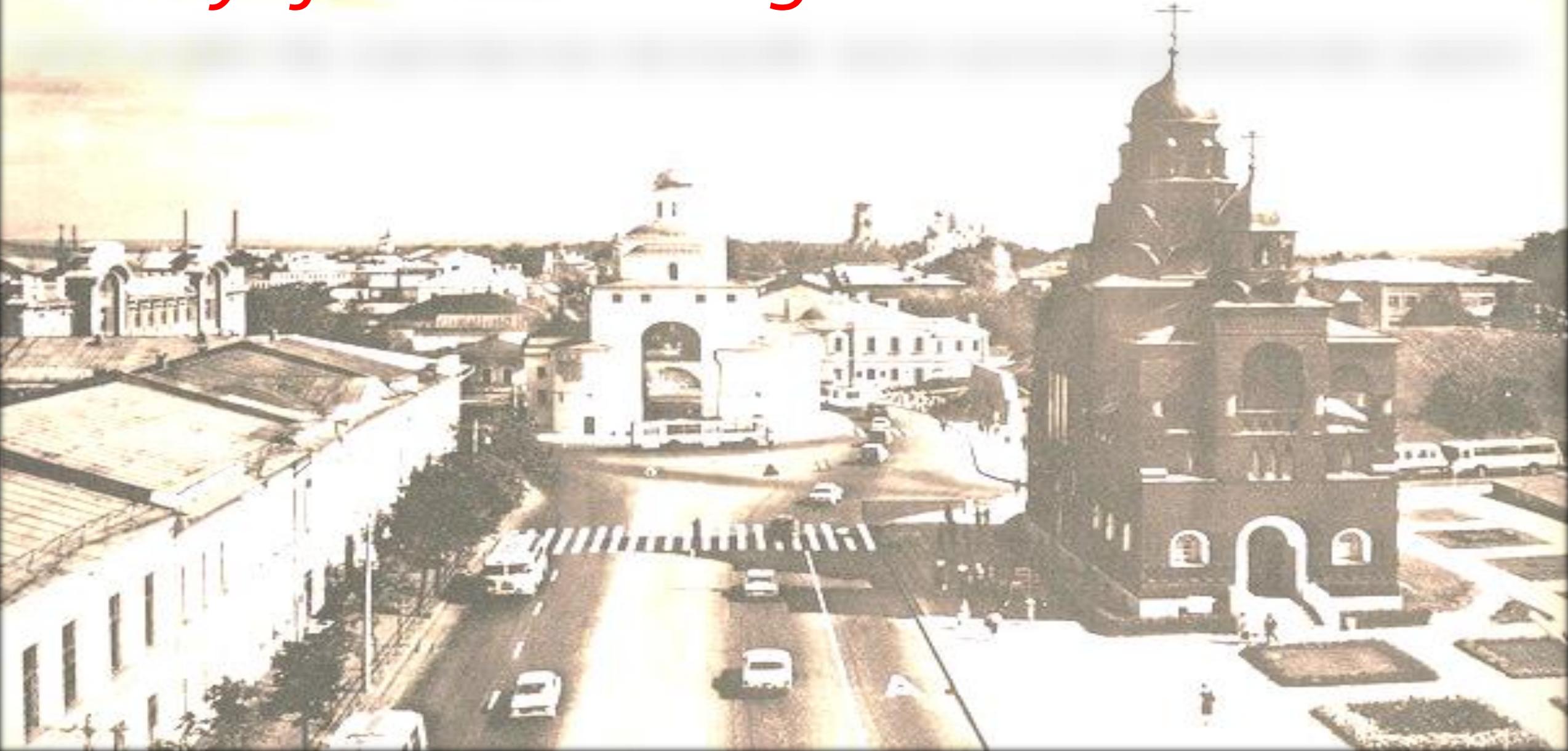
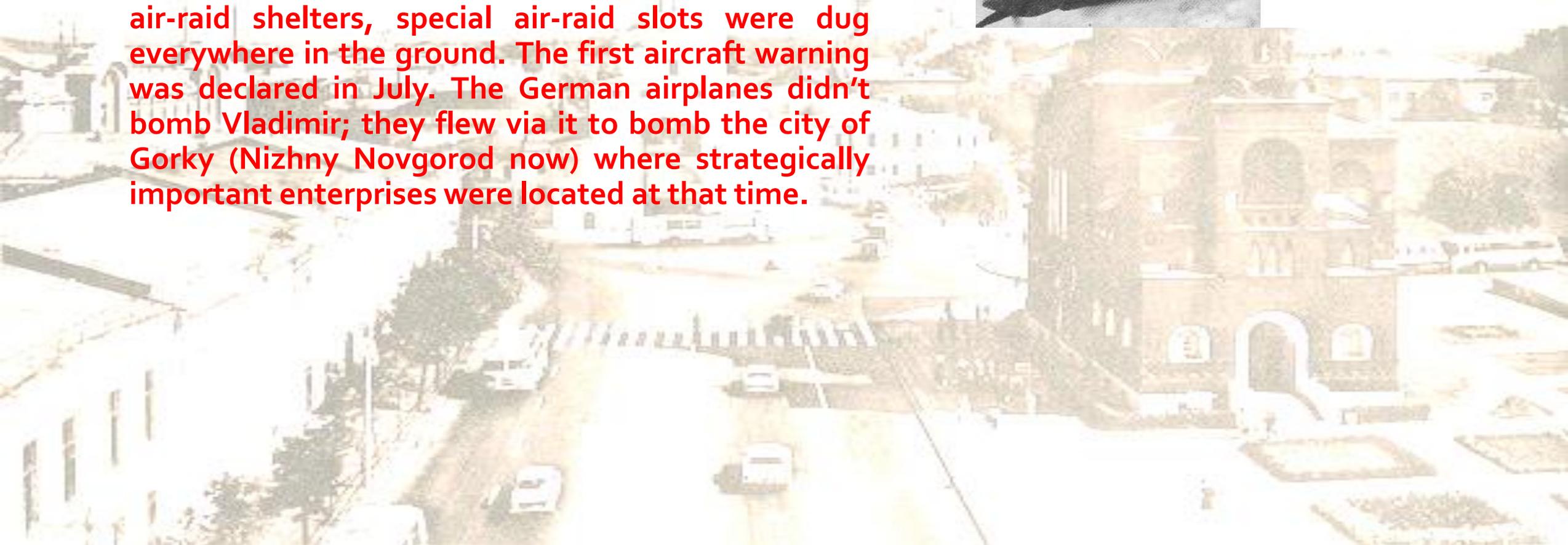
