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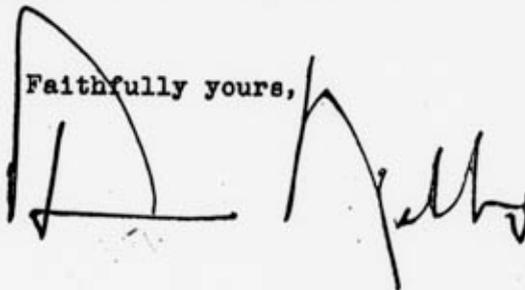
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1940

Dear Mr. President:

With reference to your request for a complete file of official despatches received at the Department of State from Europe in the period April 9 - May 22, 1940 which contain evidence of the bombing from the air by German forces of civilian populations or refugees, I enclose an itemized memorandum which I believe contains the information you desire.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:  
Memorandum

The President,  
The White House.

**Department of State**

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BUREAU  
DIVISION

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**ENCLOSURE**

TO

Letter drafted.....5/21/40.....

ADDRESSED TO

The President.....

Norway

- April 9 Oslo's 55, April 9, 6 p.m., reports bombing of homes in the Norwegian capital.
- April 11 Oslo's 67, April 11, 9 p.m. gives Naval Attache's report on the bombing and machine-gunning at Frederickstadt and states no resistance possible or given to this incredible bombing.
- April 12 Stockholm's 230, April 12, 6 p.m., gives Mrs. Harriman's eyewitness account of the bombing at Elverum
- April 15 Stockholm's 276, April 15, 10 a.m., gives Mrs. Harriman's opinion that German bombing and machine-gunning at Elverum and Nybergund had no military objective.
- Stockholm's 264, April 15, quotes King Haakon to the effect that Germans had bombed civilian population causing terrible suffering to women and children.
- April 23 Stockholm's 369, April 23, reports machine-gunning of two small fishing vessels.

The Netherlands and Belgium

Communications between our missions at The Hague and Brussels were severed so soon after the German invasion that few reports have been received from those capitals.

May 10

The Consul General at Antwerp reported on May 10 that the Ford Motor Plant at Antwerp was bombarded that day and 4 Belgian employees were wounded.

Ambassador Bullitt in his 601, May 10, 9 a.m. reported a telephone conversation with Ambassador Cudahy in Brussels to the effect that without any warning a large fleet of German bombers bombed Brussels at 5:15 that morning. One of the bombs dropped 300 feet from the American Embassy which is in the residential quarter of the city.

Ambassador Bullitt in his 623, May 10, 8 p.m., reported a telephone conversation with Ambassador Cudahy to the effect that the Germans during the day had dropped many incendiary bombs.

The Hague's 164, May 10, noon, reports bombing of the Dutch capital.

May 11

Ambassador Cudahy reported in his 108, May 11, noon, that the Germans were bombarding Brussels from the air.

FranceMay 10

Ambassador Bullitt reported in his 600, May 10, 8 a.m., that the Germans had dropped bombs on various open towns in France, notably Laon and Villers-Cotterets.

Ambassador Bullitt in his 602, May 10, 10 a.m., reported that the Germans had bombed the open towns of Colmar, Nancy, Vitry-le-Francois, Dunkirk, Calais and Lille. Civilians in all these places were killed and wounded.

Ambassador Bullitt's 604, May 10, 11 a.m., stated on the authority of M. Rochat that the Germans had bombed entirely civilian quarters in Nancy, killing 16 civilians and wounding 30.

The Ambassador reported from Paris in his 605, May 10, 11 a.m., word from Consul Carter at Calais that the Germans had bombed that town, killing 10 people with an unknown number of wounded.

The Ambassador's 622, May 10, 7 p.m., reported the investigation of the Assistant Naval Attaché for Air and the Assistant Military Attaché for Air into the bombing at Mery. Bombs fell on the outskirts of the town demolishing a two-story stone house and damaging others, killing and wounding several people. The raid was made in daylight in good visibility conditions.

Ambassador Bullitt's 624, May 10, 10 p.m. reported a further list of open towns which had been bombed.

May 12.

- May 12 Ambassador Bullitt's 635, May 12, 11 a.m., reported that 147 civilians, among them many women and children, had been killed in German air raids.
- May 14 Ambassador Bullitt in his 657, May 14, 7 p.m., reported eyewitness accounts of German bombings in Belgium and Luxemburg. He said: "Neither men, nor women, nor children are being spared. The tales of horror pass all belief."
- May 15 Ambassador Bullitt's 677, May 15, 3 p.m., reported an investigation by the Military and Naval Attachés for Air into bombings at Toul, Nancy and Morhange. This report gives details of the bombings of the military hospitals at Toul.
- May 18 Ambassador Bullitt's 747, May 18, 7 p.m., described the viciousness of the German attack in which every living thing in the fighting area is considered legitimate prey of the Germans. Pathetic refugees are considered good game by German machine-gunners and pilots.
- May 20 Ambassador Bullitt's 761, May 20, noon, reported bombing of LeHavre.
- The Ambassador's 775, May 20, 6 p.m., gives further details of the bombing at Le Havre, including the sinking of a ferry-boat with a loss of 13 lives.
- The Ambassador's 778, May 20, quotes Vice Prime Minister Chautern~~e~~s regarding the machine-gunning of women and child refugees.
- The Ambassador's 772, May 20, 5 p.m., reports the bombing and machine-gunning of columns of refugees. He gives

gives the eyewitness account of Madame Morlet of the machine-gunning of a group of children who were leaving Soissons. He quotes an American, Mr. Barton Hall, regarding the bombing of Compiègne, including hospitals and trains.