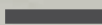
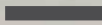
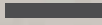
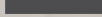
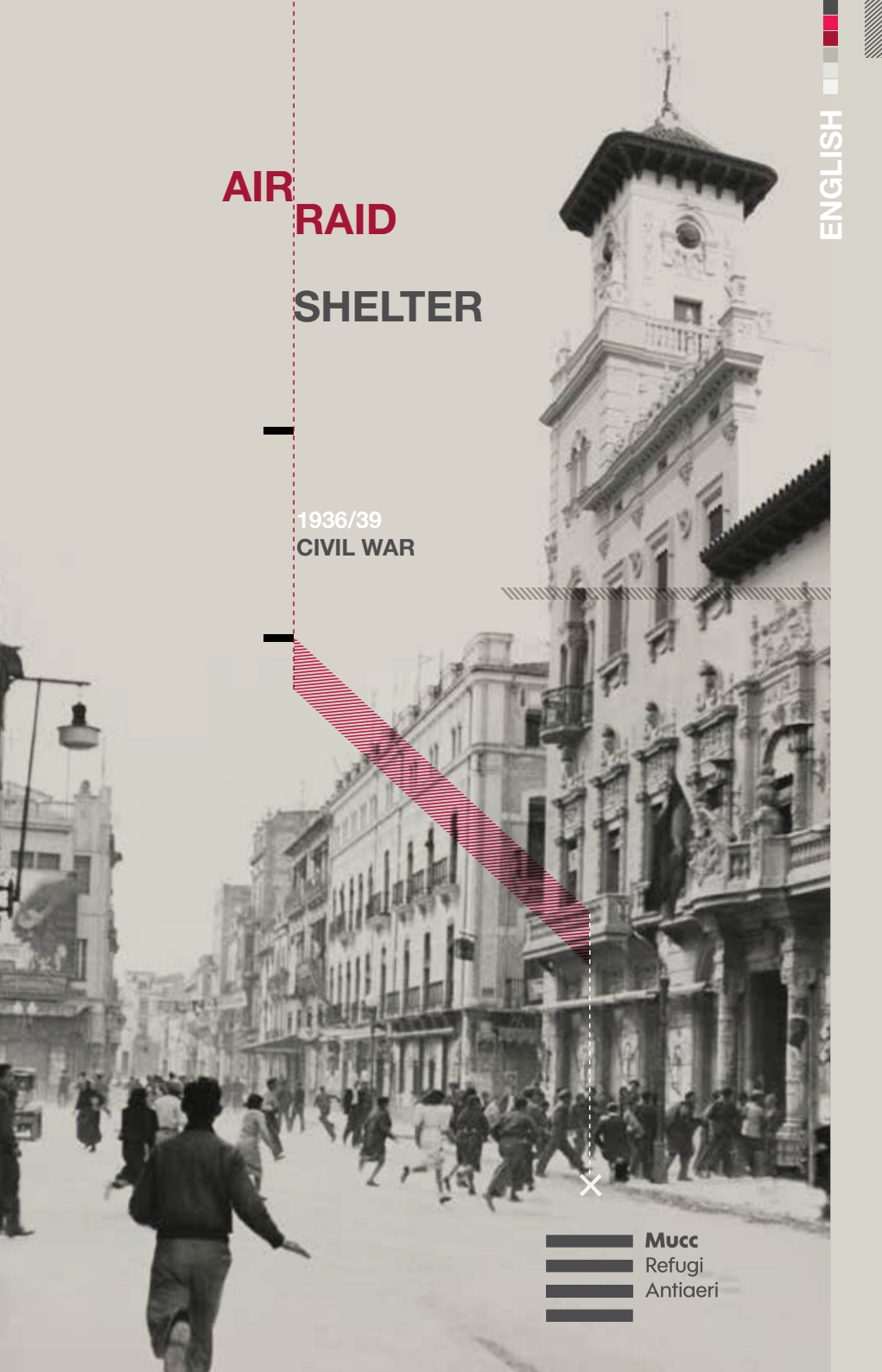


AIR RAID SHELTER

1936/39
CIVIL WAR



-  **Mucc**
-  Refugi
-  Antiaeri
- 



CHARACTERISTICS

FREE ENTRANCE

DURATION ⌚ 45 MIN

MAXIMUM CAPACITY 60 PEOPLE

70 STEPS (UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION)

AUDIOVISUAL 7' / VAL / ES / EN



VISIT WITH AUDIOGUIDE 🎧 VAL / ES / EN

The site Wi-Fi system enables visits with an audioguide that visitors can listen to on their phones without having to download them. Instructions:

1. Activate Wi-Fi on your smartphone.
2. Select network: Audioguia Refugi.
3. Open your web browser (Safari, Chrome...) and go to: wifimuseum.com

ACCESSIBILITY CONDITIONS

Due to the length of the staircase (70 steps), access to the inside of the air-raid shelter is **not recommended** for people with significant heart and respiratory problems, allergies, with reduced mobility or with hip, leg or foot ailments. Access is **not recommended** for people with claustrophobia. Inside the air-raid shelter there are different flights of stairs with banisters. Indoor temperature is 20-21 °C and humidity is very high.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

1. Keep calm.
2. Follow the instructions of the caretaker.

OPENING HOURS

From Tuesday to Saturday: from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sundays and public holidays: from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Closed on Mondays

The air-raid shelter will be closed on 1st and 6th January | 6th and 25th December
The air-raid shelter will remain closed on days of heavy rains.



