



Seventy years ago at Alicante's port...

In March 1939 the Spanish Civil War finished at the port of Alicante. After the mythical ship **Stanbrook** had departed, about fourteen thousand people found themselves trapped there. All of them had defended the constitutional legitimate regime of the Spanish II Republic against the military uprising supported by the fascist powers. After the arrival of the Italian troops led by Gastone Gambara, they had to leave this last territory loyal to the Republic and, once taken prisoners, some were taken to a field of almond trees situated between La Goteta and Vistahermosa, while others were locked up in the castles of Santa Barbara and San Fernando, in the bullring, in some cinemas, in the School for the Blind and in the Reformatory. In the Campo de los Almendros (Field of the Almond trees), republican prisoners suffered subhuman conditions, without food, and virtually no water, for five or six days until they were taken to several prisons, crowded in wagons of freight trains, to the concentration camp of **Albatera**.

Seventy years after these tragic events, the **Alicante Civic Commission for the Recovery of the Historical Memory** wants to make the tragedy of those defenceless defenders of freedom and democracy known worldwide, due to its universal importance and significance. For this reason, this commission has organized a number of acts to remember those events and achieve the execution of their proposals to a monument -a sculpture by Eusebio Sempere- at the **Port of Alicante** and a Memorial in **the Campo de los Almendros**. The authorities have not yet given their approval to these proposals. This is therefore a way to compensate for an old injustice, to make up for a manipulated story, to fight against oblivion, to pay off a moral debt that the Spanish democracy still has with those who fought for a tolerant, peaceful, cultured and supportive Spain. The same people who kept this idea of Spain whilst far away from their homeland, in the sad years of exile, with a great amount of dignity.

In order to recover and dignify those "*places of memory*" from the II Republic we request the cooperation of institutions and citizens who are concerned about the maintenance, consolidation and widening of democracy, and who understand that the latter cannot be built upon oblivion.

Name and surname	Identity card/passport number	Signature	Country or city

