Data points are plotted on a map projection of Europe. Each data point represents the exact location (latitude and longitude) of a WWI allied bombing raid. The data points are colour-coded according to the country that carried out the attack (UK is red, USA is blue, Italy is green, and the RFA is black). Unfortunately, our dataset includes neither the longitude nor latitude of any bombing raids carried out by France, so France’s bombing raids could not be plotted on the map. The map can also be panned by left-clicking and dragging the mouse over it, and has a zoom function activated by scrolling the mouse wheel (scrolling back zooms out, while scrolling forward zooms in). Mousing over a country displays the country’s name next to the pointer. Mousing over a data point will both change the cursor to a pointer to indicate that a data point is being highlighted, and also enlarge the selected data point proportionally to the total payload weight of the weaponry dropped in the bombing raid.

Beneath the map is a set of checkboxes corresponding to each attacking country (together with an “All” checkbox. Initially, all checkboxes are selected. When a checkbox is selected, all data points representing bombing raids carried out by the country corresponding to the checkbox are displayed on the map. Deselecting a checkbox removes the corresponding data points from the visualization. When the “All” checkbox is selected, all other checkboxes also become selected, so all data points are displayed. When any one country is deselected, the “All” checkbox also becomes deselected.

To the right of the map is a text box initially prompting the user to select a data point. When a data point is clicked on, the text box displays all concisely provided information about the corresponding bombing raid that may be of interest to the user. Any information not provided in the dataset is described as “unknown”. In addition, a dotted line will appear on the map, extending from the data point to the latitude and longitude of the takeoff point of the aircraft involved in the raid (if provided). Importantly, this does not necessarily represent the exact route of the bombing raid, as the actual routes of the aircraft were rarely bee-lines and the Earth’s curvature is not taken into account. Where the dataset does provide route details, however, the information is too vague or convoluted to extract useful information. The dotted lines, therefore, both represent the location of the takeoff point and provide a visual cue regarding the distance of the attack. Mousing over these dotted lines will also display text next to the cursor indicating which countries involved in the raid were attacking and which were defending.

Lastly, beneath the checkboxes is a time series graph plotting the total payload dropped by each country over time. Time is plotted on the x-axis and total payload is plotted on the y-axis. Each line represents the countries represented on the map, as well as France, since latitude and longitude are not relevant for this graph. Mousing over a line will cause the others to fade, enabling the user to focus on just that one line in particular. The lines are colour-coded the same way they are on the map, while France is yellow. The y-value of each point represents the total payload dropped by the county in question between the time represented by that point and the one before it.