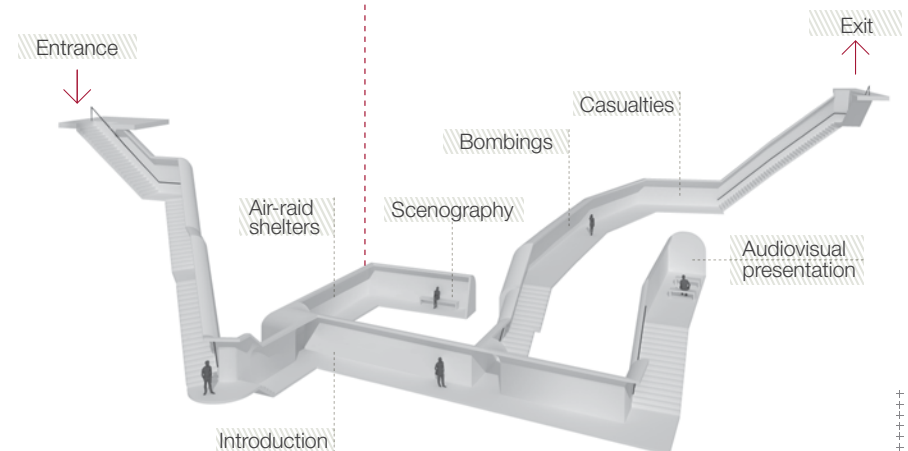
TETUÁN SQUARE
12001 Castelló de la Plana

www.mucc.es/refugi

RAID AIR SHELTER

Welcome to the air-raid shelter of Tetuán Square (Fermin Galán Square 1937-1938).

During this visit you will learn about the history of this site, why it was built and what life was like inside it. You will also read the testimonies of several people as a sample of many of the city's inhabitants' memories.



1.0

INTRODUCCIÓ
INTRODUCCIÓN
INTRODUCTION



LA GUERRA CIVIL A CASTELLÓ

El 19 de juliol de 1936 Castelló va caure sota el control dels franquistes. Després d'una llarga batalla, les forces del bàndol nacional van aconseguir ocupar la ciutat. A partir d'aquell moment, Castelló va experimentar una dura etapa de guerra civil, amb diversos episodis de violència i represió.

