German V-1 Flying Bomb rolling out for launch (c. 1944-45)
UAV (Drones) Inquiry Unit

During World War II, the German Luftwaffe used the V-1, Vergeltungswaffen (retaliation weapon), a small, pilotless cruise missile during World War II as a last attempt to regain its advantage against the Allies. The V-1 was first used a week after D-Day in June 1944. The Luftwaffe killed thousands of people in Britain, France, and Belgium with the V-1 and the V-2, a liquid-fuel long-range ballistic missile; however, the use of these UAVs failed to bring ultimate victory to the Nazis.

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Source: Aftermath of a V-1 bombing in London, 1944. "Civil Defence workers help an elderly man collect together the few belongings he can salvage from the pile of rubble which was once his home, following a devastating V1 attack in the Highland Road and Lunham Road area of Upper Norwood. This man had been for a walk as his wife prepared the Sunday lunch, and returned to find that his house had been destroyed and his wife killed." This photograph, # D 21219 was scanned and released by the Imperial War Museum on the IWM Non Commerical License. The image was catalogued by the IWM as created for the Ministry of Information, which was dissolved in 1946. Consequently, the image and faithful reproductions are considered Crown Copyright, now expired as the photograph was taken prior to 1 June 1957.