



## INTEREST BADGES

### LOCAL HISTORY | 3. ON THE MAP

#### AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR HUGH DOWDING

Born: 24 April 1882. Moffat, Scotland.

Died: 15 February 1970. Tunbridge Wells, England.

##### **Eight facts about Hugh Dowding:**

1. He joined the Army in 1899
2. He moved to the Royal Flying Corps in 1915 (then the Royal Air Force, which was formed in 1918)
3. He loved skiing and was President of The Ski Club of Great Britain, 1924-25
4. He became Commander-in-Chief of RAF Fighter Command in 1936
5. His son Derek (born 1920) was a fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain in 1940
6. His step-daughter Brenda was in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force [WAAF] and worked at Bentley Priory during World War II
7. He campaigned against medical and animal testing on animals
8. He held spiritualist beliefs and believed in the afterlife



When offered a Lordship in 1943, Dowding chose Bentley Priory to be the location attached to it. He became Baron Dowding of Bentley Priory, and the title has been passed down through his family.

At Bentley Priory Museum, Dowding's role in the Battle of Britain is a key part of the story we tell.

The Museum explores the important Battle of Britain history of Bentley Priory through the stories of The One - Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, The Few - Battle of Britain Aircrew, and The Many - those on the ground, including women in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

**You could use the template provided to write a newspaper article about Dowding during the Battle of Britain, July - October 1940.**

DATE:

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ACM Sir Hugh Dowding



King George VI and Queen Elizabeth with  
ACM Sir Hugh Dowding at RAF Bentley Priory