

THE COLD WAR

THE COLD WAR IS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE TENSION THAT EXISTED FROM THE 1940S TO THE 1990S BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE POWERS OF THE WESTERN WORLD. THEY INCLUDED THE USA AND BRITAIN.

THE ARMIES OF THE TWO SIDES NEVER OFFICIALLY WENT TO WAR. THE CONFLICT WAS PLAYED OUT THROUGH MILITARY ALLIANCES, SPYING, PROPAGANDA, A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETITION, SUCH AS THE SPACE RACE.

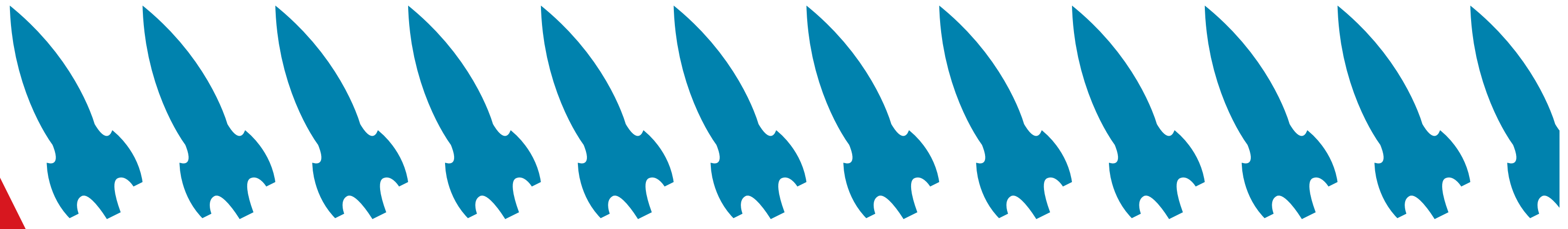


THE ARMS RACE

During the late 1940s and 1950s Britain wanted to find the quickest way to respond if the Soviet Union launched an attack. Rocket propulsion, whether used for aircraft or for missiles seemed to provide an answer.

In 1955 Britain designed an intercontinental ballistic missile called Blue Streak. The Black Knight rocket was originally designed in 1957 to launch Blue Streak into space.

Blue Streak was abandoned in the 1960s in favour of an American designed missile system. The technology developed for Black Knight was then used for more peaceful means.

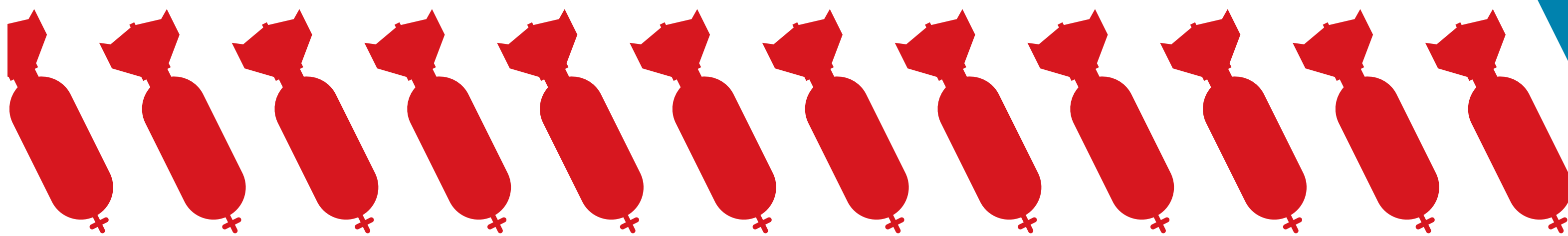


THE SPACE RACE

USA, Britain and the Soviet Union realised that rocket propulsion would also enable space flight. Both sides wanted to prove their scientific superiority and show their military strength by being the first to go into space.

In 1957, using a converted ballistic missile the Soviets launched the world's first man-made satellite, Sputnik 1. The Space Race had begun!

This is when the Highdown site entered the Cold War. The results of the Black Knight tests would be very valuable to both nuclear arms development and the race for space.



WAR TEMPERATURE GAUGE

HOT WAR FULL MILITARY ENGAGEMENT

WARM WAR MILITARY CONFRONTATION BY PROXY

COLD WAR HOSTILITY BUT NO MILITARY FIGHTING