LA GUERRA CIVIL EN CASTELLÓ

THE CIVIL WAR IN CASTELLÓ

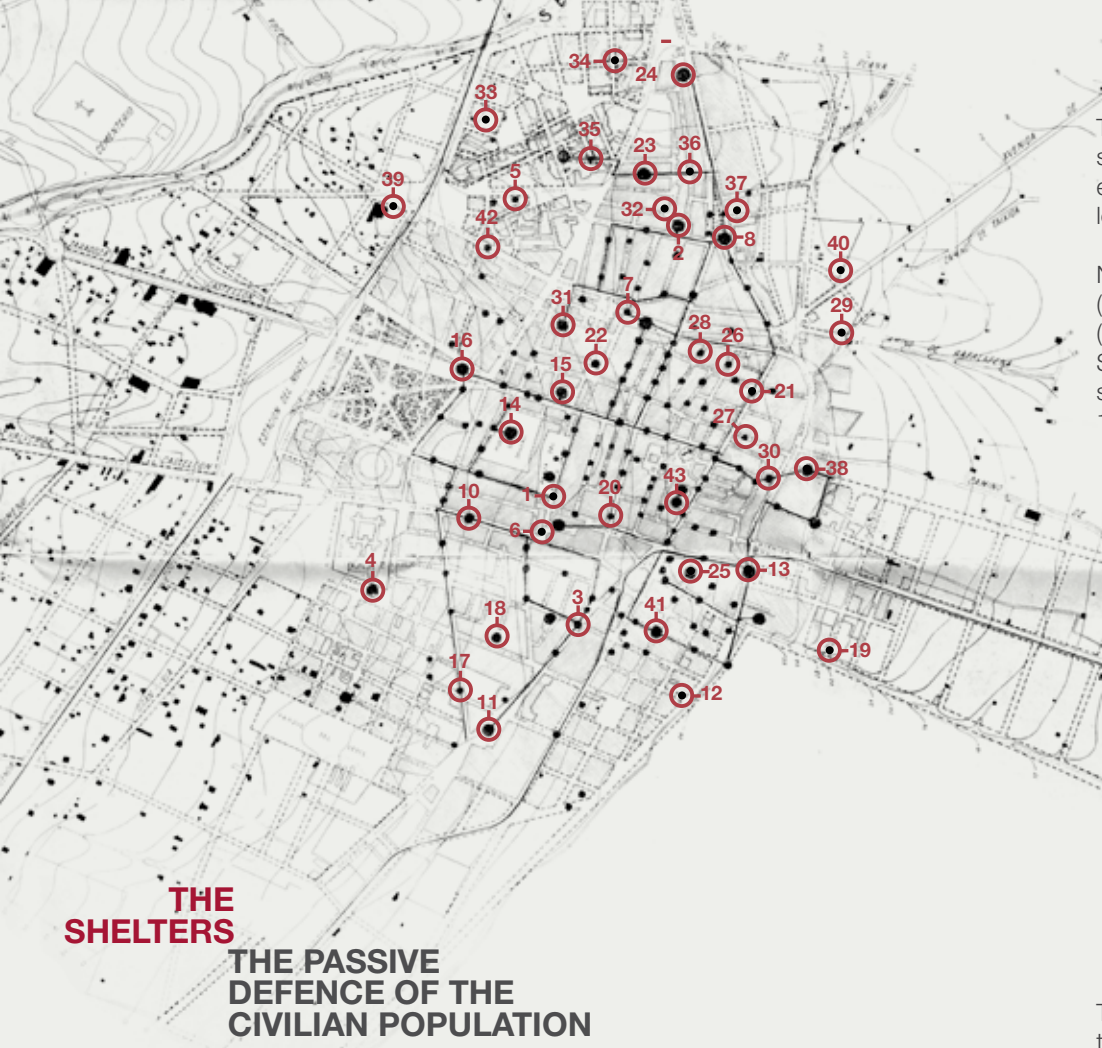
Castelló va ser una de les ciutats més afectades per la Guerra Civil. Després de caure el 19 de juliol de 1936, la ciutat va experimentar una dura etapa de guerra civil, amb diversos episodis de violència i represió.



The air-raid shelters were built during the Civil War (1936-1939) to protect the population from the air strikes in Castelló.

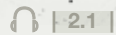
The refuge of Tetuán Square, witness of our history, has been recovered to show the cruelty of wars and their consequences, aiming to increase awareness about the city history and contribute to strengthen a culture of peace.





THE SHELTERS

THE PASSIVE DEFENCE OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION



Given the imminence of the bombing and the need to protect inhabitants, the central government ordered a Passive Defence Committee to be set up: a public body made up of civil and military authorities responsible for building shelters as the main means of protecting people. 43 public air-raid shelters and 237 private shelters were built. The latter, dug by residents under their own homes, had the capacity to accommodate between 20 and 150 people and could be connected to public ones. Women, boys and girls worked side by side in the construction of these shelters, creating human chains. They dug the land, carried the earth in baskets to the surface and tipped them out on the street. This generated large piles of earth that, along with the rubble, made it difficult to walk through the streets.

To be fit for purpose, public shelters had to be built on compact and stable ground without risk of any leaks, and be fitted with ventilation equipment and generators for gas defence. They also had to be located in squares or wide streets like this shelter.

Notable among the public shelters are those of Santa Clara Square (number 43 on the map), Clavé Square (number 7), San Roque Street (number 8), Rey Don Jaime Avenue (number 1), Independencia Square (number 16) and the one in Tetuán Square, where you are standing right now (formerly called Fermín Galán Square and number 15 on the map).



"The siren of El Fadri sounded; once if it was an aeroplane and five times if it was a ship."

To build these shelters, the City Council had no other option but to raise funds by requesting help from the Civil Government and the Office of Urban Property. They also relied heavily on funds generated by political parties and unions, citizen initiatives and the sales from theatrical performances or cinema sessions. In addition, volunteer brigades were created to build shelters. The work of these brigades was done on Saturday afternoons and Sundays and was called 'jornal de vila' in Valencian, which means municipal wage or municipal fair day's work.

In the city centre bell tower, known as El Fadri, a permanent police station was set up for aerial surveillance and to sound the siren that warned people of an imminent air strike. Sometimes the siren of El Fadri sounded in the middle of the night and people rushed to get dressed with whatever they could find. Time was against them. They had to get to safety as quickly as possible, heading to the shelters.



