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SPANISH DEMOCRACY

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IN JULY of 1936, Francisco Franco, commander of the Army in the Spanish zone of Morocco, led an armed revolt against the elected democratic government which he was sworn to defend. This act of treason grew swiftly into a ruthless war against the people of Spain. Tens of thousands of lives—of women and children no less than of men—have been brutally taken; cities ravaged and destroyed; a nation torn asunder; all Europe brought to the verge of catastrophic war. For this enormous crime Francisco Franco has been indicted by liberty-loving people the world over. It is our purpose now to present to the court of public opinion testimony, evidence and argument revealing not only the atrocious nature of this assault upon civilization but the motives which gave birth to it.

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THE INDICTMENT

FRANCISCO FRANCO!

Traitor to the government whose trust he held!

Enemy of the Workers of Spain!

Murderer of their wives and children!

Foe of Democracy!

Servant of Reaction!

THIS is the man who stands before the bar of public opinion, boasting that he means to climb over the slaughtered bodies of the Spanish people, over the ruins of a once rich and lovely country to the mastery of Spain. "I am an admirer of Fascism," says Francisco Franco, "I shall establish a totalitarian state."

And therein lies his crime. For the people of Spain have willed otherwise. And with the guns of a hired Foreign Legion, of Mohammedan Moors, of Italian and German conscripts, Franco has opposed that will.

For himself? For his glory and the promulgation of a divinely inspired ideal? Scarcely. Francisco Franco has brought death and destruction to the people of Spain at the behest of those who for centuries enslaved and exploited them.

Across the bloody conflict now raging in Spain lies the long shadow of the Middle Ages. A medieval armor of glittering feudalism was clamped upon that country when the Alhambra fell in 1492, and the lords of Aragon, Asturias, Castile, Leon, and Navarre swept out the Moors. In the twentieth century, descendants of those lords of great lineage and showy title still owned the lands and the houses, exacted toll from the sweating millions who worked the lands. An arrogant Church, captained by princes of religion, disdainful of the afflictions of the common man, amassed incalculable wealth, and, controlling

education, taught believing men to be meek, silent, enduring. Church nobility, and the rulers of industry were linked in unholy alliance. The common man was the outsider. It was inevitable that he should one day seek to claim his own.

The hopes and struggles of a century were fulfilled in the establishment of the Republic in 1931. Alfonso fled his throne. A liberal constitution proclaimed a "democratic republic of workers of all classes." But under the new forms of democracy—the Cortes, the president, the constitution—old feudalism survived. The village bosses—the caciques—retained their power. The army remained the plaything of the monarchists. Yet now there was a difference. The forces of reaction conspired to strengthen their power, to intrench themselves even more strongly through fascist dictatorship, so that the millions clamoring at last for liberty and opportunity might never lift their hopes again.

The people of Spain recognized this peril and were aroused. A new coalition, the People's Front, was formed to oppose the growing Fascist strength. It brought together diverse elements—middle-class Republicans, liberals, trade unionists, socialists of various hues, communists, anarchists. Their one uniting enthusiasm was **for** the Republic **against** a Fascist dictatorship. The election of February 16th, 1936, took place under the threat of Civil War. Despite wholesale corruption at the polls, the People's Front won 268 of the 473 seats in the Cortes.

SPAIN desired a New Deal. The people had expressed their will. But the few who lived in palaces, owned the land, ran the government, officered the army, and were blessed in it by the church, willed otherwise.

A ballot is a mild weapon. It speaks softly. A bullet is decisive. Great wealth can buy many bullets, and many men to fire them.

The reactionaries called upon General Francisco Franco.

From Morocco came Franco, with his Foreign Legion of hired adventurers and his shock troops of barbarous Moors, to whom rich rewards of rape and pillage had been promised. At Seville and Andalusia, the garrisons, sworn to defend the Republic, forgot their oath, joined the infamous revolt. In the air, on the sea, in the streets of the cities, and the mountain passes, brother fought brother. And more, loyal Spaniard was fighting German and Italian. From the skies Junker and Caproni bombers poured death upon the women and children of Spain.

THE EVIDENCE

Exhibit A

SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

On a November morning these children were at play in a sunny courtyard in Madrid. . . .



THE WITNESSES

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

"The names of twelve more Roman Catholic priests who have been shot without trial by the rebels were issued by the Spanish Embassy in London yesterday.

"These are in addition to a list of nearly a hundred Liberals, Masons and priests executed, states the Embassy, 'without trial and solely for their anti-Fascist sympathies.' The earlier list included men of science, professors, priests, and liberally-minded citizens, **a majority of them firm adversaries of communism**, who have been victims of the Fascists. At the head of the latest list is Don Gumersindo Sanchez Guisante, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Saragossa, who was a liberal."

