

The Big Picture – Missile Man

Announcer: This is *The Big Picture*, an official television report of the United States Army produced for the armed forces and the American people. Now, to show you part of *The Big Picture*, here is Master Sergeant Stuart Queen.

Master Sergeant Stuart Queen: The United States Army, as almost everyone knows, is placing an ever-increasing emphasis on guided missiles, projectiles which can deliver deadly conventional or atomic warheads to enemy targets hundreds or even thousands of miles away. Perhaps the most remarkable fact about these amazing weapons is that they have all been developed in little more than a decade.

The Guided Missile Age announced itself to the free world in 1944, when German guided missiles began a reign of terror on the city of London. Over 17,500 explosive-laden missiles fell on London within a year. The first of these German guided missiles was the V-1 Buzz Bomb, jet-powered and traveling 400 miles an hour. Within a few months the V-1 was followed by the now famous V-2, which traveled at 3,500 miles an hour. There was no effective countermeasure.

Fortunately for the friends of freedom, Nazi Germany got her missiles into operation only after the course of the war was already decided. She did not have time to make full-scale use of her technological achievement. And there was one other thing she did not have. The Germans did not possess nuclear warheads for their missiles. If the Nazis had...