THE SHELTERS

TYPES OF SHELTERS BUILT

🔊 | 2.2 |

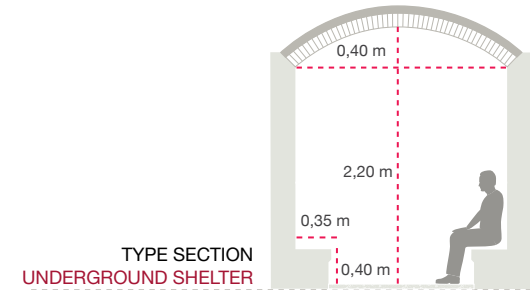
There were 3 types of shelters built in the city:

The first one was the **underground excavated shelter**. This was the most typical model, thirteen metres deep with a zigzag access in order to cushion the shock waves from air strikes. Almost all shelters had bench seats made of soil. They had two entrances or exits and, sometimes, a toilet. Some had wall shelves dug directly into the tunnels to place household utensils such as bottles, plates, glasses, etc.

Some citizens built private shelters for several families. Construction was overseen by those who knew how to follow the plans. Tunnels were dug into the subsoil, with bench seats on the sides. They could have curved rooms and several entrances and exits. They were made inside the houses themselves and they were usually connected to other neighbouring houses or even other public shelters.

The second type was the **underground shelter made of reinforced concrete**. Seven were built and there were two types: one that could hold up to 100 people and had a corridor with benches, two toilets, a generator room and an air filter; the other type was meant for 200 people, with two corridors and the same services as the former. These shelters had two entrances or exits to ensure that people could be evacuated. All were destroyed in the 1980s due to the need to build underground car parks in the various squares.

The shelter at Santa Clara Square (located on the map at number 43), no longer in existence, was the largest of all. It even had a hospital-infirmary. There are two shelters of this type in the current Rey Don Jaime Square.



The last model was the **above-ground shelter**. This type of shelter was built in Grau de Castelló, which is a part of the city next to the sea, a few kilometres away from the centre. This land had special characteristics: sandy with a very shallow water table i.e. the level at which the sea water begins to appear. Therefore, the shelters were on the surface and were closed off and covered with reinforced concrete, several layers of sand, stone and cement to reduce the impact of the bombs. They had several entrances and exits.

In the port of Castelló there was a shelter of this type, the shelter of Muelle de Levante, number 44 on the map. According to documentation from the Archive of the Castelló Port Authority, there were two more shelters planned for this area which were never built.



LIFE IN THE SHELTER

LIFER UNDER- GROUND

🔊 | 3.1 |

The first steps taken by civil authorities against the bombings were to provide people with the necessary guidance for the proper use of the shelters. These instructions were broadcast by radio, as well as in written form distributed throughout the city streets, shops, factories, bars and entertainment venues. In addition, the Governor and the Passive Defence Committee issued announcements and notices on the rules, among which the prohibition of staying overnight in the shelters stood out, a rule which, at end of the war and due to the persistence of the air strikes, many people broke by staying to sleep in these places, considered more secure. The Neighbourhood Committees participated in all of these tasks.

The sound of the El Fadrí sirens going off was the signal used before a bombing so that the population could head quickly to the nearest shelter, although sometimes they waited until they heard the sound of the aeroplane themselves to make sure it wasn't a false alarm. Sometimes huge crowds congregated at the shelters' entrance; people moved fast, they were scared and in a hurry, causing some of them to fall over. So, to monitor this situation, a surveillance guard was put in place.

Inside the shelters they would be safer, but they had to fight against the cold, damp and darkness. These shelters were like big houses, where people often came with a supply of blankets to sit on or to cover up from the cold and damp inside. They also used to carry oil lamps, cotton balls with oil, or candles to provide light inside the shelters. Some people also took mattresses and hammocks, and even domestic animals. Sick people – transported in mattresses, beds or wheelchairs – also came to these shelters. Some children played with the mud of the shelter – despite their fear – making little balls. It was said that children used to hang a wooden stick around their necks that they would bite during the bombings to prevent them from going deaf due to heavy explosions.

“The hug that my grandfather gave me when we met took away half of my fear; the other half has stayed with me for more than 60 years. Throughout my life I haven't been able to hear a factory, ambulance or police car siren without getting goose bumps.”

Inside the shelter, people used to sit on the benches until they heard the siren signalling the end of an air-raid. Sometimes, when the bombs were dropped at a very close distance, they shouted: “Hit the dirt!”, and people panicked. There were moments of shared silence, fear, and often, of solidarity. The bombings produced terror, insecurity, low morale, hunger and fatigue among the civilian population, but also a sense of indignation and courage.



/1938 PEOPLE FROM THE CITY LEAVING THE SHELTER AFTER AN AIR STRIKE.



THE BOM- BINGS

CASTELLÓ, TESTING GROUND

🎧 | 4.1 |

Castelló, like many other cities along the Mediterranean coast and northern Spain, was used as a testing ground by forces from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, inspired by and allied with the Franco regime to trial new weapons of destruction, aeronautical developments and military tactics, which would later be used in World War II. All of these were trialled here.

