recreate some battle scenes.

The plan then involved presenting the documentary to the public during Remembrance Week in November 2025.

The primary individuals involved in creating and deploying the documentary are:

- From Canada:
  - Roger Chabot
- From the Netherlands:
  - Jimmy Hilgin
  - Tjarco Schuurman

# “Path to Total Victory”

Who is Roger Chabot?

- Sgt. (Ret.) Canadian Armed Forces
- Born in Quebec.
- Signed up with Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment (VanDoos).
- In the Airborne Regiment, deployed to Cyprus and Somalia.
- 1994 – Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry – Croatia, Kosovo (1999).
- 2000 – Posted to Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School (CFLRS), in St.-Jean. Basic Training Instructor.
- Eventually trained as an imagery technician (Cold Lake, Valcartier).
- Retired 2005. Moved to Reserves.
- Fully retired 2016 (age 55).
- Painting, touring, and making videos, a big part of his life since retirement.
  - Large video project – Canadian “D-Day Dodgers.” Took team to Italy to follow in footsteps of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Corps.
  - “Bravery In Arms – Canadian Military History brought back to life – Produced and hosted by Veteran, War Artist Roger Chabot.”
  - “Path to Total Victory” – November 2025.

# “Path to Total Victory”



# “Path to Total Victory”

## ‘D-Day Dodgers’

- Group of volunteers with a mission to honour the casualties of war and the Holocaust.
- Based in the Netherlands.
- No longer just war in Italy focus, but also North West Europe, and the Holocaust.
- Battlefield tours, Research, Projects, Collaboration
- Filming, Interviews, Podcast.
- Founders – Jimmy Hilgen, Tjarco Schuurman.
- Administrators for the Facebook group ‘Canadians in Northwest Europe in the Second World War’



Northwest Europe

D-Day Dodgers

Our Projects

What we do

Contact



**Jimmy Hilgen**  
Founder and Secretary of the Foundation.  
Social Media and specialises in digital and field research.



**Tjarco Schuurman**  
Founder and Chairman of the Foundation.  
Focuses on website, development, video and education.

# Dieppe – September 2025 – Jimmy Hilgen (aka Jimmy Jimbo)



Canadians in Northwest Europe in the Second World War

Jimmy Jimbo · September 29 · Saint-Aubin-sur-Scie, France ·

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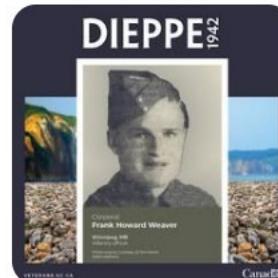
A beautiful hike yesterday afternoon in the footsteps of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and the South Saskatchewan Regiment. Starting in Pourville, where we are staying in a beautiful holiday home, I walked towards Le Petit Apperville which was one of the farthest points the Canadians advanced inland during Operation Jubilee. From Le Petit Apperville there is a small hiking trail up the hills towards Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery. A stunning view (and a steep path) shows the former battlefield near Green Beach on 19 August 1942.

For me it really is the feeling that you are walking in the footsteps of these men who gave their lives during this operation. I ended at the cemetery and walked past each and every stone there. Some had a photo placed in front of it. After spending an hour there I hiked the same trail back to Pourville. I bet this is not the last hike to the cemetery I'll make this week....— at Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery.



Jim Morris

Thanks for this **Jimmy Jimbo**. My step-uncle, Frank Weaver, is buried in this cemetery. I visited his grave in 2015.



13w Like Reply Share 😊



Jim Morris



13w Like Reply Share



Jimmy Jimbo Author Admin

All-star contributor

Jim I'll visit his grave this week.

# Dieppe – September 2025 – Jimmy Hilgen (aka Jimmy Jimbo)

Jimmy Jimbo Author Admin All-star contributor  
Jim I'll visit his grave this week.

13w Like Reply Share 2 

Jim Morris  
Thank you. The real tragic figure in Frank's life was his mother. Edith. Edith's first husband (Frank's father) was KIA in WW1. Frank was one year old. Edith remarried and had more kids, including Dennis Patton. Dennis (Frank's half-brother) was also KIA in WW2. Edith died of natural causes before WW2, so she did not have to experience the loss of her two sons. Perhaps think of his mom Edith while visiting his grave?

13w Like Reply Share 2 

Write a public reply... 

Jimmy Jimbo Author Admin All-star contributor  
Jim I promise you that I will think of his mom Edith when standing at his grave. Such a tragic story!

