

Station 1: Blitzkrieg (Lightning War)

Germany's fast, coordinated attacks combined tanks (Panzers), motorized infantry, dive bombers (Stukas), and close air support to break enemy lines and encircle troops quickly. Used to conquer Poland (1939), France (1940), and early gains in the USSR (1941).

Primary source: German general Heinz Guderian: "The tanks... advanced with such speed that the enemy had no time to react."

Visual: German Panzer tanks advancing through ruined French countryside during the 1940 invasion.



World War II: Axis Invasions and the Fall of France - The Atlantic

Station 2: Strategic Bombing

Massive Allied air campaigns targeted German and Japanese cities, factories, and infrastructure (e.g., RAF night raids, USAAF daylight precision bombing). Germany countered with V-1 flying bombs and V-2 rockets.

Primary source: RAF Bomber Command directive: "The aim is the destruction of the enemy's war potential and the morale of the civil population."

Visual: Devastated ruins of Dresden after Allied bombing raids, showing widespread destruction of the city center.



Bombing of Dresden - Wikipedia

Station 3: Aircraft Carriers & Naval Aviation

Floating airfields allowed strikes far from land bases; decisive in the Pacific after Japan's early carrier advantage was broken at Midway (1942). U.S. "island-hopping" relied on carrier task forces.

Primary source: Admiral Chester Nimitz: "The fate of our carriers... will determine the outcome in the Pacific."

Visual: USS Enterprise (CV-6), a key U.S. aircraft carrier in action during the Pacific theater.



USS Enterprise (CV-6) - Wikipedia

Station 4: Submarines / U-boats

Germany's U-boat wolf packs tried to cut Britain's Atlantic supply lines (Battle of the Atlantic, 1939 to 1943). Allies won with convoys, sonar, radar, code-breaking (Enigma), and long-range aircraft.

Primary source: Winston Churchill: "The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril."

Visual: Captured German U-boat (U-505) being boarded by U.S. Navy crew in rough Atlantic seas.



The Capture of U-505

Station 5: Atomic Bombs

U.S. Manhattan Project developed the first nuclear weapons; dropped on Hiroshima (Aug 6, 1945) and Nagasaki (Aug 9, 1945), killing 140,000 to 200,000 and forcing Japan's surrender.

Primary source: President Truman's announcement: "It is an atomic bomb... harnessing the basic power of the universe."

Visual: The iconic mushroom cloud rising over Hiroshima after the atomic bombing.



The Hiroshima Mushroom Cloud That Wasn't - The New York Times

Station 6: Tanks & Armored Warfare

Evolution from light tanks to heavy designs (German Tigers, Soviet T-34, U.S. Shermans).
Massive armored battles on Eastern and Western Fronts.

Primary source: Soviet tanker: "Our T-34s were faster, more reliable, and produced in huge numbers."

Visual: Soviet T-34 tanks with crew riding on top, advancing across open terrain during WWII.



The T-34 Tank: A Soviet "Tractor" That Reached Berlin