

August 19 [1940]

Monday. Dear me. And to top it off, the radio bulletin gives the essence of Bullitt's<sup>1</sup> speech. (here several lines censored by me!) It looks as if we might get back to the USA sooner than we thought, by dint of that war that they are hungering after. If only they suffered from the wars they foster! If they had to fight and go without! I was enormously pleased to learn that Miss Anne Morgan<sup>2</sup> is finding it difficult to get money over to France. Poetic justice! But you can be sure the poor woman only has a couple of 100,000 dollars left to use, and is suffering untold horrors of poverty. When wilt thou save the people, Lord? ... And such academic questions. Here in France one has seen how much the rich men in power will sacrifice for their trusting charges. Exactly nothing. Ah me, this is a politicless day, isn't it? Okay, but just for me try to see the motives behind all this 1776 ra-rah business – the self-interest of those in power. I feel as though I'm trying to put out the Chicago fire with an eyedropper. What a life for a gal who likes peace, calm, and as much justice as is possible among human beings!

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<sup>1</sup> Bullitt: see Background, next page.

<sup>2</sup> **Anne Tracy Morgan** “(July 25, 1873 – January 29, 1952) was an American philanthropist who provided relief efforts in aid to France during and after World War I and World War II.” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne\\_Morgan\\_\(philanthropist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Morgan_(philanthropist)) accessed 2017-03-26) See also <http://www.themorgan.org/exhibitions/anne-morgans-war>, accessed 2017-03-26.

## Background: Ambassador Bullitt

*The following is offered to provide some insight into the situation in which Jimmie and Philinda found themselves as part of the American Embassy community in Paris, in 1940.*

**William Christian Bullitt, Jr.** (January 25, 1891 – February 15, 1967) was an American diplomat, journalist, and novelist. Although in his youth he was considered something of a radical, he later became an outspoken anti-communist. Ambassador to France. [...]

Bullitt was posted to France in October 1936 as Ambassador. Fluent in French and an ardent Francophile, Bullitt became established in Paris society and rented a château at Chantilly. He owned at least 18,000 bottles of French wine. As a close friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, with whom he had daily telephone conversations, Bullitt was widely regarded as Roosevelt's personal envoy to France, and as such was a man much courted by French politicians. Bullitt was especially close to Léon Blum and Édouard Daladier, and had cordial but not friendly relations with Georges Bonnet. Historians have criticized Bullitt for being too influenced by the last person to whom he spoke and for including too much gossip in his dispatches to Washington.



On September 4, 1938, in the midst of the great crisis in Europe that was to culminate in the Munich Agreement, during the unveiling of a plaque in France honoring Franco-American friendship, Bullitt stated that "France and the United States were united in war and peace", leading to much speculation in the press that if war did break out over Czechoslovakia, the United States would join the war on the Allied side. On September 9, 1938, Roosevelt denied any such intention.

In 1939 Prime Minister Édouard Daladier informed him French intelligence knew that Alger Hiss in the United States Department of State was working for Soviet intelligence. Bullitt passed the information along to Hiss's superior at the State Department.

After the German invasion of France in 1940, Bullitt fell out with Roosevelt. Bullitt insisted on remaining in Paris as the only ambassador of a major nation left when the Germans marched in. This angered Roosevelt, who believed Bullitt should have followed the French government to Bordeaux to look after US interests. Once thought of as a potential cabinet member, he found his career blocked.

- from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Christian\\_Bullitt,\\_Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Christian_Bullitt,_Jr.) (accessed 2017-04-30)