13w Like Reply Share 

Jimmy Jimbo Author Admin All-star contributor  
Jim there you go and I thought of his mother Edith...



12w Care Reply Share 2 

# Groesbeek – Christmas Eve 2025

## Photos by Jimmy Jimbo and Tjarco Schuurman







WE CANNOT, LORD,  
THE PURPOSE SEE  
BUT ALL IS WELL  
IT'S DONE BY THEE



**Jimmy Jimbo** is at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.

Admin

All-star contributor · 18h · Groesbeek, Netherlands ·

...

Snow is not something we have every winter in the Netherlands, but when we do we get the chance to make some beautiful photos.

This afternoon I took my two girls (3 and 16) to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery and there was a lot of snow (by Dutch standards) in the Groesbeek hills. The girls enjoyed playing in the snow and building a snowman. Seeing these two busy in the snow made me realize that this was a big "thank you" to the lads who gave their lives so these children could play in freedom in the snow....



**Kevin Knight**

I am sure our boys enjoyed the pitter patter of little feet and the wonderful sound of children laughing! Thank you!



**Garry Randall**

Thank you Jimmy, nothing would make our soldiers happier than to know kids were safely playing because of what they did for us all.

# “Path to Total Victory”

In “Path to Total Victory,” I particularly quite liked the first episode of the documentary, covering the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion during Operation Varsity.

- I am somewhat familiar with the parachute drops on D-Day and Market Garden. Surprisingly, as a Canadian, I knew virtually nothing about Operation Varsity.

# “Path to Total Victory”

## Operation Varsity

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[Article](#) [Talk](#)

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Operation Varsity** (24 March 1945) was a successful airborne forces operation launched by [Allied](#) troops toward the end of [World War II](#). Involving more than 16,000 paratroopers and several thousand aircraft, it is the largest airborne operation ever conducted on a single day and in one location. [Note 5]

Varsity was part of [Operation Plunder](#), the [Anglo-American-Canadian](#) effort, led by [Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery](#), to cross the northern [Rhine River](#) and from there enter [Northern Germany](#). To help British ground forces secure a foothold across the [Issel](#) and [Rhine](#) rivers in [Western Germany](#), Varsity landed two [airborne](#) divisions on the Rhine's eastern bank near the village of [Haminkeln](#) and the town of [Wesel](#).<sup>[10]</sup>

Operation Varsity "was the battle that ended" World War Two in Europe, yet it is largely unknown to all but military history buffs.



In the hut no one spoke, no one joked. The assembled British and Canadian paratroop commanders awaited the briefing from their brigade commander on their next major operation. When it came, they were not disappointed. "Gentlemen," bellowed Brig. Gen. James Hill, the well-respected commander of the 3rd Parachute Brigade, "the artillery support is fantastic! And if you are worried about the kind of reception you'll get, just put yourself in the place of the enemy. What would you think," he posited to the troops, "if you saw a horde of ferocious, bloodthirsty paratroopers, bristling with weapons, cascading down upon you from the skies?"

The image set all at ease. Among those assembled for the briefing on Operation Varsity, the airborne assault that would breach the Rhine into the heart of the Reich, was a small group of Canadians who belonged to the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion.

