

Oradour-Sur-Glane

Village in the Limoges area of France whose entire population was massacred by SS men in June 1944.

After the Allies landed at Normandy on June 6, 1944, partisan operations all over France were intensified. As a result, convoys of German troops traveling on French roads were faced with widespread resistance; in frustration, the Germans began taking revenge on the partisans by attacking French citizens. In one case of retaliation that took place on June 10, a unit of SS men stormed the village of Oradour-Sur-Glane, rounded up its entire population of 634 men, women, and children, and drove them into the village church, which they then set on fire. Every single person inside the church was burnt to death - not one inhabitant of Oradour-Sur-Glane survived. After the war, Oradour was rebuilt and settled with new residents. The village's name became a symbol of the horrifically brutal manner in which the Germans treated France and the French people during World War II.