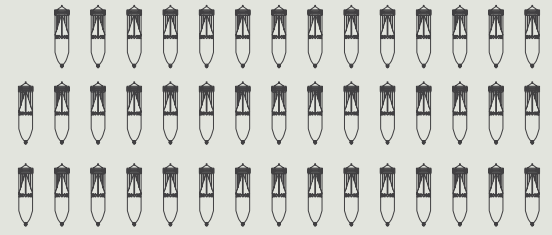
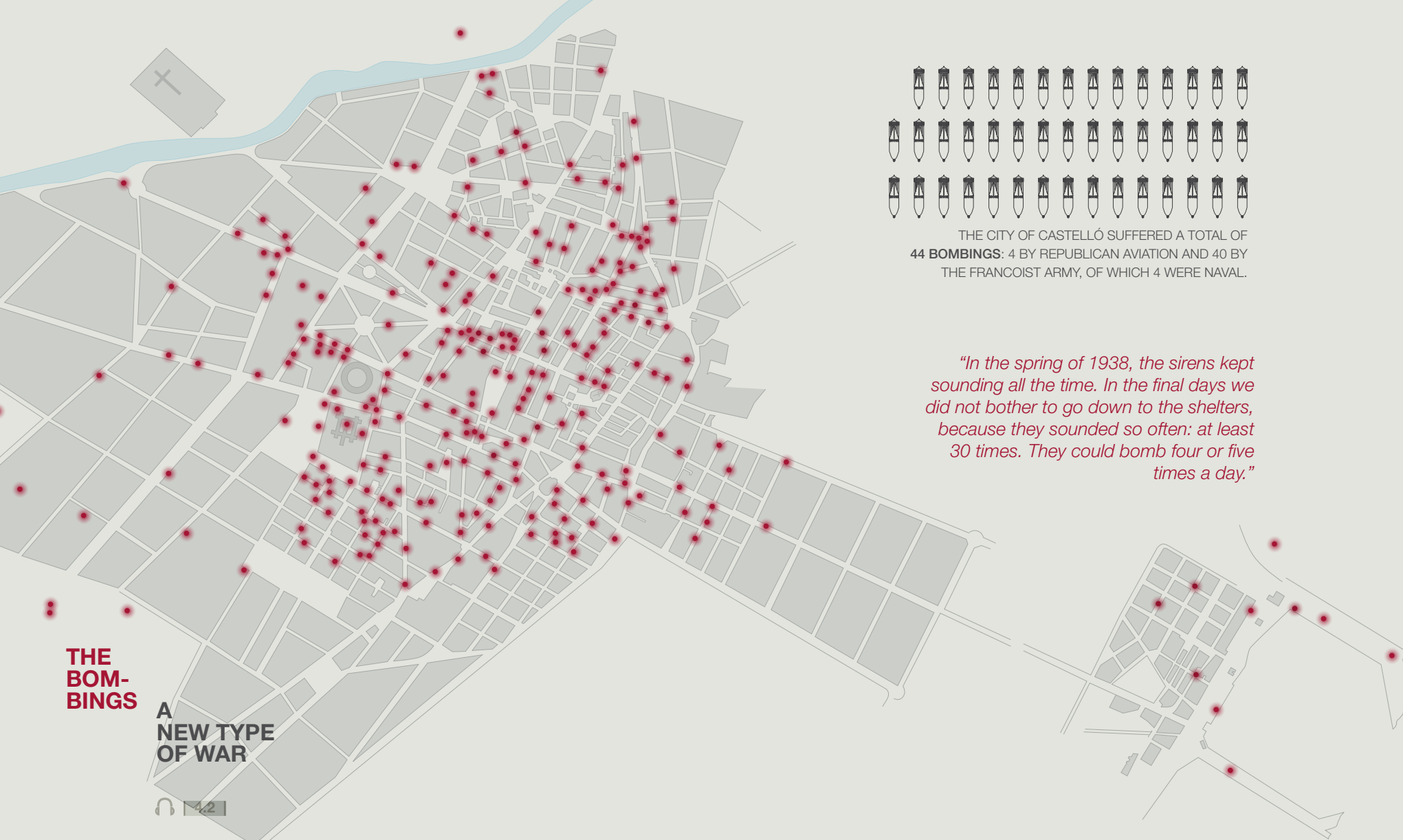
"Spain gave me an opportunity to test my new air force... and also for my men to gain experience."

Quote from Hermann Goering, Nazi Officer, testifying before the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, in March 1946.



16/03/1938

AIR BOMBING.
CASUALTIES



THE CITY OF CASTELLÓ SUFFERED A TOTAL OF 44 BOMBINGS: 4 BY REPUBLICAN AVIATION AND 40 BY THE FRANCOIST ARMY, OF WHICH 4 WERE NAVAL.