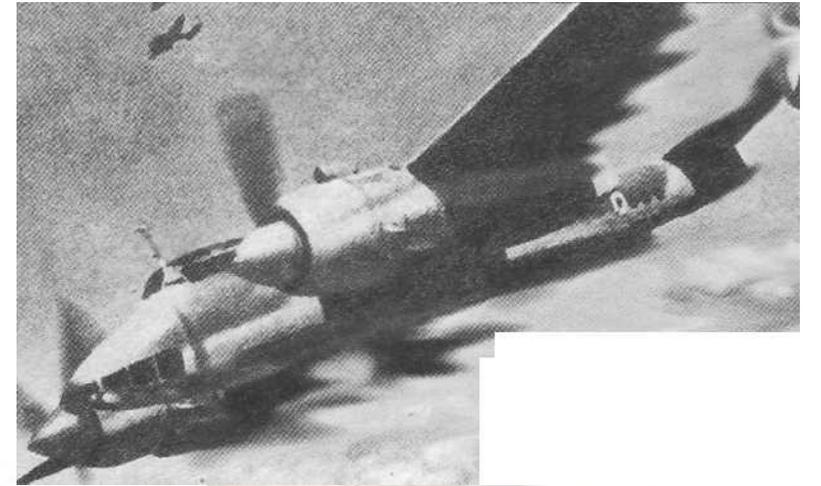


