In another time-zone, the bombs fall unsafely....: Targets, Civilians, and Late Modern War

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The deliberate targeting of civilians was indeed a “war crime”. The Hague conventions tolerated the bombing of cities IF they were under military occupation (i.e. “defended”), which was the case with both Warsaw or Rotterdam. This question must be answered with another question. Why did the neutral Dutch permit the RAF to use its airspace to attack the German cities of the Ruhr Valley? Why did they not defend their stated neutrality? The following night British planes aimlessly dropped bombs for the first time on residential areas of Mönchengladbach-Rheydt. And from then on made such attacks on cities in the Ruhr area night after night. Regarding England, the fact is, that Germany endured a solid 5 months of bombing of its cities and civilians before responding in kind. GREGORY “In another time zone” illustrated [the published version, “In another time-zone the bombs fall unsafely”: targets, civilians and late modern war”, appeared in Arab World Geographer 9 (2) (2006) 88-111 [published in 2007]]. GREGORY Death of the civilian [published in Environment & Planning D: Society & Space 24 (2006) 633-38]. This resulted in my research project, Killing space, and here are two essays that explain some of its parameters (the original SSHRC grant application is here: KILLING SPACE): GREGORY Doors into nowhere PUBLISHED VERSION 2011 copy “Doors into nowhere”: Critics claim that their use reduces late modern war to a video game in which killing becomes casual. Most discussion has focused on the covert campaign waged by CIA-operated drones in Pakistan, but it is also vitally important to interrogate the role of United States Air Force-operated drones in Afghanistan. (Kilcullen and Exum, 2009) Colonel F.S. Keen said much the same of the bombing of Pashtun vil- lages on the North West Frontier in 1923: ‘By driving the inhabitants of the bombarded area from their homes in a state of exasperation, dispersing them among neighbouring clans and tribes with hatred in their hearts at what they consider “unfair” methods of warfare’, he.