

### **Bombing of Guernica**

On April 26, 1937, an air-attack by the German Condor Legion was launched upon the unprotected ancient Basque town of Guernica. As it was market day, the town was crowded with over 7,000 people. In a sustained attack lasting over three hours German Junkers and Heinkel bombers razed the wooden town to the ground with incendiary bombs, whilst German fighter aircraft machine-gunned the defenseless civilians. Almost 2,000 people were killed and another 1,000 injured in the attack.

The atrocity was exacerbated by Nationalists attempts to deny the bombardment and, instead, accused the retreating Basque forces of dynamiting the town. However, too many had witnessed the attack and it quickly became a symbol of the war, immortalized in the painting by Pablo Picasso. All the evidence suggests that the bombing was undertaken at the request of the Nationalist high command in order to destroy Basque morale and preclude the defense of Bilbao.

More information: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing\\_of\\_Guernica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing_of_Guernica)