"In the spring of 1938, the sirens kept sounding all the time. In the final days we did not bother to go down to the shelters, because they sounded so often: at least 30 times. They could bomb four or five times a day."

THE BOMBINGS
A NEW TYPE OF WAR

Armies, in this new type of war, sought to instil terror in the enemy's rear guard by attacking the civilian population. From the first and tragic bombing of the *Baleares* cruiser on March 1937, in which 19 people, including women and children, lost their lives, to the capture of the city by the Francoist troops almost 16 months later, the bombings that Castelló endured were continuous, first at the hand of the Italian air force, whose base was in Mallorca, and later on from the German Condor Legion.

The latter were the most devastating bombings, since they affected practically the whole city over the months of April and May 1938, and caused many fatalities.

Here you can see a panel displaying the 44 bombings that the city suffered, 40 by the Francoist army, of which 4 were naval, and 4 by the Republican aviation forces.

THE BOMBINGS

CHRONOLOGY

4.3 |

The 44 bombings of the city, from the beginning of the Civil War in 1936 until its end 3 years later, have been represented in this timeline.

The first bombing was an attack from the sea in 1937. The *Baleares* cruiser opened fire for approximately 4 hours in an attack that has gone down in the city's history as "the ship bombing". The city of Castelló reacted to this event by commencing construction of the shelters. There were about fifty people injured or killed in the event.

This same ship continued with the bombings weeks later. In that same year, the *Canarias* cruiser also participated in the siege of the city from the sea.

1936

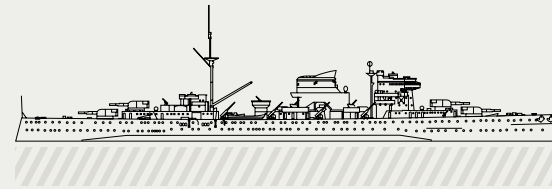
The next bombing was carried out by the Nazis 3 days later. Remember that the national side was supported by Germany and its leader, Hitler, created the so-called Condor Legion, mainly formed by the air force, specifically for this war. The first target in Castelló was the port area, but other areas were soon bombed.

The most destructive bombing was undoubtedly in 1938. On May 4, at noon, 20 planes attacked the city with 120 bombs of 250 kilos. But the worst part was still to come: in the afternoon, 40 planes dropped 300 bombs on Castelló. Hundreds of buildings were lost. Work to remove the rubble lasted 14 days.

Italy also participated in the war and their planes led the bombings of the city, as you can see in the chronology.

Day after day different areas of the city were destroyed. Castelló finally fell on June 14, 1938 with its seizure by the Francoist army.

The Republicans tried to take the city back and from that date onwards the bombings carried out by the Republican troops began focusing specifically on the Grau neighbourhood.



"The bombing of the ship"
Duration from 20 to 24 h /
19 Casualties / × ×
34 Wounded / × ×
16 Civil buildings damaged / ● ●
The construction of air-raid shelters begins /

Naval bombing *Baleares* cruiser



HEINKEL HE-46 PAVA

Tactical reconnaissance and observation in the Condor Legion. It was equipped with a Zeiss camera to take pictures during the bombings.

Air bombing
Condor Legion from Germany
3 He-59 aircraft in the morning /
6 He-59 aircraft in the afternoon /
Casualties / ×

1937

23/03

13/04

25/05

02/07

14/11

22/11

22/12



19-21/04

25/06

15/10

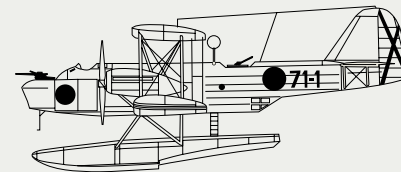
19/11

26/11

26/12

26/03

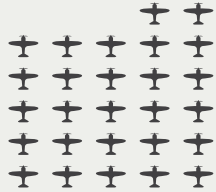
Air bombing
Condor Legion from Germany /
3 Heinkel He-59 *Zapatonas* aircraft /
Port Area /



HEINKEL HE-59 ZAPATONES | FLYING BOAT

* Of the 44 bombings, only the most significant ones are highlighted

× Casualties
× Wounded people
● Material damage



Air bombing
 Legionary air force from Italy /
 Squad No. 8 *Bombardeo*
Veloz /
 27 Savoia SM-79 aircraft /

16/01

Air bombing
 Central area of Castelló /
 • Fire in the CAMPSA tanks /
 × Casualties /

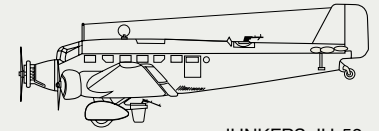
16/03



100
 BOMBS

Air bombing
 Destroyed: 3 warehouses, 61
 houses, a tile factory and the
 Institute of Hygiene / ••
 Affected: the Provincial Hospital
 and 22 houses /
 Casualties / ××

