Computers at Bletchley

You should already know that:

- secret codes played an important role in World War II (1939-1945)
- both sides used codes to try to keep their communications secret
- the Germans used machines called **Enigma** to encode their messages
- the British code breaking base was at **Bletchley Park**

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The Germans used the **Enigma** machine to write message in code

The Allies wanted to break the code to help them win the war
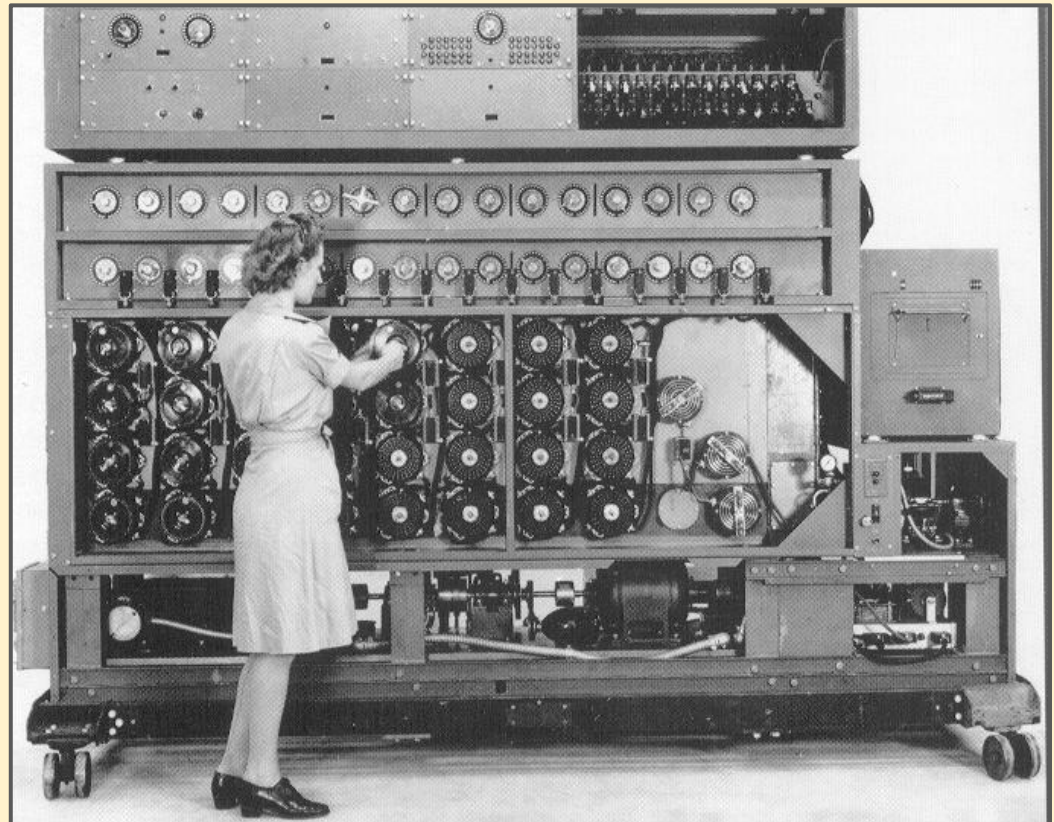
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The Allies managed to break the German Enigma codes

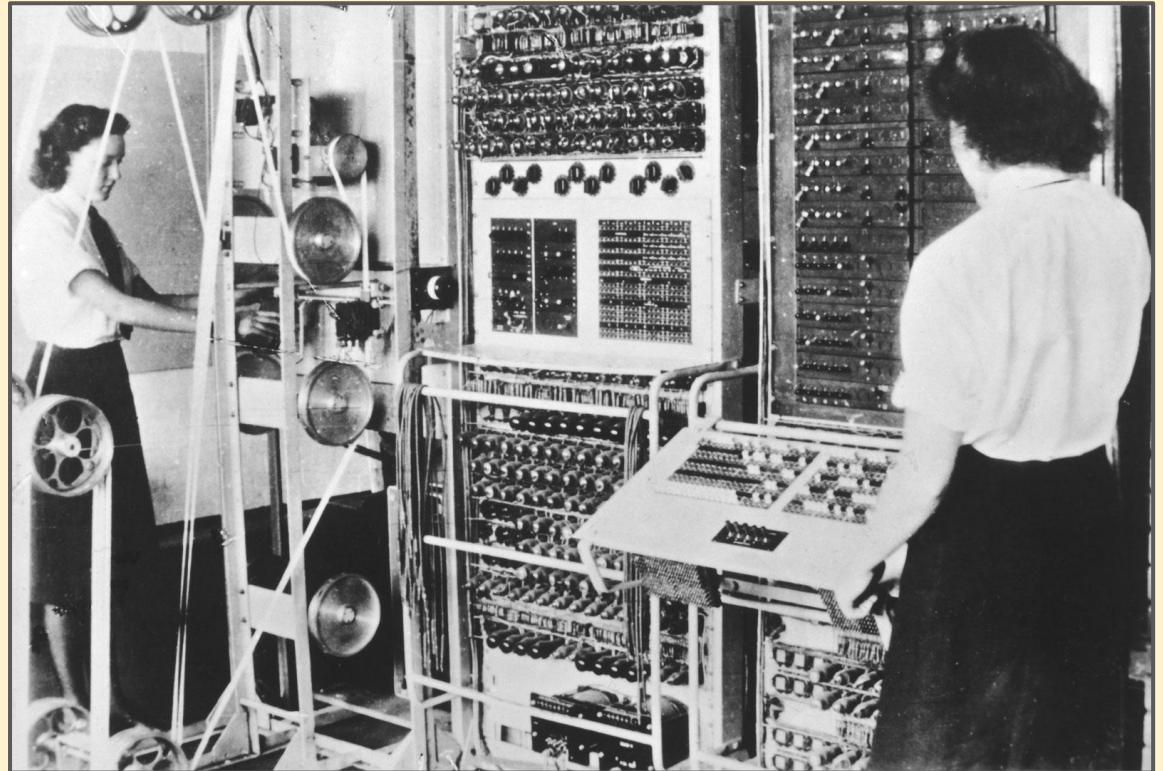One way they did this was to use machines. These were some of the very early computers.