N. Y. TIMES

"A young medical student, who escaped from Saragossa and reached Barbastro today, says that the Rebels in Saragossa have executed Luis Perez, a well-known surgeon and a member of the faculty of medicine of the University of Saragossa."

W. H. GREEN

British Member of Parliament

"We saw scores of injured women and children—four women and two children were thrown in one pile. Another woman's mangled body was hanging over a tottering bannister where the force of the explosion had thrown her."

UNITED PRESS CORRESPONDENCE

to N. Y. World-Telegram

"The forty-five bombers left the suburbs of Tetuan and De Pas Victorias desolate. Whole blocks of workingmen's apartments were ruined. The debris of two buildings struck squarely by 250 pound bombs were believed to have trapped fifty persons.

"A pile of bricks stood today where yesterday stood the beautiful church called Iglesia Vieja de Tetuan, struck by three rebel bombs."

NEW YORK POST

"Refugees from Aragon reported the killing of 350 government supporters in a mass execution by fascists."

THE WITNESSES

LELAND STOWE

N. Y. Herald Tribune

"As for atrocities, let any volunteer Solomon render his own judgment. After all, it was Franco's men who mowed down with machine guns 1,800 peasants, scores of them mere country boys, in the bullring at Badajoz two weeks ago. Again it was the Fascist militia which executed the pregnant wife of Daniel Ortega, a communist doctor."

CHRISTIAN OZANNE

Havas Correspondent, N. Y. News Syndicate, Inc.

"The horror of poison gas has been added to Madrid's life and death struggle, medical experts disclosed today. The gas attack was launched by Insurgents in an attempt to break into Madrid through University City. The medical experts and eye-witnesses said the militiamen who were gassed showed all the familiar symptoms of asphyxiation, painful swelling of the eyes and burning of the membranes of the nose."

UNITED PRESS

to N. Y. Sun

"The rebel pilots after exhausting their bombs, swooped low over the house-tops and spread death and terror by turning their machine guns on women and children seeking refuge in doorways and subway stations."

UNITED PRESS

to N. Y. World-Telegram

"For blocks around the ruins of a fish shop in the Atocha district this morning still echoed the screams of victims sealed in what may be a living tomb. In a raid yesterday, a rebel bomb dropped squarely on the roof of the shop and went through to the cellar. In the cellar, as thickly as they could crowd, men, women and children were taking refuge from the raiding planes. There was no light. The building crashed down and sixty or more people were buried under timber, stones, debris. . . . **Each bomb that dropped seemed to find a target that would do most damage to civilians.** One which fell on Caravaca Street wounded or killed fifty women and children."

THE EVIDENCE

EXHIBIT B

BOMBS AND BULLETS FIND THEIR VICTIMS

Madrid's Hospitals crowded with
civilians injured by explosives
from rebel airplanes.