29/03



JUNKERS JU-52



HEINKEL HE-111 *PEDRO*

Air bombing
 Condor Legion from Germany /
 ×× Several casualties /
 92 buildings destroyed and
 •• buildings affected /

25/04

1938

10/01

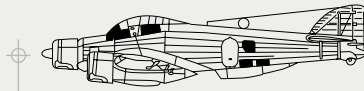
11/01

18/01

21/01

15/03

Air bombing
 Legionary air force from Italy /
 5 Savoia SM-79 aircraft /
 Destruction of *masets* in the areas of
 • Estepar and Marrada /



28/03

Air bombing
 North Station /
 Fire of 3 trains /



30/03

01/04

02/04

03/04

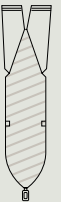
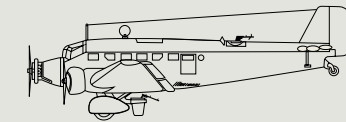
19/04

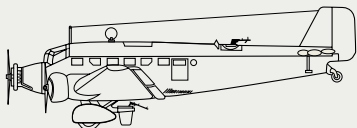
04/05

Air bombing
 Condor Legion from Germany /
 Noon / 20 Ju-52 and He-111 aircraft: 120 bombs of 250 kg
 6:40 p.m. / 40 Ju-52 and He-111 aircraft: 300 bombs
 •••• Affected: 64 streets and 139 buildings
 151 buildings and the Palacio de la Diputación destroyed /
 ×××× Casualties and wounded /
 The works to remove the rubble lasted 14 days /

60 AIRCRAFT

420 BOMBS
 250 kg





JUNKERS JU-52

It was a slow aircraft and thus an easy target. In spite of this, it withstood enemy fire quite well, thanks to its solid structure with metallic coating. What's more, because it had three engines, it could return to its destination with one engine damaged or even stopped.



HEINKEL HE-111
PEDRO

It was initially designed as a passenger plane, but it was later adapted thanks to its military potential.

Air bombing

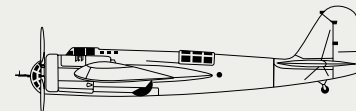
Condor Legion from Germany /
Central area of Castelló /

Air bombing

Condor Legion from
Germany /
Port area /
English ship *Isadora
Beliasi* on fire /

Air bombing

Central area of
Castelló /



TUPOLEV SB-2 KATIUSKA

Republican air force from
Russia

Air bombing

Republican air force /

Air bombing

Republican air force /
Area of El Grau /
Duration: 10:00 p.m.
to 3:30 a.m. /

1938

1939

18/05

25/05

28/05

09/06

11/06

25/06

05/09

01/01

19/05

26/05

06/06

10/06

14/06/1938

31/08

01/04/1939

Air bombing

Condor Legion from Germany /
Area: Entire city /
109 houses destroyed / ●●●
99 buildings affected /
Wounded and casualties / ××

Air bombing

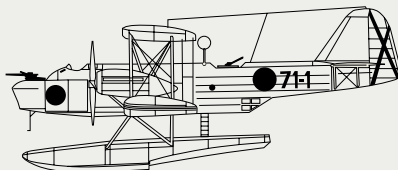
Condor Legion from Germany /
10 bombs of 50 kg /
Port area /
Sunk the motorboat
Pascual Flores /

Seizure of Castelló by
the Francoist army

Air bombing

Republican air force /
Area of El Grau /
Casualties / ×
Affected houses in the
Buenavista promenade / ●

THE CIVIL WAR ENDS



HEINKEL HE-59
ZAPATONES | FLYING BOAT

Its name is due to the similarity of its two large wooden floats with aluminium cladding, which served as fuel tanks, to a pair of large shoes.

× × ×

● ● ● ●



“During the war and the bombings, my mother was very nervous... She was always fully dressed and ready to flee as if we were leaving. At the end we did not know if the siren sounded three, two or four times.

In the end the siren didn't stop sounding.”

MATERIAL DAMAGE

🎧 | 4.4 |

Few areas of the city were spared from the bombings. Along with military or strategic targets such as the railway line, military facilities, factories or fuel supplies, the civilian population and hundreds of homes in different parts of the city centre were also used as targets. The damage to private property was huge: 629 houses were left in ruins and a further 605 were affected; 2 factories and 6 warehouses destroyed, 4 factories and 4 warehouses damaged. Public buildings such as the provincial hospital, the secondary school, the North Station and the Provincial Council were also affected.

