

Destroy!, Laid To Waste

The sky is black with clouds of flame
Europe's cities blaze

Total war strategic bombing
Cities laid to waste

Guernica, and London
Rotterdam, Dresden
Terror..Bombing..Total...War

Burning cities broken homes
Millions die for leaders conquests

Cities laid...Laid to waste

Around the turn of the century there was some movement towards banning aerial warfare in the same way poison gas and exploding bullets are prohibited from use in war. However, experience with the tactical use of the airplane in war proved it was an invaluable addition to a Nations arsenal.

Some experimentation with strategic bombing was conducted in the First World War but it was not until the bombing of Guernica in the Spanish Civil War that its true meaning was grasped. The Second World war was truly a total war. Every citizen was a combatant and every home a target. Whole cities were destroyed with the aim of instilling terror rather than disabling any military target. After the war the Strategic Bombing Survey and other studies concluded that this massive effort was of little military value. Strategic bombing's only saving grace was the development of nuclear weapons. A development which threatens the existence of our planet to this day.