The City of Vladimir during the Great Patriotic War



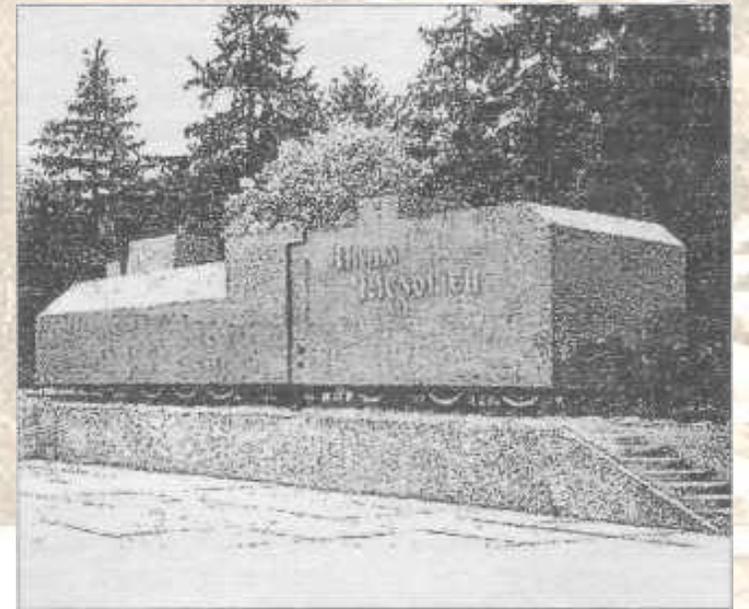
- From the first days of the Great Patriotic War the city of Vladimir began to prepare for defense. On June 23, 1941 blackout devices appeared in the town. Air defense brigades were formed in Vladimir as well. Anti-aircraft guns were placed on the Kozlov Rampart, near the cathedral of St. Demetrius, on the roofs of Vladimir Officers Courses' building, etc. The cellars in Vladimir houses were transformed into air-raid shelters, special air-raid slots were dug everywhere in the ground. The first aircraft warning was declared in July. The German airplanes didn't bomb Vladimir; they flew via it to bomb the city of Gorky (Nizhny Novgorod now) where strategically important enterprises were located at that time.



- From the first days of WWII one could see a lot of lorries moving along the main street of Vladimir, day and night a lot of refugees were walking to the East of our country.
- When the fascists approached Moscow one could see overcrowded trains at the Vladimir railway station. Self-defense groups and destruction battalions were organized at the industrial enterprises. The volunteers were taught shooting, bayonet fight, bombing, fighting with enemy's landing forces and tanks, digging trenches and building defensive installations.



- The citizens of Vladimir did everything possible to help the front. Most of the plants produced the items necessary for war. In the June of 1941 2000 people working at the Autopribor plant produced detonating fuses, devices for airplanes, trucks and motorbikes. The textile enterprises produced cloth for soldiers' underwear, uniforms, gauze and bandages. One of the leading factories of the time named after Lakin produced 1214 million meters of cloth during the war years.
- The 'Red October' Kirzhach plant started the production of cartridge cases for artillery, blackout nozzles for headlamps. Medical ampoules, vacuum flasks, synthetic glass were produced at the Gus Khrustalniy plant. Our government set Kovrov Toolmaker a special task - to organize the production of modern effective armament: high angle guns, automatic submachine guns, pistols, heavy machine guns and anti-tank guns.
- Weapon designer Dektyarev worked and lived on the plant to fulfill the task. The workers of the Steam Locomotive Repair Plant produced self-propelled units and rocket missiles for Katyusha. During their free time they built the armored train Ilya Muromets.



- The people of the Vladimir region collected money for the construction of tanks, airplanes and armored trains. Men were replaced by women and children at the plants and collective farms. According to the Soviet Government resolution of October 1941, students of secondary schools and colleges were taught different agricultural activities, boys studied basics of combat training, girls sewed uniforms for soldiers. 80 hospitals were opened in the region during the war. Donors volunteered to give their blood to save the soldiers' lives. Not only plants, factories and collective farms acted as sponsors of different hospitals, but so did the children. They organized concerts, helped the wounded to write letters, collected scrap metal and warm things (pupils of Vladimir School No. 1 collected 150 kg of scrap metal, 60 pairs of underwear, several pairs of mittens, gathered 553kg of mushrooms over 4 days). Young volunteers helped to clean air-raid shelters, prepared wood for the stoves, and took care of the aged and disabled.

