

BATTLE OF BRITAIN: TASK INSTRUCTIONS

The key question: Why did Britain win the Battle of Britain in 1940?

Your task

In this investigation your task is to study the sources and prepare an outline for a TV documentary on the Battle of Britain.

Use the storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

WHY DID BRITAIN WIN THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN IN 1940?

The popular interpretation of this question is that Britain won the Battle of Britain because of the courage of 'The Few'. These were the brave pilots of the RAF who defeated the Luftwaffe over the skies of Britain in 1940. Modern historians think that other factors also contributed to Britain's victory. Sculptor Paul Day created the Battle of Britain monument.

It was unveiled in September 2005. According to Day, "the few thousand pilots, gunners, ground crews and WAAF's are undoubtedly the heroes of the hour, but I felt it important for future generations to remember the other countless acts of self sacrifice and heroism among the British people without which the RAF could not have so well defended the Nation."

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Battle of Britain Monument on Victoria Embankment in London.

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Extracts from a pilot's logbook, August 1940

Catalogue ref: AIR 4/58

| YEAR 1940 | | AIRCRAFT | | PILOT, OR 1ST PILOT | 2ND PILOT, PUPIL OR PASSENGER | DUTY (INCLUDING RESULTS AND REMARKS) | SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT | | | | MULTI-ENGINE AIRCRAFT | | | | PASS- ENGER | INSTRUMENT FLYING (Incl. in cols. 11 to 13) | | |
|-----------------------------|------|----------|-------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----|-------|----------------|---|-------|-----|
| MONTH | DATE | Type | No. | | | | DAY | PILOT | DAY | PILOT | DAY | PILOT | DAY | PILOT | | DAY | PILOT | DAY |
| | | | | | | TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD | 43:30 | 725:00 | - | 49:25 | | | | | | | | |
| AUG. | 7 | Spitfire | R6919 | self | - | Patrol Mautsman Heath. | :10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | | R6919 | | | M. H. to Coltishall | :30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | | R6919 | | | Coltishall - G. I. | :30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | | R6958 | | | Test a/c. | :10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 11 | | R6919 | | | To Coltishall & return. | 1:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 13 | | R6919 | | | To Duxford. | :10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 15 | | R6919 | | | Patrol. S/Lt. Blake. | :35 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 15 | | R6919 | | | Patrol. | 1:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 16 | | R6919 | | | Returning from Coltishall investigated X raid above cloud with a/c of A Flight. Turned out to be about 150 Huns!! Waded into escort of Me 110's but suddenly cannons stopped on me. Munin & Potter each got one. A Flight Patrol. Ditto. Ditto. Ditto. Red Section Patrol. Squadron took off 1545. Leading. Ran into a | 1:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 17 | | R6919 | | | | 1:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 18 | | R6923 | | | | 1:10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 18 | | R6923 | | | | 1:25 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 19 | | R6833 | | | | 1:35 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 22 | | R6919 | | | | 1:10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 24 | | R6919 | | | | :55 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL (Cols. 1 to 10) | | | | | | 43:30 | 737:40 | - | 49:25 | | | | | | | | | |
| 832 Hrs. 00 Mins. | | | | | | TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD | | | | | | | | | | | | |



P/O DOLEZAL

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Extracts from a pilot's logbook, August 1940

Catalogue ref: AIR 4/58

| YEAR 1940 | | AIRCRAFT | | PILOT, OR 1ST PILOT | 2ND PILOT, PCPL OR PASSENGER | DUTY (INCLUDING RESULTS AND REMARKS) |
|---------------------------------|------|----------|-------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| MONTH | DATE | Type | No. | | | |
| AUG. | 24 | (cont.) | | | | <p>— TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD</p> <p>bunch of Huns over Estuary. Had a bang at R6110 but had to break away as tracer was coming over my head from another behind me. He appeared to be hitting his fellow-countryman in front of me but I didn't wait to see if he shot him down. Had a crack at another & shot his engine right out of the wing. Lovely! crashed near N. Foreland. Last trip in Blitzen III. Patrol N. Weald. P/O Cunningham & Sgt. Potter. # Spin. Patrol.</p> |
| | 29 | | R6776 | | | |
| | 30 | | R6776 | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL (Cols. (1) to (10)) | | | | TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD | | |
| 834 | | | | 55 | | |

| SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT | | | | MULTI-ENGINE AIRCRAFT | | | | PASS- ENGINEER | INSTR/CLD FLYING Invt. in cols. (1) to (10) |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|------|-------------------|---|
| DAY | | NIGHT | | DAY | | NIGHT | | | |
| DCAL | PILOT | DCAL | PILOT | DCAL | 1st PILOT | 2nd PILOT | DCAL | 1st PILOT | 2nd PILOT |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) | (9) | (10) |
| 43:30 | 737:40 | - | 49:25 | | | | | | |
| <p>Total August 1940</p> <p><u>24 hrs. 35 min.</u></p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> S/LR.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>F/O PETRE, F/O BRNSDEN + FLT. LAWSON</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>1:20 1:35</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 43:30 | 740:35 | - | 49:25 | | | | | | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | | | | | |



WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

What is this source?

These pages come from a logbook that a pilot used to record his flights.

One of the main aims of the logbook was to record the number of hours flown. It was a balance between gaining experience by flying many hours and becoming too tired to fight effectively.

What's the background to this source?

By the summer of 1940 Britain and its empire stood alone against Hitler's Germany. The Germans had serious plans to invade Britain. Their problem was crossing the English Channel against the Royal Navy. They thought that they might achieve this if they controlled the air and could attack Royal Navy ships. As a result, the first stage of the German invasion plan, Operation Sealion, was to try and destroy the Royal Air Force.

The first stage of the campaign was to try and destroy airfields and aircraft factories. This proved unsuccessful and so bombing raids then switched to important towns and cities. There is no definite beginning or end to the Battle of Britain but it is generally agreed that it ran from July to October 1940.

It's worth knowing that...

The pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain became known as 'The Few'. This was because of a speech by Winston Churchill who said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The RAF pilots did not just come from Britain. Out of about 2300 over 500 came from other parts of the world.

What conclusions can you draw from this source?

1. What proportion of time seems to be spent fighting enemy aircraft?
2. Which of the following factors are mentioned in the source: enemy aircraft; friendly aircraft; problems of cloud, weather; mechanical troubles?
3. Does this source give you a sense of the chaos and confusion of air battles during the Battle of Britain?
4. Consider the general tone of this log. What impression do you get of the pilot who wrote it?
5. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the experiences and qualities of the pilots?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Official facts and figures from the Battle of Britain

Comparison of British and German losses in the Battle of Britain.

Catalogue ref: AIR 2/7771

AIRCRAFT LOSSES

COMPARISON OF R.A.F. FIGHTER LOSSES WITH CORRESPONDING
GERMAN AIRCRAFT LOSSES BY DAY
(BY FIGHTER AIRCRAFT ACTION ONLY)

