

Tuesday 26th January 2021

LO: I am learning about The Blitz

Who can remember any key facts about the Battle of Britain?

What was the German Air force called?

What was the British Air force called?

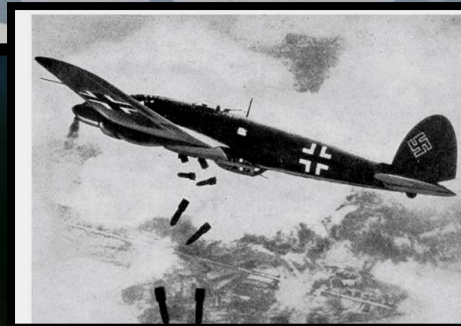
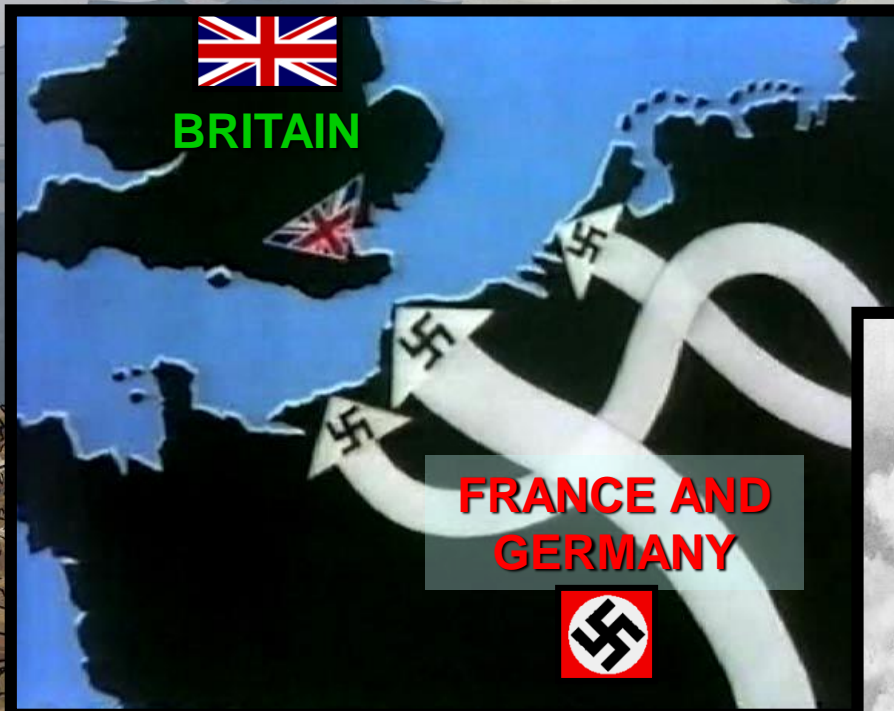
Watch video clip of an RAF Pilot:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LIDB3Wbu1I>

- The Blitz is the name used to describe the heavy bombing of London and other British cities during WWII.
- The Blitz was an attack on London by German bombers. It began on 7th September, 1940 and ended in May, 1941.
- The word Blitz is short for the German word 'Blitzkrieg', which means 'lightning war'.
- They decided to concentrate on bombing London and on 7th September 1940, London's first night of the Blitz took place, killing over 2000 people.

In September 1940, Hitler started the first part of his planned invasion of Britain.

He planned to destroy many of Britain's cities, including factories, shops, houses, and even people, by sending thousands of his German bomber planes to bomb the British cities.

He hoped this would make the British people so miserable they would give up the war and his German soldiers could invade and take control of Britain.



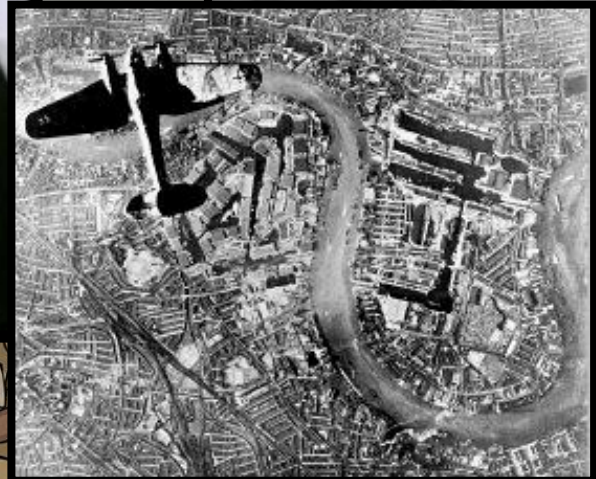
Hitler and his German army had already invaded many other countries in Europe; including Poland, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Norway, Finland and even France. Hitler hated Britain.

Hitler knew that Britain was one of the strongest countries in Europe, and if his German army successfully invaded Britain, no other country would wish to fight against Germany - Hitler would rule all of Europe!



But Britain was an island, surrounded by sea, and this meant that Hitler could not invade with his armies in the same way that he had invaded Holland and Poland and Norway.

So, for the first time ever, thousands of German bomber planes were used to drop hundreds of thousands of explosive bombs and incendiary bombs on the factories, shops, houses, and whole cities of Britain.



Germany sent bomber planes over to bomb British cities, but mainly London, the capital city, for nearly a whole year.

From October 1940 there were German Blitz raids every day for 57 days. Each time about 200 German bomber planes would drop up to 50 bombs each. In total, more than 2,000,000 bombs were dropped on Britain during World War 2.

