



## The Battle of Britain

### Build up to Battle...

★ The Battle of Britain took place during the Second World War, when did this start?

**Day** (number) \_\_\_\_\_ **Month** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

...and when was the Battle of Britain?

**Season** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

Many countries were involved in fighting the Second World War, but the Battle of Britain was mainly between the **British** Royal Air Force (**RAF**) and the **German** Air Force (The **Luftwaffe**).

### Why was there a Battle of Britain?

The Second World War started because Germany wanted to become a more powerful country and take over lots of countries around it.

Early on in 1940, Germany took over France, which Great Britain is very close to. The people of Great Britain wanted to stop this happening to their country too.



As Great Britain is an island, it cannot be reached by land.

★ Which **two** ways could you reach Great Britain in 1940? \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

The enemy hoped that if they could get control of the air, they would be able to easily invade Great Britain by the sea. They planned to fight Great Britain's Fighter Aircraft in the air, and use Bomber Aircraft to bomb factories and air bases on the ground to stop more aeroplanes being made.

### The Battle

The Battle was fought in the air, with Pilots flying in single-seater Fighter Aircraft – this meant there was just one Pilot in each aeroplane. All the aircraft had guns on which they fired at enemy aircraft. This was called a **dog-fight**.



Pilots would have a parachute attached to them in case they had to jump out of their aeroplane. Many pilots did have to jump from the aeroplane, but not all of them survived. It was a dangerous job for all pilots on both sides.

★ Which aircraft were fighting The Battle of Britain?

**British aircraft:** \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**German aircraft:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Bentley Priory during The Battle of Britain



Bentley Priory Museum is in the building that was Headquarters of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. It was where all the information needed to successfully fight the battle in the skies was gathered, sorted and passed on. These are the people who were using it...

### The One

The man in charge at RAF Bentley Priory was called **Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding**.

He was responsible for developing **The Dowding System**, which brought together lots of different pieces of information that could be used to help the pilots fighting in the sky.

All this information was then sorted by the people working at Bentley Priory – The Many.

You will be able to see the office Hugh Dowding worked in at Bentley Priory.



### The Few

These were **the pilots** who were fighting The Battle of Britain and comes from a famous quote from Winston Churchill who was Prime Minister at the time. Have you heard it before?

The pilots needed instructions from the people working at Bentley Priory so they knew where to fly and when to attack. This information also helped them to know how many enemy planes they might expect.

### The Many

These were the men and women working at RAF bases, Radar stations and Observer Corps posts across the country, including at Bentley Priory.

It was the central base for all the information being gathered about what was happening in the skies. This was a lot of information so it had to be sorted so it was easier to pass on to the pilots in their aircraft, which was done through radio.

You will be able to see where these people were working when they were at Bentley Priory.