| DATE | NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT LOST | | | | | NUMBER OF SORTIES | | OBJECTIVES | OTHER TARGETS | DATE | NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT LOST |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | 1-49 | 50-99 | 100-149 | 150-199 | 200-249 | 250-299 | | | | | |
| JULY 1940 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 432 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 10 JULY | |
| 2 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 670 | PORTLAND | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 11 | 10-40 |
| 3 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 440 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 12 | |
| 4 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 303 | SHIPPING WRECKAGE & SHIPS | EAST COAST CONVOYS | SHIPPING | 13 | |
| 5 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 470 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING SHIPWRECK | SHIPPING | 14 | |
| 6 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 312 | DOVES & CONVOYS | | | 15 | |
| 7 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 153 | SHIPPING | | | 16 | |
| 8 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 540 | SHIPPING | SUBS: KENT PORTLAND | | 17 | |
| 9 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 701 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 18 | |
| 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 811 | SHIPPING CHANNEL | SHIPPING | | 19 | |
| 11 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 611 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 20 | |
| 12 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 470 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 21 | |
| 13 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 22 | |
| 14 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 23 | |
| 15 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 24 | |
| 16 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 25 | |
| 17 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 26 | |
| 18 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 27 | |
| 19 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 28 | |
| 20 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 29 | |
| 21 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 30 | |
| 22 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 31 | |
| 23 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 32 | |
| 24 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 33 | |
| 25 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 34 | |
| 26 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 35 | |
| 27 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 36 | |
| 28 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 37 | |
| 29 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 38 | |
| 30 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 39 | |
| 31 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 521 | SHIPPING DOVES | SHIPPING | | 40 | |
| AUGUST 1940 | | | | | | 500 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 1 AUGUST | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 471 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 2 | |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 175 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 3 | |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 201 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 4 | |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 402 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 5 | |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 410 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 6 | |
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 303 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 7 | |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 480 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 8 | |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 400 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 9 | |
| 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 320 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 10 | |
| 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 370 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 11 | |
| 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 158 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 12 | |
| 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 401 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 13 | |
| 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 14 | |
| 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 1152 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 15 | |
| 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 16 | |
| 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 17 | |
| 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 18 | |
| 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 19 | |
| 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 20 | |
| 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 21 | |
| 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 22 | |
| 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 23 | |
| 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 24 | |
| 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 25 | |
| 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 26 | |
| 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 27 | |
| 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 28 | |
| 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 29 | |
| 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 30 | |
| 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 31 | |
| 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 32 | |
| SEPTEMBER 1940 | | | | | | 500 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 1 SEPTEMBER | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 2 | |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 3 | |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 4 | |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 5 | |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 6 | |
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 7 | |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 8 | |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 9 | |
| 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 10 | |
| 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 11 | |
| 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 12 | |
| 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 13 | |
| 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 14 | |
| 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 15 | |
| 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 16 | |
| 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 17 | |
| 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 18 | |
| 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 19 | |
| 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 20 | |
| 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 21 | |
| 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 22 | |
| 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 23 | |
| 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 24 | |
| 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 25 | |
| 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 26 | |
| 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 27 | |
| 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 28 | |
| 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 29 | |
| 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 30 | |
| 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 31 | |
| 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 32 | |
| OCTOBER 1940 | | | | | | 500 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 1 OCTOBER | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 2 | |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 3 | |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 4 | |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 5 | |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 6 | |
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 7 | |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 8 | |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 9 | |
| 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 10 | |
| 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 11 | |
| 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 12 | |
| 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 13 | |
| 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 14 | |
| 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 15 | |
| 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 16 | |
| 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 17 | |
| 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 18 | |
| 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 19 | |
| 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 20 | |
| 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 21 | |
| 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 22 | |
| 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 23 | |
| 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 24 | |
| 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 25 | |
| 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 26 | |
| 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 27 | |
| 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 28 | |
| 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 29 | |
| 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 30 | |
| 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 31 | |
| 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 32 | |
| NOVEMBER 1940 | | | | | | 500 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 1 NOVEMBER | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 2 | |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 3 | |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 4 | |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 5 | |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 6 | |
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 7 | |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 436 | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | SHIPPING | 8 | |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | | | | | | | | |

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

What is this source?

This document comes from the archives of the Air Ministry for the Battle of Britain and compares German and British losses in the battle.

This source shows the objective, or target, which the Germans were attacking on the various days of the battle.

What's the background to this source?

By the summer of 1940 Britain and its empire stood alone against Hitler's Germany. The Germans had serious plans to invade Britain. Their problem was crossing the English Channel against the Royal Navy. They thought that they might achieve this if they controlled the air and could attack Royal Navy ships. As a result, the first stage of the German invasion plan, Operation Sealion, was to try and destroy the Royal Air Force and also the factories that supplied it.

