

On May 16, the Führer addressed the following appeal to the troops deployed in Holland:

**To the soldiers of the Dutch theater of war**

Soldiers of the Dutch theater of war!

In five days, you attacked a strong, well-prepared army, which was tenaciously defending itself behind seemingly insurmountable obstacles and military fortifications, eliminated its air force, and finally forced it to surrender. You have thus accomplished a feat that is unique. The future will prove its military significance.

This success was only possible through your exemplary cooperation, through the determined leadership and bravery of the soldiers, but especially through the heroic dedication of the death-defying paratroopers and airborne troops.

In the name of the German people, I express my thanks and admiration to you.

Führer Headquarters, May 16, 1940.

Adolf Hitler

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