

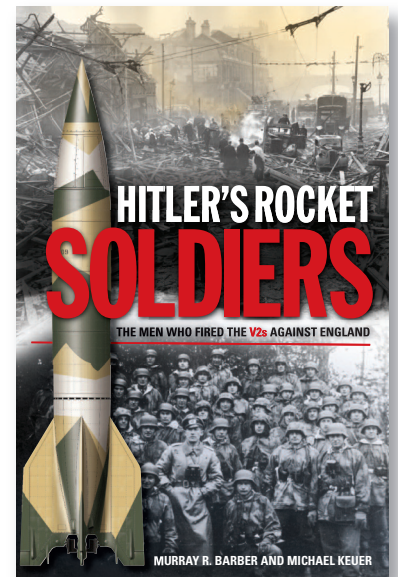


BOOK INFORMATION SHEET

HITLER'S ROCKET SOLDIERS

The Men who fired the V2s against England

Murray R. Barber and Michael Keuer



An invaluable contribution to the operational history of the A4 (V2) rocket. Little has been written about the secret activities of the special troops whose role was to protect and fire the operational A4 (V2) rocket under field conditions in World War Two. Carefully researched, the book goes a long way to filling this void.... This scholarly work is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in the history of Hitler's rocket troops and the field deployment of the world's first long-range rocket...

Dr. Brett Gooden, author of *Projekt Natter – Last of the Wonder Weapons*

IN the final, desperate months of World War Two, at a time when the German war machine was considered by the Allies to be an almost spent force, Adolf Hitler unleashed a new weapon against England and western Europe that fell from the silence of the Earth's upper atmosphere and the edge of space. It was a weapon that struck fear into the hearts and minds of wartime civilians; it came without warning and defence was impossible. This was an unseen threat that fell at supersonic speeds, levelling suburban streets to dust in seconds, terrorising the residents of London and Antwerp – this was the V2 Rocket.

The V2 – 'Vergeltungswaffen Zwei' (Vengeance Weapon 2), designed by a team headed by the rocket scientist and engineer, Wernher von Braun, at the secret Nazi research centre at Peenemünde, was the most sophisticated weapon developed in Europe during the war. From September 1944 to early 1945, V2 launch teams fired more than 3,000 rockets, each with a high-explosive one-ton warhead, at targets in England, France, Belgium, Holland and even within Germany itself. Many rockets were fired from mobile launch sites in The Hague and from concealed wooded areas, using fleets of modern transporters and trailers with sophisticated ancillary and support vehicles.

For the first time, this book tells the story of the V2 through the eyes and experiences of the men who not only fired the missiles at targets such as London, Norwich, Antwerp and Paris, but also of some of the military scientists and technicians involved in its development. The authors have spent many years tracking down and interviewing the few surviving veterans of these little-known and secretive units and have unearthed new and rare information from first-hand accounts. These are the unique recollections of the 'Rocket Soldiers' who have spoken candidly to the authors about their wartime duties.

The authors have spent several years researching their subject and tracing former V2 veterans whom they have interviewed for this book. The result is *Hitler's Rocket Soldiers* which forms an important new contribution to our understanding of the German war machine and its technology. Using never-before tapped resources, the book is both a revelation and a valuable resource to military historians and those with an interest in rocket development.

The Authors

Murray R. Barber was born in 1956 and is married with two children. He lives in Devon, England where he pursues several business interests that are related to astronomy. Through the International V2 Research Group he met Michael Keuer and, following visits to see the remains of the former Peenemünde research establishment, they decided to study the history of the V2. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Michael Keuer was born in 1959 in Hannover, Germany and is a senior software developer in a veterinarian pharmaceutical supply company. He has always held a keen interest in developments in technology throughout history including the V2 rocket. As his interest in the V2 grew, he met Murray Barber and the two decided to research the reminiscences of the last few surviving men involved in the military development and employment of this extraordinary weapon of war.

Bibliographic Information

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