The first stage of the campaign was to try and destroy airfields and aircraft factories. This proved unsuccessful and so bombing raids then switched to important towns and cities. There is no definite beginning or end to the Battle of Britain but it is generally agreed that it ran from July to October 1940.

It's worth knowing that...

The RAF had a number of important advantages in the Battle. Fighters were well organised into different regions which protected their particular area. The RAF also had excellent aircraft in their Hurricanes and Spitfires. Another advantage was that the German fighters often ran short of fuel because they had to travel across to England. RAF pilots could stay in the air longer. Finally, if RAF pilots were shot down and survived, they could usually find another plane and fight again. Luftwaffe pilots who crashed in England were taken prisoner.

A German Air Force document captured at the end of the war shows that the German losses were actually about 35% lower than claimed in this document. However, there is no doubt that the RAF shot down more German planes than it lost and that British factories were able to replace the fighters that were damaged or destroyed. Throughout the Battle of Britain they produced more aircraft than German factories.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

What conclusions can you draw from this source?

1. What is the difference between British and German losses?
2. Is this a piece of propaganda or an attempt to record accurately what happened?
3. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the facts and figures of the Battle?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Official facts and figures from the Battle of Britain

Operational aircraft and crews in the Battle of Britain

Catalogue ref: AIR 20/4174

| BATTLE OF BRITAIN. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| FIGHTER COMMAND - OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT AND CREWS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AS AT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 JULY, 1940 | | | | 8 AUGUST, 1940 | | | | 31 OCTOBER, 1940 | | | | |
| Sqdns. | I.E. | Service- able a/c. | OPERATIONAL (Serviceable with crews) | Sqdns. | I.E. | Service- able a/c. | OPERATIONAL (Serviceable with crews) | Sqdns. | I.E. | Service- able a/c. | OPERATIONAL (Serviceable with crews) | |
| Hurricanes | 27 | 432 | 582 | 344 | 28½ | 568 | 645 | 370 | 34 | 544 | 561 | 399 |
| Spitfires | 19 | 304 | 320 | 226 | 19 | 328 | 335 | 257 | 19 | 304 | 294 | 227 |
| Gladiators | - | - | - | - | ½ | 8 | 7 | 7 | ½ | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Defiants | 2 | 32 | 39 | 24 | 2 | 32 | 30 | 20 | 2 | 32 | 39 | 10 |
| Blenheims | 6 | 96 | 92 | 62 | 6 | 96 | 83 | 66 | 6 | 96 | 61 | 40 |
| | 54 | 864 | 1033* | 656 | 56 | 1032 | 1100 | 720 | 61½ | 984 | 964 | 684 |

* As at 16.7.40 (earliest available).

N.B. Orders of Battle for this period did not show I.R.

Air Ministry War Room.
26th October, 1940.

What is this source?

This document comes from the archives of the Air Ministry for the Battle of Britain and shows how many aircraft the RAF had available at different stages of the battle.

This source shows the objective, or target, which the Germans were attacking on the various days of the battle.

What's the background to this source?

By the summer of 1940 Britain and its empire stood alone against Hitler's Germany. The Germans had serious plans to invade Britain. Their problem was crossing the English Channel against the Royal Navy. They thought that they might achieve this if they controlled the air and could attack Royal Navy ships. As a result, the first stage of the German invasion plan, Operation

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Sealion, was to try and destroy the Royal Air Force and also the factories that supplied it.

The first stage of the campaign was to try and destroy airfields and aircraft factories. This proved unsuccessful and so bombing raids then switched to important towns and cities. There is no definite beginning or end to the Battle of Britain but it is generally agreed that it ran from July to October 1940.

It's worth knowing that...

