

Entry in wartime diary of Flight Lieutenant Edward Greer Fleming, RNZAF, 550 Squadron, about Operation Manna trip in Lancaster.

**May 4th 1945**

Out of bed at 3.30am for "Manna" trip to Rotterdam. Take off 6.15am. At 8am this morning the Germans in the N.W. (North West) which included Holland, surrendered. We arrived over Rotterdam at 8.15am flying at 300ft. All my boys were looking down and answered the waving people everywhere. I saw all I could in quick glances – I was too busy avoiding other kites and church spires! We went out over The Hague passing two Jerries in a gun post on the coast as we left. Did they duck? Yessir!

Holland is terribly flooded – it's hard to tell islands from the mainland and visa versa. The Dutch build in a colourful way – no factory soot to darken their brick and tile roofs. Their two cities looked full of brick flats and government offices but all clean and in regular order.

Back by 10.15am and a lazy afternoon reading was my limit.