Madrid

THE EVIDENCE



EXHIBIT C

MURDER FROM

Bombs rain death upon the people

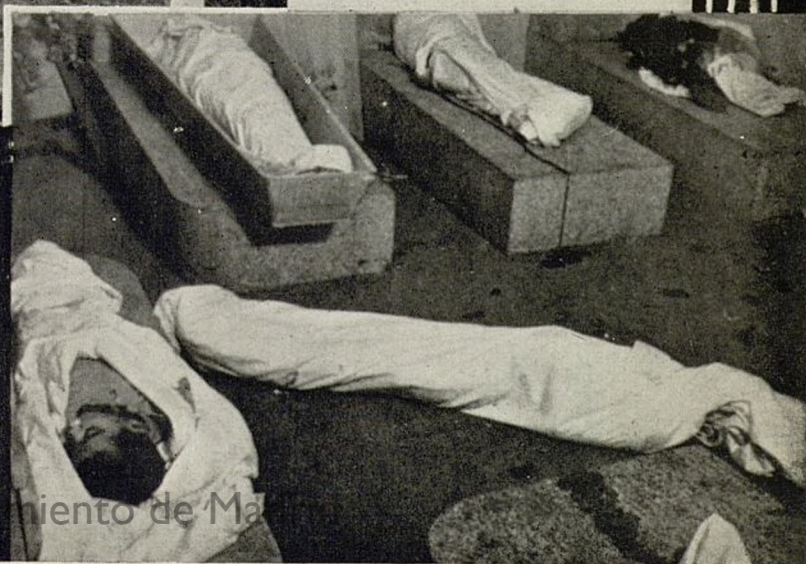
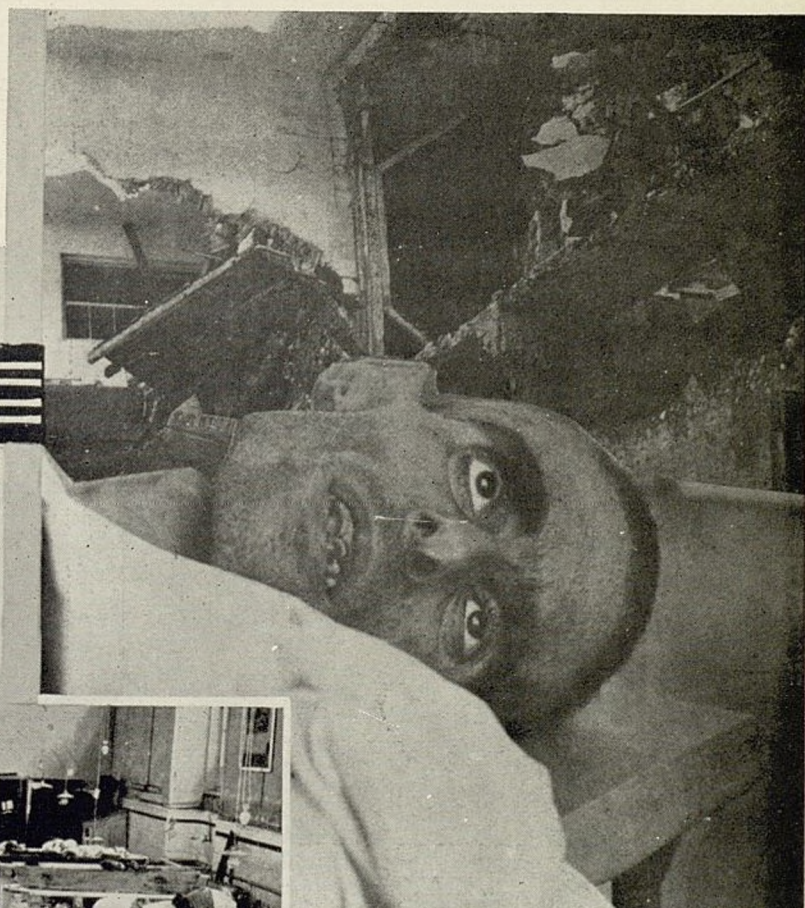


Ayuntamiento de Madrid

THE EVIDENCE

MURDER FROM THE SKIES

in death upon the peaceful people of Madrid



Ayuntamiento de Ma

THE WITNESSES

NEW YORK TIMES

"More than 300 persons were killed and several thousand wounded yesterday in an intense attack from sea and air on Malaga by Rebel naval and aviation forces. More than fifty buildings were destroyed. These included a hospital and two leading hotels."

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

"The dean of the Madrid Faculty of Medicine and a committee from the San Carlos Hospital protested against the bombing of the clinical center. They sent letters to the defense junta, the British and French Embassies, calling attention to the attack on the hospital, which they said was destroyed with all its equipment."

NEW YORK TIMES

"Insurgents, however, continue directing their fire upon hospitals and small defenseless towns. The hospital at Bilboa was bombed by an Insurgent plane yesterday."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

to N. Y. Times

"Eight insurgent bombing planes rained bombs on Bilbao today killing **at least 126 persons and wounding many more.**"

UNITED PRESS

"Bits of bricks and mortar flew through the streets into the already shattered windows of homes and office buildings, into the Prado Museum, Spain's treasure house of art.

"A great burst of flame came from the palace of the Duke of Alba, the most magnificent in Europe."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

