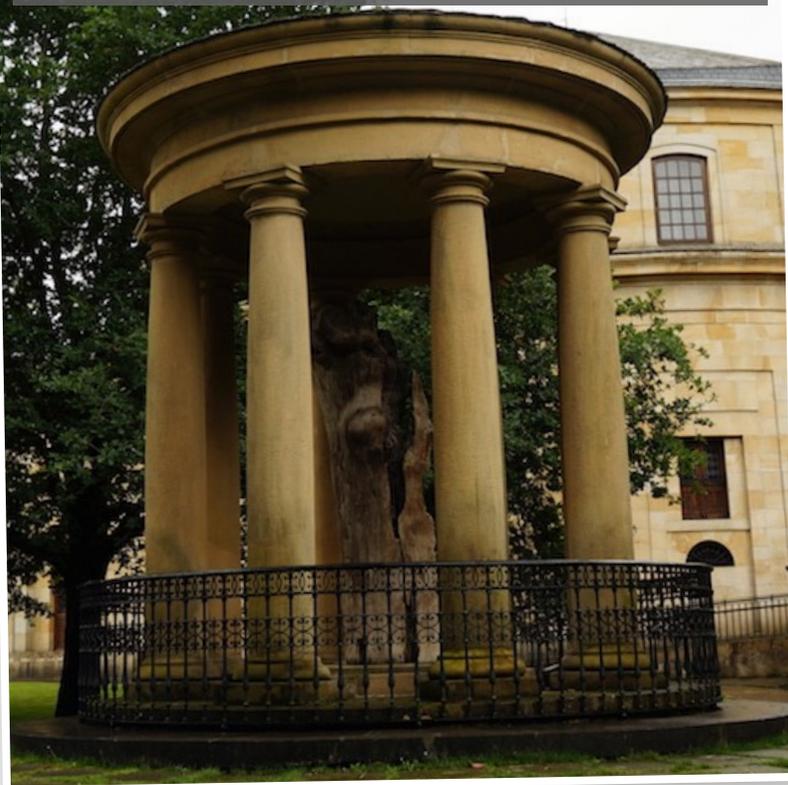


REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VILLAGES OF BISCAY USED TO HOLD ASSEMBLIES UNDER LOCAL BIG TREES. AS TIME PASSED, THE ROLE OF SEPARATE ASSEMBLIES WAS SUPERSEDED BY THE GUERNICA ASSEMBLY AND BY 1512 ITS OAK HAD ACQUIRED A SYMBOLIC MEANING. SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OAK TREE OF GUERNICA.



## Guernica massacre: Madrid removes façade that glorified Nazi role

*City council dismantles tomb fascia on 80th anniversary of the most notorious atrocity of the Spanish civil war*

BEFORE YOU READ THE COMPLETE ARTICLE LOOK AT THIS VOCABULARY AND FIND IT IN THE TEXT

**to devastate:** to destroy or ruin  
**lingering:** lasting for a long time, or slow to end  
**to dismantle s.t.:** to take s.t. apart; to separate into pieces  
**loan:** something given which is expected to be given back  
**to wound (s.o.):** to injure or hurt someone  
**façade:** the front of a building or structure  
**plaque:** piece of inscribed metal to commemorate an event  
**party (context):** a group of people  
**to chronicle s.t.:** to record events in a factual, detailed way  
**debris:** pieces of destroyed buildings; remains

Eighty years after Nazi bombers **devastated** the Basque town of Guernica, inspiring Pablo Picasso's famous painting, Madrid city council has removed a last, **lingering** trace of the most notorious atrocity of the Spanish civil war.

The council announced on Wednesday that it had **dismantled** a mausoleum in La Alameda cemetery where seven pilots of the German Condor legion are buried.

Adolf Hitler lent the Condor Legion, a unit of the German Luftwaffe, to Gen Francisco Franco's nationalist forces during the civil war of 1936-39, to help them fight the republicans. The **loan** also allowed the Nazis to practise their blitzkrieg tactics, later used in the second World War.

The 1937 air raid on the Basque market town lasted for four hours, killing hundreds of people and **wounding** hundreds more.

The tomb was **dismantled** at the request of the German embassy in Madrid, which had asked for the **façade** to be removed before the 80th anniversary of the massacre.

In a letter, the German ambassador requested that "the **dismantling** should include the removal of the entire **façade**" and that it be replaced with "seven small and simple **plaques** to identify those buried there".

