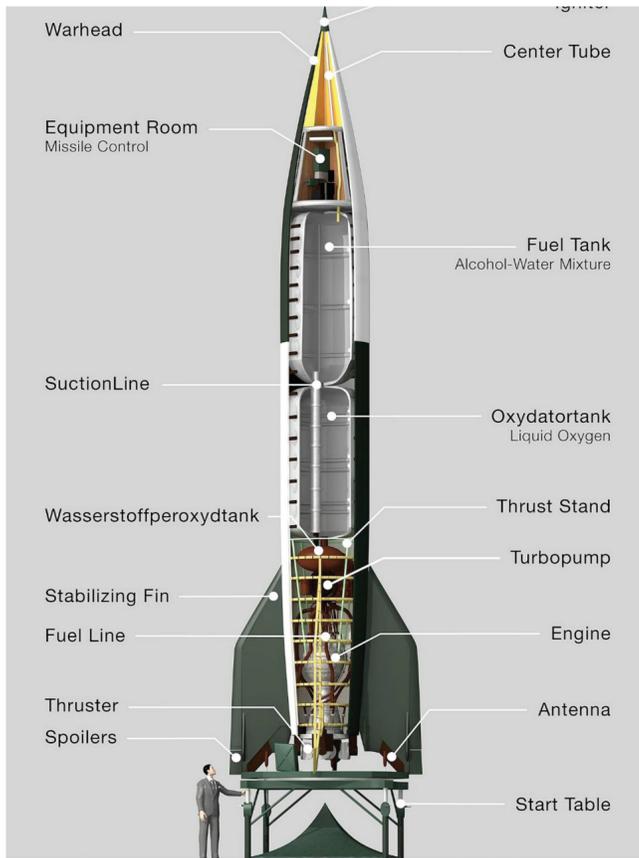


V2 Rocket

Germany launched 1,402 V2 rockets against Britain between 7th September 1944 and 27th March 1945. They had a similar appearance to the 6 metre tall Reveley Rocket, but were more than twice as high at 14 metres. The rockets carried a 1000 kg warhead, had a 200-mile range and reached a maximum altitude of 55 miles.



The V2 was an impressive technical achievement, featuring a sophisticated combustion chamber with pumped fuel and innovative heat management, supersonic aerodynamics, gyroscopic guidance and rudder control. The rocket motor fired for only 65 seconds but generated 25 tons of thrust to reach a speed of three times the speed of sound at impact, making it practically invulnerable to anti-aircraft guns and fighter planes.



Wernher von Braun the designer of the V2 rocket

The chief designer, Wernher von Braun was enticed to America after the war to help



with their rocket programme and he became the chief architect of the Saturn V rocket that propelled the Apollo spacecraft to the moon.

2,754 people were killed and 6,523 injured by V2's, the vast majority in London. The nearest attack to Bushey landed between North Harrow and Pinner. Although the rockets were terrifying as they arrived without warning, and could cause a great deal of destruction, the low average death rate of two persons per rocket was because of misdirection. The guidance system whilst advanced for the time was not very accurate; and British Intelligence fed the enemy false information about where the rockets were landing, so that subsequent corrections to their trajectory caused many to miss their target.



Bombed buildings are at Whitechapel and were caused by the penultimate V2 to land on Britain on 27th March 1945 and killed 134 people.

The V1 and V2 rocket programme cost Germany very dearly, diverting resources from much needed aircraft production, and achieving little militarily. More people, largely slave labour, died manufacturing the V2 than were killed by it and each rocket required 30 tons of potatoes to produce the alcohol for its fuel at a time when food was scarce. But the programme laid the foundation stone of the space industry, which today launches satellites that tell your phone you are now in the garden of Reveley Lodge, Bushey Heath.

**REVELEY
AT WAR**