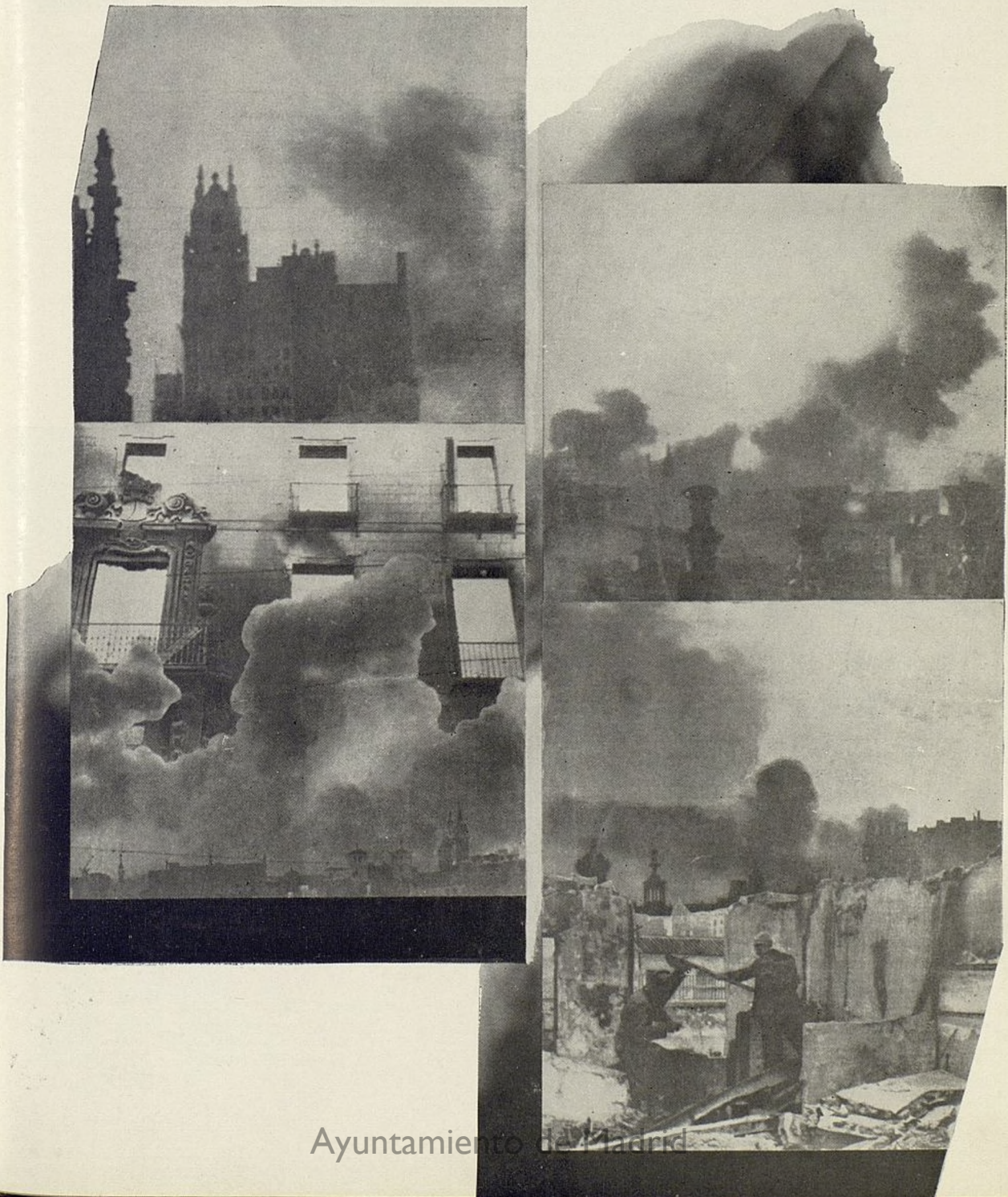
"Incendiary bombs set afire the San Carlos and General Hospitals in Madrid's Southern Section."

