

# Battle of Britain

History

Knowledge Organiser



## Key Facts

- The Battle of Britain was an aerial battle in World War 2.
- Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany had conquered most of Europe. The only major country left for them to fight was Great Britain.
- In order to attack Britain the Germans knew that they must defeat Britain's air force.
- The Battle of Britain pitted Germany's Luftwaffe against Britain's Royal Air Force.
- Although the Luftwaffe had more planes and pilots, the RAF was a formidable opponent.
- Britain won the battle.
- The name 'Battle of Britain' was given by Winston Churchill in a speech to parliament on 18th June 1940.
- The combined losses on 'The Hardest Day' were the highest from all of the battle.
- London was bombed by the Luftwaffe on 71 different occasions through the battle.
- 1023 British aircraft and 1187 German aircraft were destroyed during the Battle of Britain.
- There were around 90,000 civilian casualties in the Battle.
- The most successful pilot was reported to be Eric Stanley Lock, who destroyed over 20 Luftwaffe planes.

## Chronology

1st September 1939	Germany invades Poland
3rd September 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany
10th July 1940	The German begin dive bombing cargo ships in the English Channel. The battle begins
16th July 1940	Hitler declared 'Operation Sea Lion'. He wanted the RAF to be so destroyed that they couldn't stop invading troops
13th August 1940	Bombing of Royal Air Force bases begins
18th August 1940	'The Hardest Day' - the Royal Air Force suffered lots of losses
19th August 1940	The Germans launched an intensive series of bombing of British towns and cities (the Blitz)
15th September 1940	Known as 'Battle of Britain Day' - the Luftwaffe lost many planes attempting to attack Britain
31st October 1940	The Germans suffered many losses and ended the Blitz
May 7th 1945	Germany surrenders
May 8th 1945	Victory in Europe day

## Vocabulary

Allies	Countries who fought on the British side
Axis	Countries who fought on the German side
Nazi	Member of the German political party led by Adolf Hitler
Luftwaffe	The German air force
Blitz	Series of aerial bombing raids on Britain
blackout	System ensuring no lights are visible after dark
air raid shelter	A building used to protect people from bombs dropped by planes
evacuee	Someone evacuated (moved from a danger area to a safe place)

### Useful links and sources

[https://www.ducksters.com/history/world\\_war\\_ii/battle\\_of\\_britain.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_ii/battle_of_britain.php)

[https://kids.kiddle.co/Battle\\_of\\_Britain](https://kids.kiddle.co/Battle_of_Britain)

[https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Battle\\_of\\_Britain/623978](https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Battle_of_Britain/623978)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/34257841>

<https://sites.google.com/site/primaryschoolhistory/world-war-ii/the-battle-of-britain>