The RAF had a number of important advantages in the Battle. Fighters were well organised into different regions which protected their particular area. The RAF also had excellent aircraft in their Hurricanes and Spitfires. Another advantage was that the German fighters often ran short of fuel because they had to travel across to England. RAF pilots could stay in the air longer. Finally, if RAF pilots were shot down and survived, they could usually find another plane and fight again. Luftwaffe pilots who crashed in England were taken prisoner.

A German Air Force document captured at the end of the war shows that the German losses were actually about 35% lower than claimed in this document. However, there is no doubt that the RAF shot down more German planes than it lost and that British factories were able to replace the fighters that were damaged or destroyed. Throughout the Battle of Britain they produced more aircraft than German factories.

What conclusions can you draw from this source?

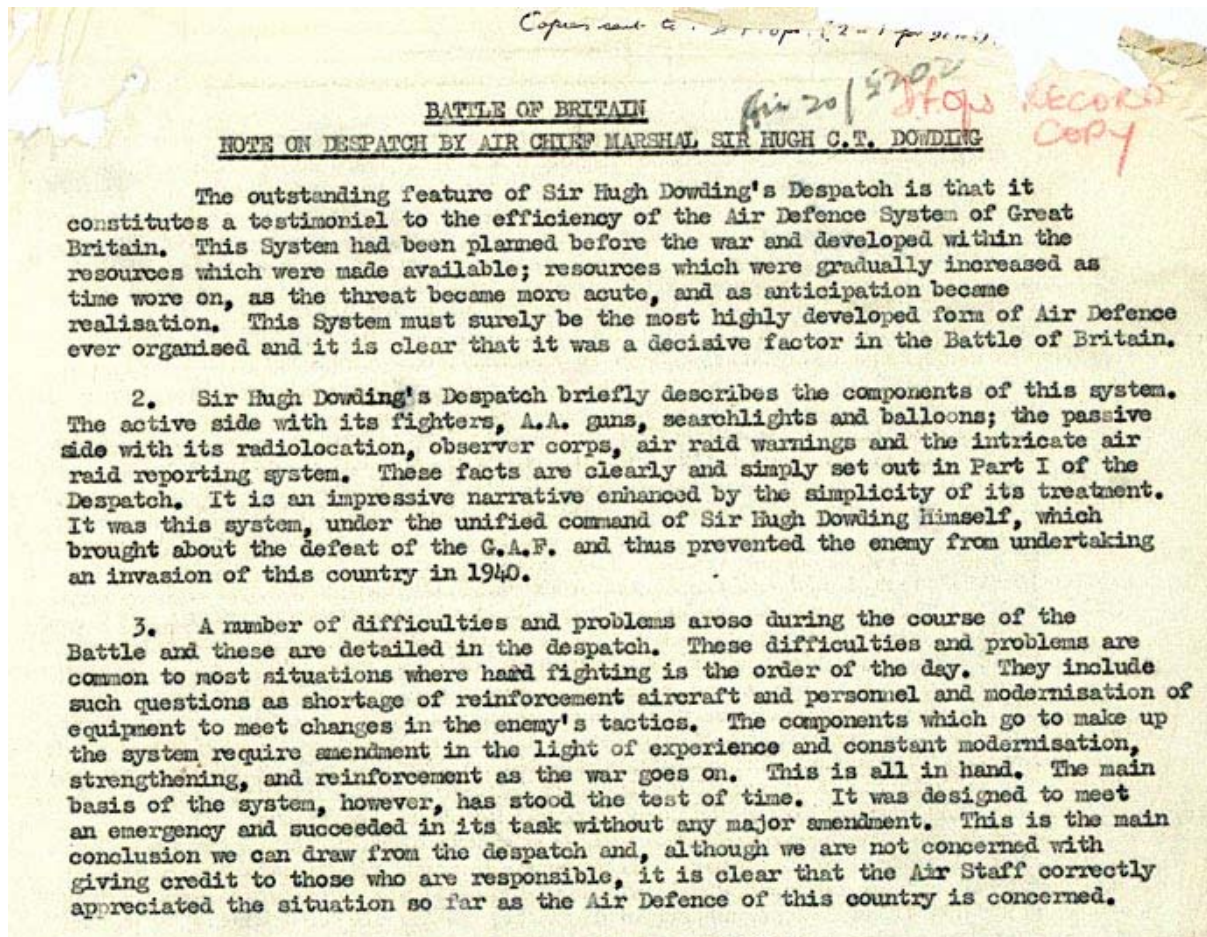
1. Is this a piece of propaganda or an attempt to record accurately what happened?
2. At what point did the RAF seem seriously in danger of running out of aircraft?
3. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the facts and figures of the Battle?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