In the midst of the disaster, the Fire Service was busy at work. It is known that the sirens of the El Fadrí bell tower sounded 354 times to warn people of enemy planes and that the firemen gathered at the fire station every single time the siren sounded. There were 39 additional occasions when the firefighters had to act because boats and planes were dropping their deadly load.

The Fire Service played an important role throughout all those years. After the bombings, firemen had to dig out people trapped in the rubble; the wounded were prioritised. In addition, they were also in charge of keeping damaged buildings as stable as possible, whilst demolishing and removing the rubble from the remaining houses and buildings that had been destroyed and left in such bad condition that they were hazardous. Lastly, all the fires caused by incendiary bombs had to be put out.



CIVILIAN VICTIMS

OF THE CITY BOMBINGS

🔊 | 5.0 |

The bombings on Castelló and El Grau during the Civil War caused huge material damage – as explained before – and numerous injuries and fatalities. It also caused great pain and suffering amongst their citizens due to the terrible loss of loved ones.

The first ever list of fatalities due to the bombings in the city of Castelló was drawn up in 2005. On that list 137 victims were identified, although the number of victims may be up to 20 or 30 more.

In 2016, study and analysis of a new information source increased the number of victims to 154. To this we should add between 20 and 25 possible victims more, corresponding to unidentified burials, plus about 15 doubtful cases. With this new number we get a little closer to the total number of fatalities that the Civil War bombings inflicted on the population of our city. This is not however the final outcome, but a step in the on-going research.

FATALITIES

87 MEN

34 WOMEN

24 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

20/30 UNIDENTIFIED



1937**23/03/1937**

Aparici Vidal, Francisco /44/
Escudero Hernández, Francisco /12/
Escudero Hernández, Jesús /7/
Escudero, Juan /40/
Gavarrí, Remedios /10/
Margarit Fàbregas, Dolores /40/

24/03/1937

Escudero Hernández, Antonia /60/
Falcó Serra, Teresa /50/
Gavarrí, Manuela /47/
Hernández Giménez, Elvira /40/
Jarque Jarque, Jesús /28/
Pascual Museros, Nicolás /60/
Pellicer Sidro, Rosa
Ramos Falcó, Francisca /22/

26/03/1937

Ferrer Alambillaga, Vicente /23/

27/03/1937

Gallén Gallén, José /29/

03/04/1937

Bernat Asensio, Enrique /46/

04/04/1937

Giménez Gabarri, Nieves /2/

05/04/1937

Ventura Barrachina, Miguel /25/

25/05/1937

Martín Ríos, Herminio

12/07/1937

Lerisa Cantavella, Dolores /40/

21/12/1937

Martínez Fabregat, Isabel /31/

22/12/1937

Noda de la Cruz, Félix /23/
Navarro José, Vicente /47/
Ribes Peydro, Daniel /17/

24/12/1937

Toral Miguelez, Darío
Gil Sánchez, Miguel /7/
Miralles, Pedro
Navarro Gil, Enrique /12/
Navarro, Alejo /64/

1938**18/01/1938**

Mon Fola, Apolinar /56/
Monferrer Gil, Teresa /56/
Seglar Manrique, José /60/

21/01/1938

Azevedo Ruiz, Antonio /35/
Beltrán Beltrán, Vicente /35/
Cuadrado Hierba, María /69/
Marín, Juan /24/
Torto, María /25/
Solís Rodríguez, Juan Luis /23/

22/01/1938

Llansola Andreu, Vicente /48/
Martínez Martínez, Trinidad /52/

28/01/1938

Giménez Giménez, Elvira /22/

15/03/1938

Molina Merino, Francisco /21/

16/03/1938

Roma Trilles, Ramón
Velasco Santandreu, Miguel
Peña Acevedo, Tiburcio /38/

17/03/1938

Alegre Barber, Ángela /31/
Gea Clemente, Pedro /37/

18/03/1938

Gómez Calleja, Isidro /62/

27/03/1938

Pérez Duersión, Ana /3/

28/03/1938

López Martín, Ángel /68/
Matías /20/
Trocharte Fuentes, Carlos /37/
Oliver Oriola, Bernardo /29/
Marco Fillol, Eduardo /35/
Molés, Primitiva /40/

29/03/1938

Parreño Ortega, José /19/

30/03/1938

Pablo /2/

31/03/1938

Andreu Lliberós, Jaime /71/

01/04/1938

Guerrero Moreno, Salvador /48/

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Rey Gómez, Pedro

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HISTORICAL NOTE ON THE AIR-RAID SHELTER ON TETUÁN SQUARE

Due to a collapse in July 1951, the air-raid shelter on Tetuán Square was repaired, rebuilt and reinforced in 1952 using materials of the time, with walls, roofs and pavements made of concrete. These reinforcement and remodelling works were carried out by a group of prisoners, possibly political, or by a brigade of miners from Asturias.

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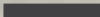

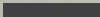
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