

## The Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain was one of the most famous battles of World War Two. After Hitler and Germany had conquered most of Europe, they wanted to invade Britain. In order to do this, Germany would have to destroy Britain's RAF (Royal Air Force).

In August 1940, Hitler gave orders for the Luftwaffe (German air force) to destroy the RAF and take control of the skies over Britain. He had to destroy the air force because they were sinking the ships that were carrying German soldiers across the channel (the sea between Germany and Britain). The Germans started by bombing airport runways and radar stations.

The British air force was fighting back, and because his plan was not working, Hitler was frustrated and gave orders for the city of London to be bombed.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> 1940, the Luftwaffe started their bombing campaign. They bombed other big cities as well including Coventry, Birmingham and Bristol. The RAF fought back. This was known as 'The Blitz'. During this time, many children were evacuated from the cities and sent to the countryside where they would be safe.

Hitler hoped that the RAF would give up, but they did not. The Luftwaffe had more planes than the RAF but the RAF had the advantage of radar, which allowed them to know when and where the German planes were going to attack next.

Hitler eventually gave up the idea of trying to invade London and decided to try to invade Russia instead.

The British Royal Air Force had won the Battle of Britain.

**Answer these questions in full sentences on the next page of your homework book. DO NOT squash your answers on to this page.**

1. What are the British and German air forces known as?
2. Why did Hitler have to destroy the British air force?
3. What was the name of the German bombing campaign during the Battle of Britain where they bombed major cities?
4. What was the name of the programme that sent children to the country from the cities to try and keep them safe?
5. Name one advantage that the German air force had, and one advantage that the British air force had.
6. Why do you think Hitler stopped trying to invade Britain?