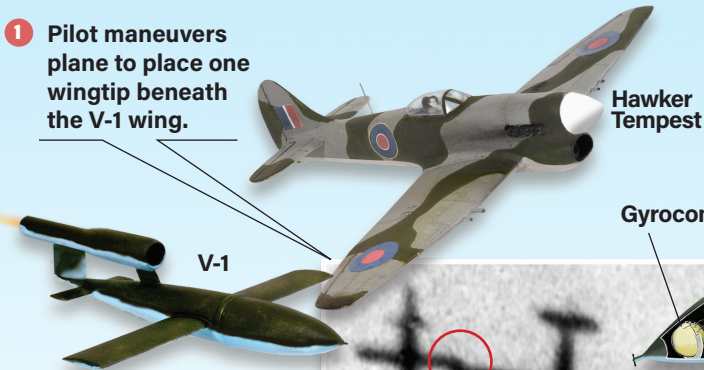


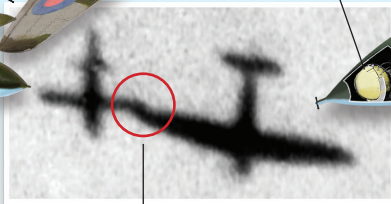
Combatting the V-1

Germany launched more than 24,000 V-1 buzz bombs at Britain and Belgium from June 1944 to March 1945. Thousands crashed after takeoff and up to half were shot down. In a few instances, pilots chose to tip the bombs off course, rather than risk shooting them and flying into a blast of debris. This tactic was used successfully at least three times.

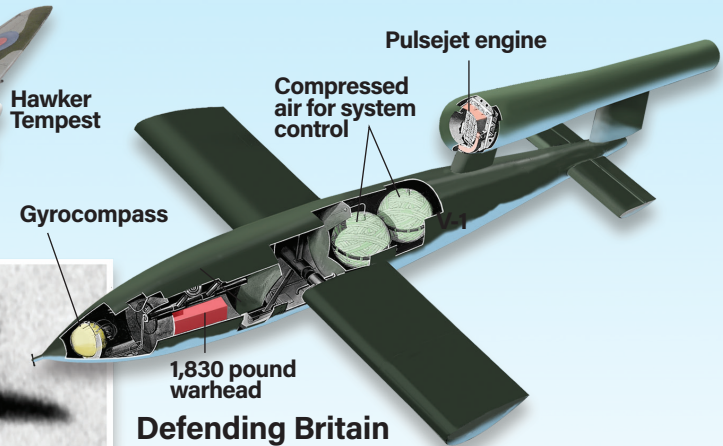
1 Pilot maneuvers plane to place one wingtip beneath the V-1 wing.



2 Steering away from the V-1, the pilot's wing would rise, tipping the V-1 out of control.

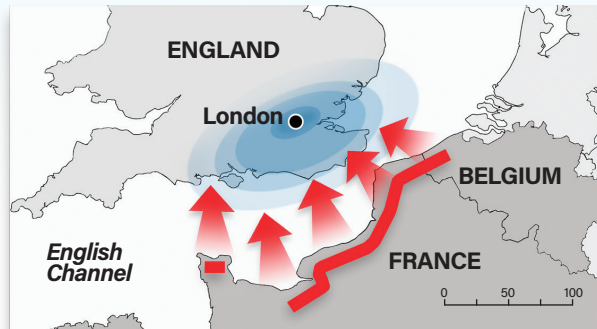


3 This actual image shows a Spitfire engaging the technique, but the fastest British defender was the Hawker Tempest.



Defending Britain

Britain used an active defense in four layers: A fighter belt at sea, a coastal belt of anti-aircraft guns, an inland fighter belt, and, closest to London, a belt of barrage balloons.



- British four-layer defense
- V-1 launch sites in Nazi-occupied France and Belgium

Measuring Up

The V-1 buzz bombs flew a swift 400 mph, faster than most aircraft in the Allied inventory:



Source: *Airpower Classics*