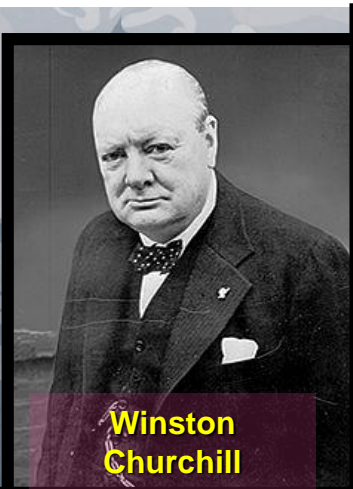


Britain tried very hard to stop the German bomber planes from dropping their bombs.

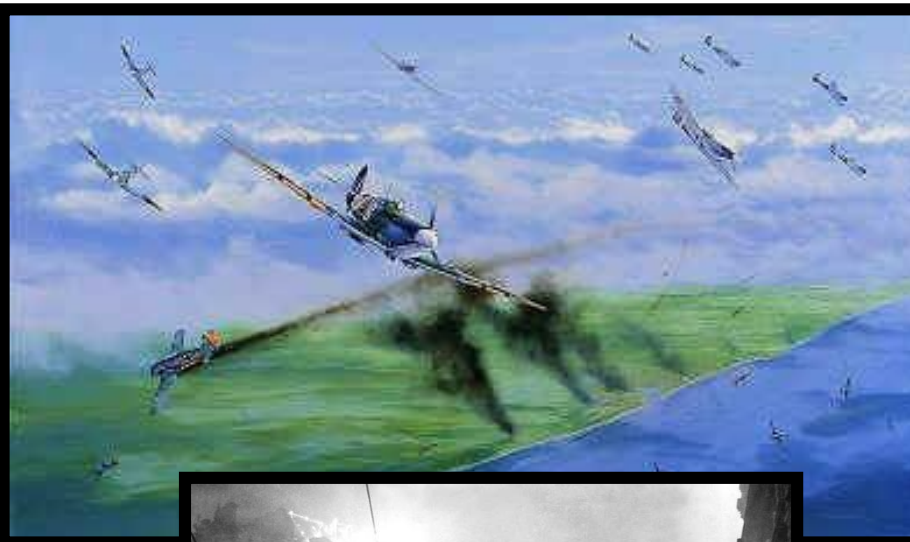
Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, ordered special fighter planes to be built to attack the German Bombers and defend British cities.

These planes were called 'Spitfires' and were some of the fastest and best war planes ever built.

They stopped many German Bombers from dropping their bombs, but in the end even the Spitfires couldn't stop British cities being blown up.



Winston Churchill



Spitfires attacking German Bombers over the English Coast



Spitfire



Bombed London



Spitfire

Facts:

- The people of Britain expected the German air raids so the government did things to prepare. For example, everyone was given a gas mask to protect against any poisonous gasses that may have been contained by the bombs – **we will learn more about the preparations tomorrow.**
- The first air raid was carried out in daylight on the 7th of September, 1940. Over 350 German bombers filled the skies over London. These bombers were protected by about 650 fighter planes. This first day of the Blitz was called Black Saturday as 448 people were killed.
- It is estimated that more than 30,000 people were killed during the Blitz, and many more were injured.
- About 60% of London's buildings were damaged or destroyed during the Blitz.

Task: Read the newspaper article 'Catastrophe in Coventry' and answer the questions in full sentences in your English books.

CATASTROPHE IN COVENTRY

November 15th 1940

By Lauren Fincham, War Correspondent

Last night, the Luftwaffe launched an unprecedented assault on Coventry. At 9.10pm, as the air raid sirens echoed across the city, the first explosions occurred.

As the lightning war broke out, eyewitnesses reported that a cloud of German bombers filled the sky, dropping incendiary bombs like rain. They hit the ground with their curious and distinctive sound and then erupted in a sizzle of bluish-white flame. The sky, already clear from the full moon, was painted red as the streets filled with mass hysteria.

Bombs fell for most of the night, as an estimated 500 German planes bombarded the city. Fire then consumed those buildings, which the bombs were yet to devour. It is estimated that the German bombers have claimed over 500 lives and destroyed more than 2,000 houses. This is despite government assistance in providing public and private

enough to make you feel your life was soon to be over."

Daniel Johnson, who spent most of the night in a community Anderson Shelter, told us "When I returned to my bedroom the windows were smashed and my bed was covered in large shards of glass. When I looked out the kitchen window, I saw an unexploded bomb just lying in the garden. I didn't know what to do!"



Answer these questions in FULL SENTENCES as the language will help you write your own newspaper article.

1. Who attacked Coventry? (1 mark)
 2. When did the first explosions occur? (1 mark)
 3. a) Find a simile in the second paragraph. (1 mark)
b) Why did the writer choose to use a simile? (1 mark)
 4. Find two things a witness might have seen after the bombs were dropped. (2 mark)
 5. Roughly, how many people have died as a result of the bombs? (1 mark)
 6. In the third paragraph, find two words with a similar meaning. (1 mark)
 7. Who helped to combat the flames? (1 mark)
 8. Why couldn't some fire engines reach the big flames? (1 mark)
 9. Why do you think Hitler targeted Coventry? (1 mark)
 10. In the sixth paragraphs, which word means 'at the same time'. (1 mark)
 11. Coventry Cathedral is also known by which name? (1 mark)
 12. Since the attack, what have people been doing in the city? (1 mark)
- Extension:
13. Write a sentence with these words:
wreckage (2 marks) confounded (2 marks) unprecedented (2 marks) bombarded (2 marks)

simultaneously (2 marks)