

# The Battle of Britain



Key Events		
1939	1 <sup>st</sup> September	German troops invade Poland.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 <sup>th</sup> May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 <sup>th</sup> May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 <sup>th</sup> July	The Battle of Britain begins.
	7 <sup>th</sup> September	The Blitz begins.
1941	7 <sup>th</sup> December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
1944	6 <sup>th</sup> June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Germany surrenders to the Allies. VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) is celebrated the next day.
	6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Japan formally surrenders, ending the war.



Luftwaffe Air & Ground Crew 1939-45



Key Vocabulary	
Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
conscripted	Required by law to serve their country in some way, usually in the armed forces.
dogfight	An intense, in-air, close-range battle between individual or small groups of aircraft.
commemorate	Mark or remember a past event.
home front	Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front'.
rationing	Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something.
evacuation	Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one.

In July 1940, Germany planned a secret mission to invade Britain. They began by sending the Luftwaffe (German air force) to bomb British ships, airfields and other targets. RAF (Royal Air Force) planes fought back in what were known as dogfights.

Believing they were winning, the Luftwaffe moved on to bombing London on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940 (the start of the Blitz). On 15<sup>th</sup> September, the Luftwaffe launched another attack but the RAF fought back and it was clear that the Germans would not be able to win. This date is commemorated every year as the end of the Battle of Britain.



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