THE EVIDENCE

EXHIBIT D

MADRID AFIRE

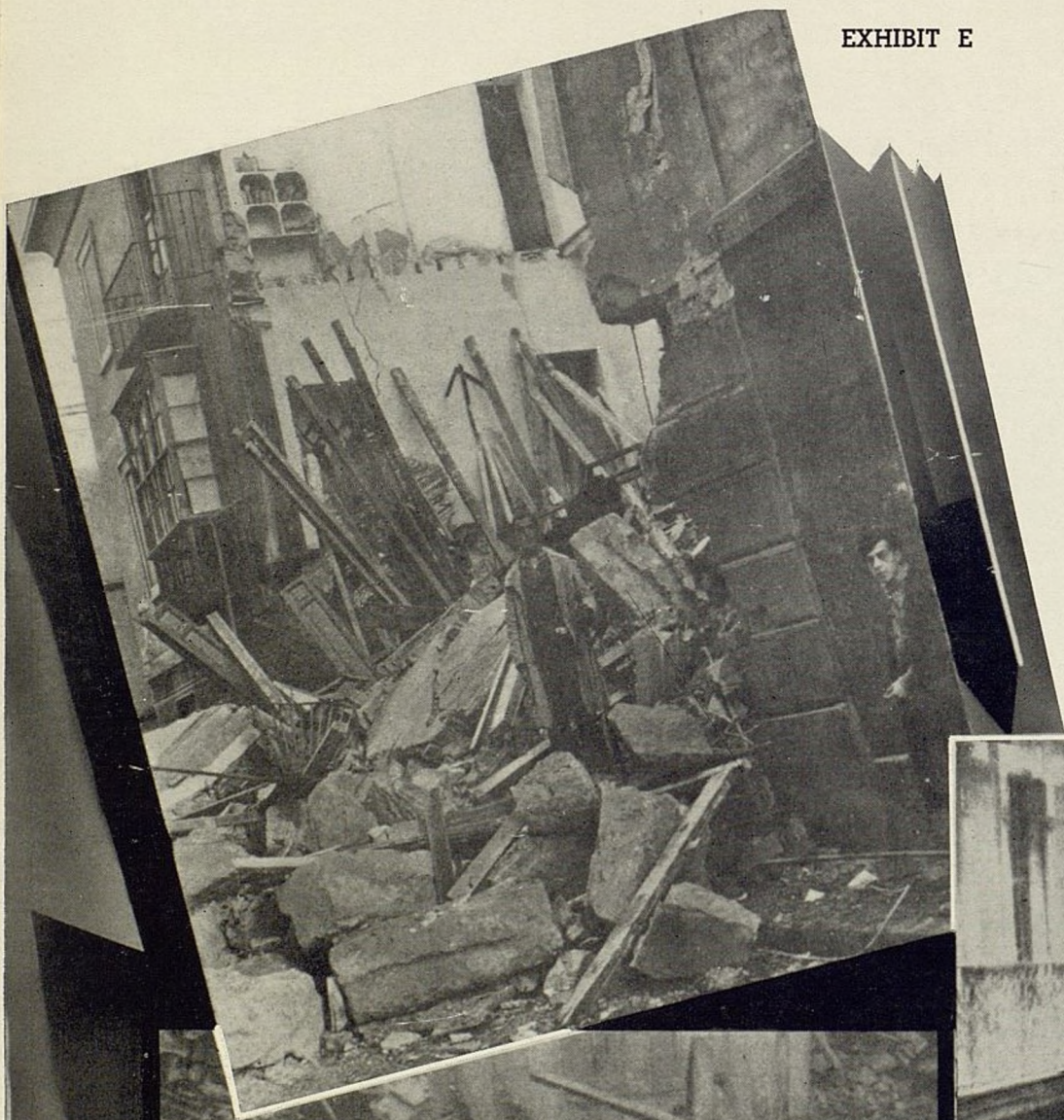
Flames follow bombardment, completing the destruction of homes.