The monument was inscribed in German: "Here rest the German pilots who fell in the struggle for a free Spain." Underneath, in Spanish, it read: "German aviators who died for God and for Spain. Present!"

The original inscription had already been removed after a previous application from the embassy, but it later reappeared at the hands of unknown **parties**.

In a statement, the city council said: "It was precisely the desire to avoid any such recurrence that led the Municipal Funerary Company and the German embassy to agree the complete **dismantling** of the **façade** on the 80th anniversary of the dropping of 31 tonnes of bombs on the civilian population during the Guernica massacre."

The British reporter George Steer, who **chronicled** the attack in the Times and the New York Times, wrote: "At 2am today when I visited the town, the whole of it was a horrible sight, flaming from end to end. The reflection of the flames could be seen in the clouds of smoke above the mountains from 10 miles away. Throughout the night, houses were falling until the streets became long heaps of red impenetrable **debris**."

Picasso started work on his masterpiece, which is on display at the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid, within days of the attack.

Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/26/guernica-massacre-madrid-removes-facade-that-glorified-nazi-role>

## Weekly English Practice



4th May 2017

English  
Coaching  
Projects S.Coop.

[weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com](http://weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com)

[www.englishcoachingprojects.net](http://www.englishcoachingprojects.net) Calle San Ignacio de Loyola 15 bajo  
[info@englishcoachingprojects.net](mailto:info@englishcoachingprojects.net) 01001, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba-Alava

"Let's chat about that!"

Write your answers in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Give reasons for your answers.

- According to the text, why are the following numbers important: 80, 4, 7, 7 and 31?
- How would you feel if you visited Guernica?
- Do you like the original Picasso painting? Why/Why not?
- Do you think dismantling the tomb was a good idea? Why/Why not?



# “iLook, iThink, iSpeak” Express Yourself Better



**Friday 5th May**  
@20:00 c/San Ignacio de Loyola 15

*Pintxo-sized presentations of thought-provoking concepts*

20.00: Drinks and food, and 2 volunteers to learn to play the ukulele

20.15: **Darren (Kez) Kurien - Being A Coach**  
(but not just an English one)

20.30: Break to chat and eat and drink and practise the ukulele :-)

20.40: **TED Talk - Can A Computer Write Poetry?**  
(or at least better than you?)

20.50: Break to chat and eat and drink and write some poetry if you want :-)

20.55: **TED Talk - How To Dry Your Hands And Save The Planet**  
(including some practice!)

21.10: Break to chat and eat and drink and practise the ukulele :-)

21.20: **Rob Hextall - The British-Basque Connection**  
(Am I more Basque than British?)

21.30: Break to chat and eat and drink and practise the ukulele :-)

21.45: **FRED Talks UKULELE CONCERT**



## THE TREE OF GUERNICA

THE SPANISH REGENT MARIA CHRISTINA, ACCOMPANIED BY HER INFANT DAUGHTER QUEEN ISABELLA II, WAS THE LAST SPANISH MONARCH TO SWEAR AN OATH TO THE FUEROS (LOCAL CHARTERS OR LAWS) UNDER THE ICONIC OAK IN GUERNICA IN 1839.

THE KNOWN SPECIMENS OF THE TREE FORM A DYNASTY:

- "THE FATHER" - THIS WAS PLANTED IN THE 14TH CENTURY AND LASTED 450 YEARS.
- THE "OLD TREE" (1742-1892) - THIS WAS RE-PLANTED IN 1811. THE TRUNK IS NOW HELD IN A TEMPLET IN THE GARDENS.
- THE THIRD TREE (1858-2004) - THIS WAS RE-PLANTED IN 1860 AND SURVIVED THE BOMBING OF GUERNICA IN 1937 BUT HAD TO BE REPLACED BECAUSE OF A FUNGUS. THE GARDENERS OF THE BISCAYAN GOVERNMENT KEEP SEVERAL SPARE TREES GROWN FROM THE TREE'S ACORNS.
- THE FOURTH (1986-2015) - IT WAS REPLANTED ON THE SITE OF ITS FATHER ON 25 FEBRUARY 2005. IT DIED OF A HUMIDITY RELATED DISEASE ON 15 JANUARY 2015.
- THE FIFTH (MARCH 2015- ) - THIS WAS PLANTED IN 2015 AGED 14.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gernikako\\_Arbola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gernikako_Arbola)

