

Battle of Britain Knowledge Organiser: Why was the Battle of Britain a significant turning point in British History?

WOW: E Kirkby Visit

3 rd September 1939	July – Oct 1940	Sept 1940 – May 1941	8 th May 1945
Britain declared war on Germany after Germany invaded Poland.	The Battle of Britain. Attacks on British towns, cities, airfields and ports by the German air force.	The Blitz. German bomber planes attack Britain at night.	Victory in Europe

What was the Battle of Britain?

The Battle of Britain was an important aerial battle in World War 2 which started on the 10th July 1940.

After Adolf Hitler's Germany had conquered most of Europe, inc France. The only major country left for them to fight in Europe was Britain.

In order to attack Britain, the Germans knew that they would need to defeat Britain's defences.

The Battle of Britain pitted Germany's Luftwaffe against Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF).

Although Germany had more planes and pilots, the RAF won the Battle.

RAF Bases in Lincolnshire in WW2.

Why were there so many RAF bases in Lincolnshire?



Top Facts about the Battle of Britain

1. It was the first ever battle fought only by air forces.
2. 15th of September 1940 was considered the most decisive day. Germany launched a huge attack but failed. The Luftwaffe lost 60 aircraft to the RAF's 26.
3. In September 1940, the Germans bombed British towns and cities in attacks which became known as 'The Blitz'. London was bombed for 57 nights in a row.
4. 1,023 RAF planes were lost in battle with 1,887 Luftwaffe planes lost.
5. The Germans planned to defeat the RAF before an invasion of Britain would be launched. As they failed to do this their plans for an invasion were called off.
6. This created the conditions for Britain's survival, for the extension of the war and the eventual defeat of Germany.
7. The pilots in the Battle of Britain became known as 'the few' taken from Winston Churchill's famous speech 'never Has so much been owed by so many to so few'.

Key People

Neville Chamberlain	Was Prime Minister at the start of WW2.
Winston Churchill	Became Prime Minister in 1940 until the end of the war in 1945.
Adolf Hitler	German Chancellor from 1933 – 1945.