# “Path to Total Victory”



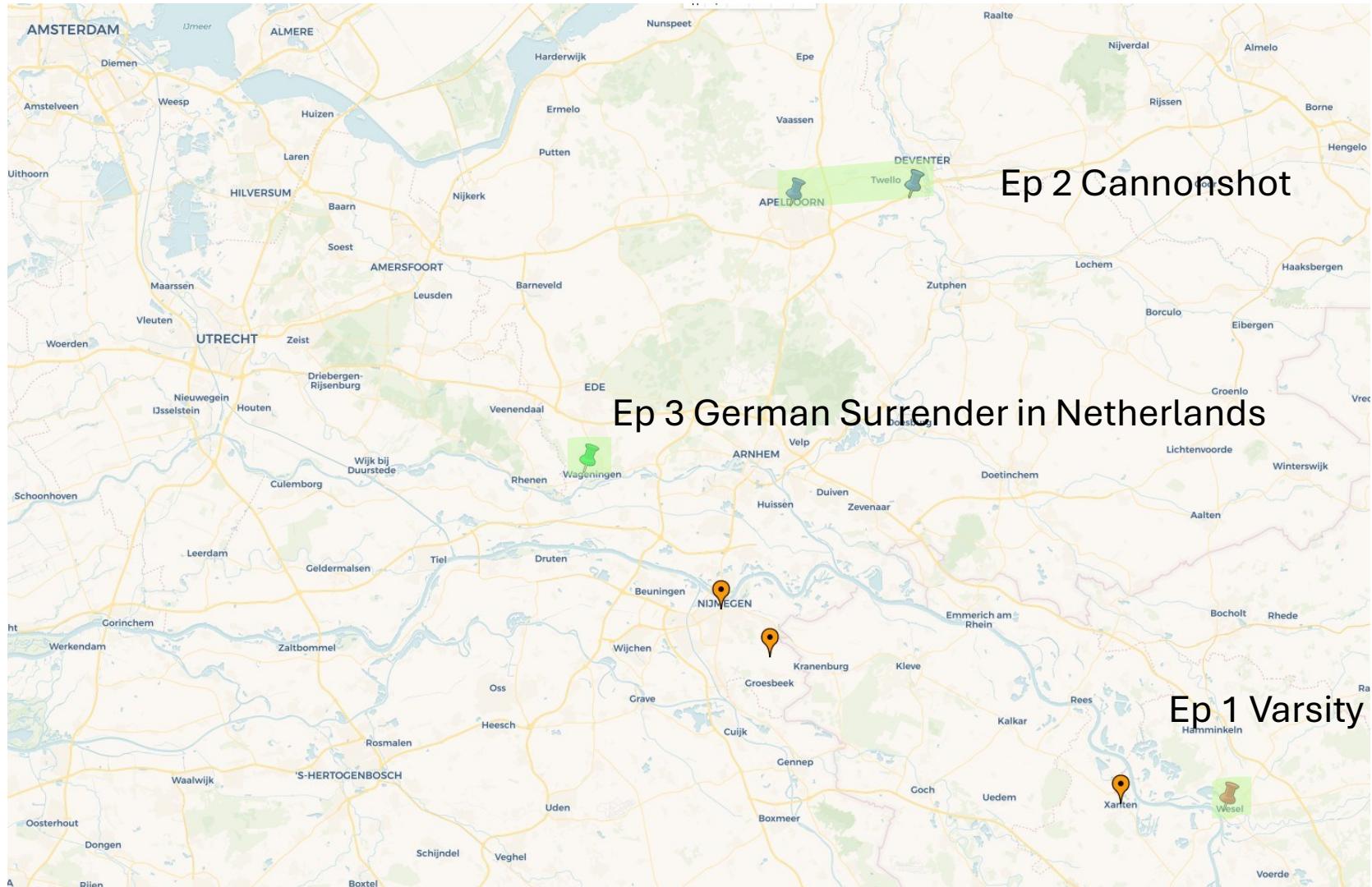
# “Path to Total Victory”

On a personal level, my research of Canada and WW2 never really got further than March 8 1945, when my Uncle Ken was KIA at Xanten Germany. Ken was with the Essex Scottish, and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. I have visited both Groesbeek and Xanten, as part of my research on Uncle Ken.

Watching “Path to Total Victory” has given me a better understanding of the role of the Canadian Army through the Liberation of the Netherlands, and the end of the war.

- I found the archival footage, battle scene re-enactments, interviews and touring footage in this documentary brought everything to life for me, much better than the books I've read. Maybe an old guy thing?

# “Path to Total Victory”



# “Path to Total Victory”

Regarding “Path to Total Victory,” as I mentioned earlier, I knew virtually nothing about Operation Varsity.

- I find this surprising, considering I have well over 1000 skydives myself, starting in the mid-1970’s with old round surplus military parachutes just like the ones in Operation Varsity.
- As a student, I even had a tree landing, like the one described in the documentary. At least no one was shooting at me, not on that jump anyways.
- Shockingly that almost did happen to me many jumps later, while doing a group high altitude night jump down in Florida. When we landed, we were surrounded by heavily armed police who thought we were part of a drug drop. Of course we weren’t, but it was a bit scary.
- But clearly not as scary as what the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion experienced in Operation Varsity.

# “Path to Total Victory”

Google path to total victory

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**Bravery In Arms / Bravoure au Combat**

“Path to Total Victory”. 80 Years of Victory in Europe: To honour this milestone, Bravery In Arms has produced a three-episode documentary series to give a ...

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**Path To Total Victory**

 1:22:36

Filmed on Location to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in Europe., **Path To Total Victory**. 1.5K views · 3 weeks ago ...more ...