THE EVIDENCE

EXHIBIT E

RUIN
IN MADRID

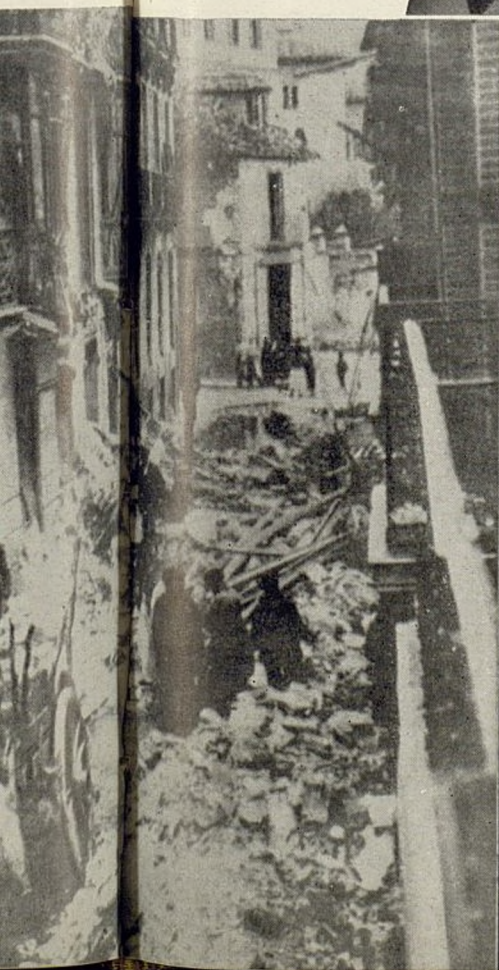
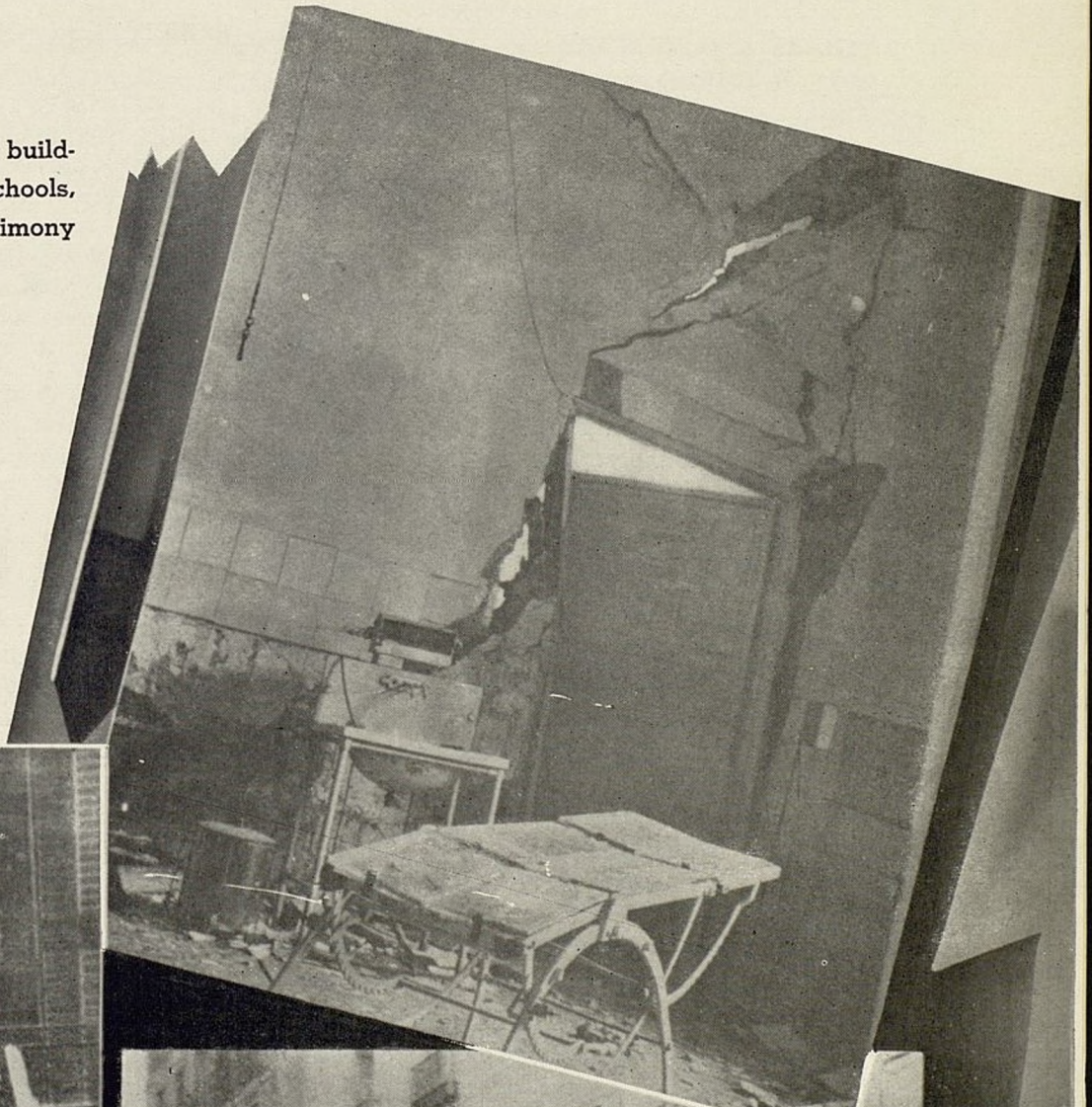


Ayuntamiento de Madrid



THE EVIDENCE

Homes, public buildings, churches, schools, streets, give testimony to Franco's fury.



Ayuntamiento de Madrid

THE WITNESSES

FRANK L. KLUCKHOHN

N. Y. Times correspondent

"A correspondent for a French newspaper was shot this week as an 'Espionage agent'—a lesson to those covering news within the Rebel lines, not to make any mistake about the need for these 'Eliminations.'"

LAWRENCE A. FERNSWORTH

N. Y. Times correspondent

"On the Insurgent side the executions have been in masses, often marked by torture, and on a far larger scale in proportion to the population. Treachery has also been a frequent feature of the executions on this side."

PIERRE VAN PASSEN

(Special Dispatch from Barcelona)

"There are no words in any language to describe the horror of the bestial slaughter of Republicans at Badajoz. There in the province of Estremadura, in a small town of shopkeepers, seventeen hundred citizens were executed. Truckloads of corpses traverse the town. **No foreign newspapermen are permitted inside, for 'The Moors are still busy. Our blacks are drunk with blood.'**" said the commander of the Fascist force to members of the Portuguese Press, who had rushed to the site of the massacre, and he added: **'Don't go inside the town for we had to hand over the women of the reds today. It won't be nice to see what the heroes are doing.'**"

"Bernardo Cameles, the famous espada who saw it all, said to me: 'I have seen blood flow in the bull ring. I have shed it myself. But such abominable savagery as I saw in Badajoz made me sick. I cannot eat or sleep with the memory of it.'"

