



A 2023 paper published by Oxford University Press concluded that “The evidence from a century of bombing is clear: when put to the test of war, strategic bombing of civilians has repeatedly failed to produce decisive effects.”

This conviction is echoed in numerous other research papers, including one published on the U.S. Naval Institute website. Two examples:

“After the RAF’s fruitless attempts at precision bombing. Air Marshal Harris ordered a campaign of terror, inflicting pain by large-scale, indiscriminate destruction of Germany’s industrial cities, euphemistically called “de-housing.” He intended to crack the German population’s will to resist. In conjunction with daylight operations by the USAAC, the bombers generated the awesome new phenomenon of the self-sustaining firestorm. But bombing city populations in Germany had an effect opposite to that... Their will to fight was strengthened. Indiscriminate bombing of civilians once again proved counterproductive.”

It goes on to say that “The (German) bombing only stiffened the morale of Londoners and brought England’s war effort to a higher pitch.”

And regarding the Vietnam War, the paper states that “Bombing Hanoi and Haiphong had little effect, other than the usual one of raising the morale of the population and ensuring their will to continue the war.”

Similarly the indiscriminate carpet bombing of German cities during WW II was a bust. Interviews of civilians conducted by historian Katrin Schreiter revealed that: “The Allies’ goal had been to wreck the German economy and undermine morale, eroding support for the Nazis and leading Germans to question their leaders. Ultimately, writes Schreiter, it failed. The bombardments forced Darmstadtians to rely on one another all the more, fortifying communities that helped them keep living in

the face of the unthinkable. The bombs may have destroyed Germany, but they did not destroy German morale.”

Evidence about the effects of the terrible US fire bombings of Japan is mixed, but some scholars believe it had no strong impact on civilian morale. That changed of course with the dropping of atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



So why do Putins' forces continue to pummel Ukrainian cities with missiles, drones and bombs each and every day? My own belief is that it is a combination of mediocre military thinking combined with a desire to exact revenge on these people who continue to dare to

defy Mother Russia. In any event, if history teaches us anything, it's that Ukraine will not be defeated by killing civilians in their homes.

Slava Ukraine!

Chris

www.inthetrenchesukraine.org