

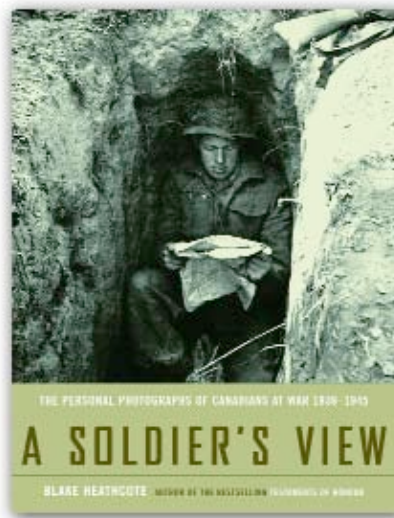


EXCERPT

A SOLDIER'S VIEW

The Personal Photographs of Canadians at War 1939-1945

BY BLAKE HEATHCOTE



Above: A photograph taken from the point of view of Geoff Costeloe's Airborne Unit during Operation Market Garden in Holland. A machine-gun emplacement huddles down against German counterattacks. Made famous in the film *A Bridge Too Far*, Market Garden was the operation that Field Marshal Montgomery hoped would bring the war to an end by Christmas 1944, but German resistance was unexpectedly fierce.

Photo: Geoff Costeloe

Watch video clips of veterans reminiscing at www.testaments.ca



Top left: Not dead, only resting. An exhausted seaman on board HMCS Iroquois. When there was a short break, sailors would simply find a spot and pass out for a few hours or a few minutes of sleep, but always with their helmets and life vests at hand.

Photo: Tom Ingham

Top right: Supper in the field in Normandy. It's been estimated that it took ten servicemen and women to keep one soldier in the front line equipped and fed.

Photo: Alex Gray

Left: A Canadian dispatch rider somewhere in Normandy nonchalantly strikes a match on a mannequin's hip. Alex Gray took this human-interest shot, hoping that this DR's home-town paper might run it. Such pictures gave reassurance to families in Canada that life on the line wasn't without its lighter side.

Photo: Alex Gray



Clockwise from top left:

Women parachute-packers drying out 'chutes for Canadian paratroopers. Every parachute had to be unpacked, draped, dried and carefully repacked, regardless of whether it had been deployed or not. It was an essential service that was often overlooked, except by those whose lives depended on it.

Photo: 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion


Dick Hilborn of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion leaps from a plane during a practice jump in England. The distinctive protective headgear worn by Canadian (and British) paratroopers early in the war would change when they went into operations, but the volume and weight of their equipment would only increase. Being a paratrooper was not for the faint of heart.

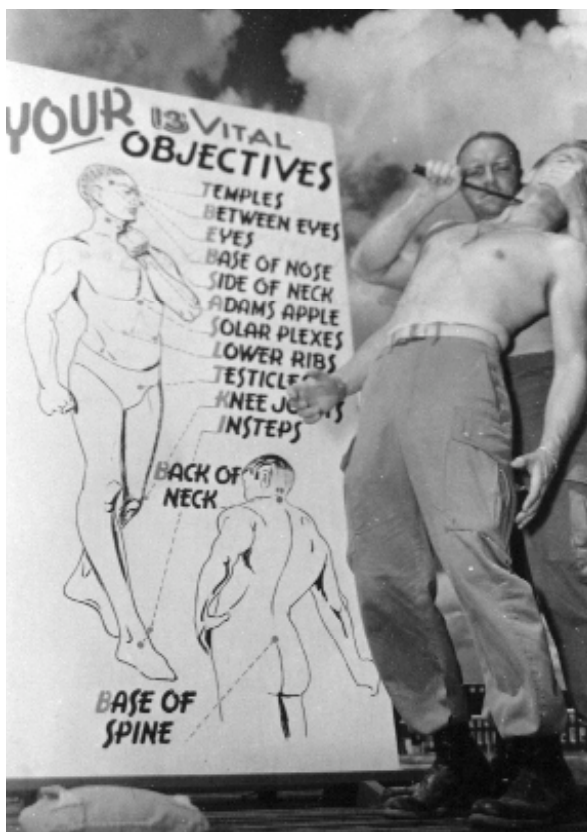
Photo: 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion

Dutch citizens celebrate the arrival of Canadian troops in Amsterdam after liberation. Photo: E.T. Heathcote

A 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion corporal has a chat with a toddler at his own level.

Photo: 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion

A sign illustrating the objectives for an effective and silent kill, as taught to the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. A similar course was taught at Camp X, near Whitby, Ontario, the training ground for espionage agents. Photo: 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion 



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