ROBERT NEVILLE

New Republic

"In Granada the condemned were taken every morning and every evening to the cemetery and there apparently shot down in front of pits dug for them during the day. . . . The military were quite frank in admitting in their newspaper and over the radio that for every bomb dropped five prisoners—generally members of the Popular Front—would be executed as reprisal. . . ."

THE WITNESSES

HAVAS NEWS AGENCY DISPATCH

"It was estimated rebel air raiders have taken a toll of 2,500 non-combatants killed and 3,000 wounded in three weeks siege of the capital. Property damage to historic buildings and art treasures was estimated at many millions of dollars."

MADRID CORRESPONDENT N. Y. Times

"Twelve bombs were dropped in Getafe where the former military air field is now used principally by ambulances working in the Toledo road. They fell in the Toledo end of the town, where a hundred or more school children were playing in the street. Seventy of the children were picked up dead.

"In Madrid proper, where fifteen persons were killed and sixty-five wounded, the heaviest toll was taken by a missile that fell near a queue of women waiting for their daily milk rations outside a dairy."

CAPT. JACK MacNAMARA

Conservative member British Parliament—Radio Address

"The bombings which we saw today are cruel and unjustifiable."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

to N. Y. World-Telegram

"Details of three daylight raids come from every side. A mother in Jordan Street went insane when she returned from a shopping trip and found the dead bodies of her two children clutched together on the third floor of her apartment. . . ."

DR. KENNETH LOUITT

Head of the British Hospital Unit at Granen on the Huesca front

"When we established our hospital, we put up the usual Red Cross insignia, but the military authorities suggested we remove them as the Red Cross was the first thing Rebel planes went for. We soon found they were correct."

RALPH BATES

British novelist, returning from Spain

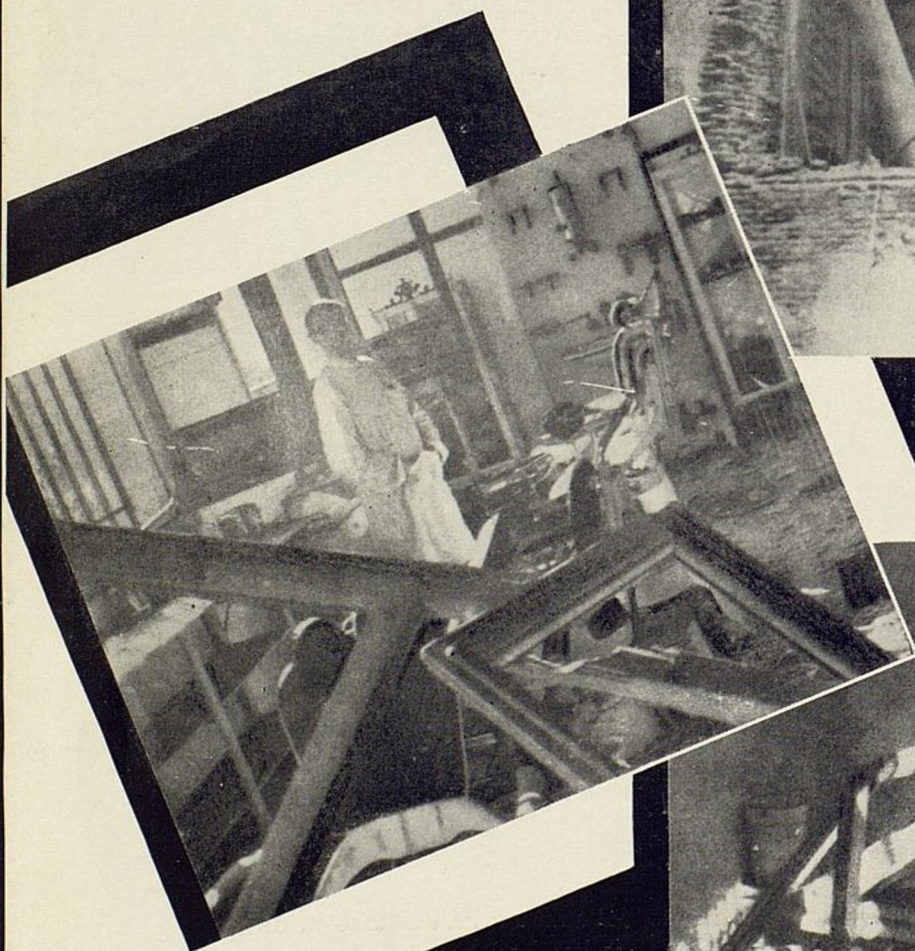
"It is absolutely true that the government had to take in all Red Cross signs. The Italian planes bombed everything with a Red Cross, because they can kill more men that way."