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They used a machine called a **Bombe** first. This helped get clues to break codes but wasn't a computer
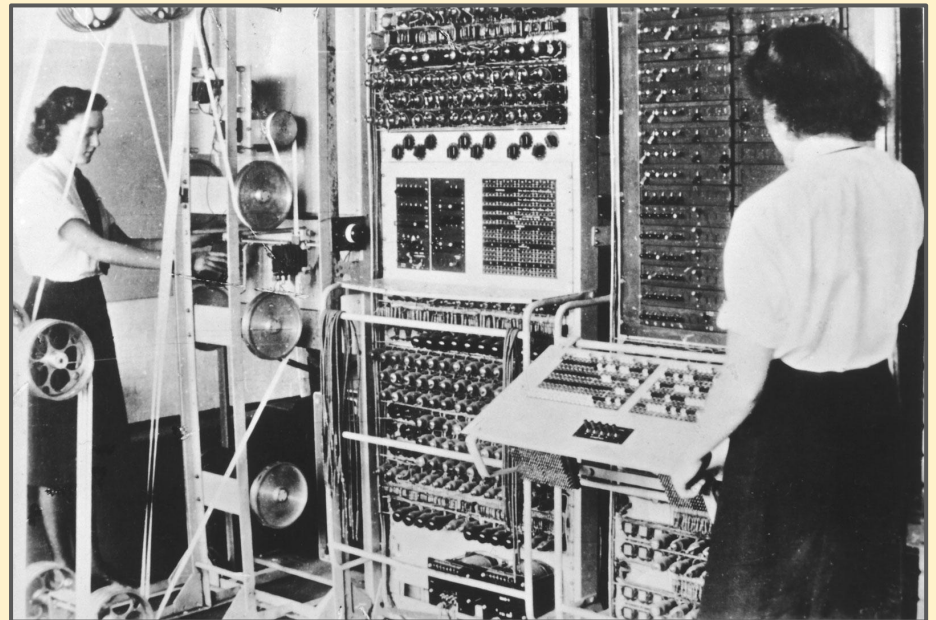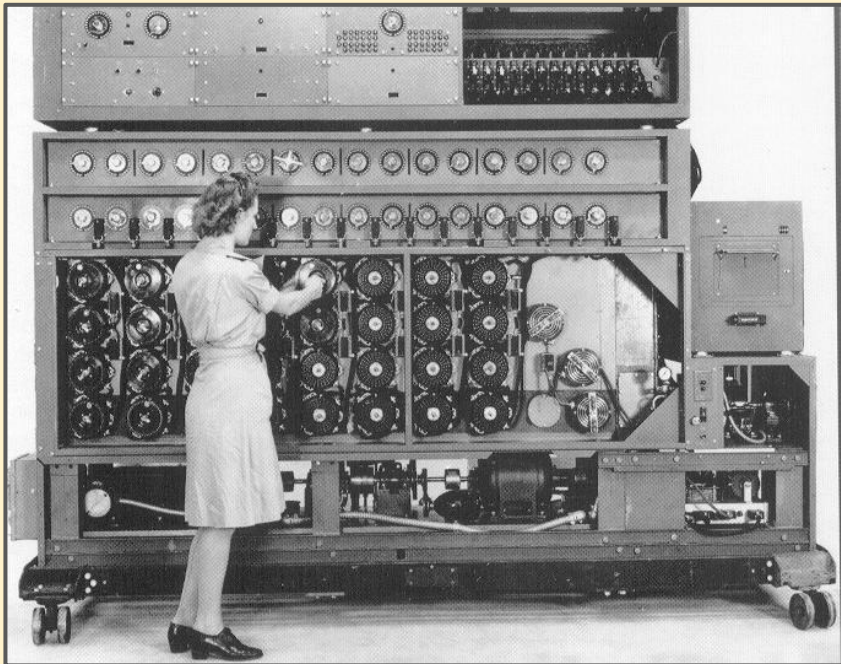
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Later a machine called **Colossus** was invented. Some people think that this was the world's first proper computer.

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Who is doing the work in both of these photos?

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Historical sources can help us make judgements about what was most important at Bletchley Park during World War II

Was it machines such as Colossus or was it the women who worked at Bletchley? Or was it something else?

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This is a lesson about using **historical sources** to make judgements

You have a number of sources provided for you to use - you don't have to look for more sources initially

Use the sources to find **evidence** to support or to reject the ideas being proposed