THE EVIDENCE

EXHIBIT F

NEITHER CHURCHES NOR
HOSPITALS WERE SPARED

"A Bomb dropped on a Hospital
sometimes signifies more than a
victory"—Francisco Franco.



Ayuntamiento de Madrid

THE WITNESSES

HERBERT L. MATTHEWS

to N. Y. Times

"The beautiful palace of the Duke of Infantado—one of the gems of Spanish art—with all its treasures—has been utterly wrecked. The insurgents scored a direct hit."

NEW YORK POST

"It will be a long time before Madrid forgets the horrible fifteen minutes yesterday, during which, unseen, from a clear sky, the Fascist planes dropped bombs on the center of the city. Brains of the victims were spattered with their blood, on the streets. Women ran choking through the thick black smoke that rose after the explosions and stopped dazed to find that they were holding in their arms dead babies, heads smashed into red pulp.

"For hours afterward Red Cross workers were collecting bits of human bodies and sorting them out, trying to identify victims. They used shovels."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Fascist planes, flying low over Northwestern Madrid, dropped more than twenty bombs on the capital today in a new air raid which imperiled refugees in the officially abandoned United States Embassy. Over the so-called neutral zone in the Eastern outskirts, the insurgent pilots dropped a stream of explosive and incendiary bombs."

DR. NORMAN BETHUNE

Head of Spanish Institute of Blood Transfusion

"Then, on the evening of February 12th, when the little seaport of Almeria was filled with refugees who thought they had reached a haven of safety, German and Italian planes dropped ten bombs in the very center of the town where refugees were sleeping, huddled so closely together on the main street that an auto could pass only with great difficulty.

"After the planes passed I picked up three dead children from the pavement where they had been standing in line waiting for a cup of preserved milk and a handful of dry bread, the only food some of them had for days.

"The streets were a shambles of dead and dying, lighted only by the glare of burning buildings. Wounded children moaned and agonized mothers shrieked."

THE EVIDENCE

EXHIBIT G

FACES—HUNGRY, WEARY,
SORROWING

Faces that tell the tragedy of a loyal
Spanish people.



Ayuntamiento de Madrid

AN APPEAL TO WORLD OPINION

Francisco Franco stands before the world with blood upon his hands.
It is the blood

OF SPANISH CHILDREN
OF SPANISH WOMEN
OF THE WORKERS OF SPAIN
OF THE LIBERALS, THE INTELLECTUALS
OF LOYAL CATHOLICS
OF ALL THOSE WHO SOUGHT A BETTER WORLD FOR
THEMSELVES AND THEIR BROTHERS

He stands accountable for widespread destruction and devastation throughout the length and breadth of the Iberian peninsula—for the destruction of priceless works of art, which are the rich cultural heritage not only of Spain, but of the world, of churches, of mankind, of hospitals, schools, and homes.

These crimes he has already achieved. But he is not content. Another crime he still fervently hopes to achieve: **The death of democracy.** On the second of February, he clearly stated his objectives in an interview especially prepared for the Scripps-Howard newspapers of the United States. Said he:

"I am an admirer of the way in which Fascism has stemmed the advance of Communism in many countries, and there can be no doubt that in evolving a corporate state, increasing the efficiency of administration and exacting from citizens the fulfillment of their duties toward the nation as a whole, fascism has contributed to modern political science theories capable of practicable development and therefore of the highest value with reference to Spain.

"And when the victory, in which I have absolute confidence, crowns the efforts of our troops the new Spain will progress on the lines of a totalitarian state, in accordance, at the same time, with the traditions of her history and with modern theories adaptable to her vigorous national characteristics."

It is too late now to save the children whose blood spattered the pavements of Madrid. Too late to help the workers whom machine guns mowed down in the bull ring of Badajoz. Too late, even to restore the shattered monuments and churches.

But not too late to save democracy in Spain.

Thoughtful men and women everywhere, who cherish their democratic traditions and freedom, must prevent this crime. To them, hopeful of their answer, we submit this evidence, and ask for a verdict.

MURDER-PILLAGE-RUIN-FIRE
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Ayuntamiento de Madrid

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