An Air Ministry note summarising Sir Hugh Dowding's report on the Battle of Britain, October 1941

Catalogue ref: AIR 20/5202



What is this source?

This Air Ministry note refers to the official report written by Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, who was in charge of Britain's air defences in the Battle of Britain.

Sir Hugh Dowding was the man with the vision that gave Britain its air defence system. He worked very hard to persuade British governments in the 1930s to prepare for air attack.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

What's the background to this source?

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The first stage of the campaign was to try and destroy airfields and aircraft factories. This proved unsuccessful and so bombing raids then switched to important towns and cities. There is no definite beginning or end to the Battle of Britain but it is generally agreed that it ran from July to September 1940.

It's worth knowing that...

Dowding was a very farsighted individual and a good planner. He understood the importance of good communications as well as good defensive weapons. This meant that the RAF's fighters were in the air waiting for German bombers when they arrived, rather than taking off once a raid had started.

Dowding brought in many innovations, such as bullet-proof windscreens for fighter planes. He was a firm believer in technology such as radar as well.

What conclusions can you draw from this source?

1. This document is very favourable to Dowding. Does the content support other evidence you have seen in this investigation?
2. What were the main elements of Britain's air defence system?
3. Did the air defence system perform well?
4. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to Dowding and the British system of air defence?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Extract from 'The Battle of Britain debate'

Extract taken from: ['The Battle of Britain debate'](#)

The Royal Navy did not win the 'Battle of Britain': But we need a holistic view of Britain's defences in 1940

By Christina Goulter, Andrew Gordon and Gary Sheffield

In truth, the notion that in John Keegan's words 'some 2500 young pilots had alone been responsible for preserving Britain from invasion' has long been disputed by historians. As far back as 1958 Duncan Grinnell-Milne made the case for the principal role of the RN [Royal Navy] in preventing invasion, and two years later Captain Stephen Roskill, the British Official Historian, argued for the primacy of 'lack of adequate [German] instruments of sea power' and the knowledge of their use in the thwarting of Operation Sealion. A few years later Telford Taylor produced what is still probably the most thorough study of the question, in which he integrated [put together] the air and maritime dimensions [aspects]. Wing Commander H.R. Allen, himself a Spitfire pilot, published in 1974 a controversial book on the subject. Allen defined the Battle of Britain widely, to encompass more than just the air battle, and concluded that the importance of the air and maritime dimensions had been respectively exaggerated and underestimated.

Notes

- Holistic means taking the whole story into account, not just one element
- John Keegan, Duncan Grinnell Milne and Telford Taylor are all historians.

What is this source?

This is a short extract from an article written in a web debate between military historians about the Battle of Britain.

The three authors are military historians.

What's the background to this source?

At the end of the Battle of Britain the country was looking for good news and found it in the victory over the German Air Force. The Prime Minister praised the RAF pilots as "the Few". The media also featured the brave young men who kept the Germans out because it was a dramatic and interesting story.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Some military historians have long felt that the contribution of other factors was not recognised as much as it should have been by the population in general.

It's worth knowing that...

This article was a response to another article that appeared in a history magazine in Britain in 2006. The article claimed that the RAF was much less important than the navy in terms of keeping Britain safe.

The three authors were quoted in the magazine article but they were very unhappy about the way they had been quoted. This is why they wrote the article.

What conclusions can you draw from this source?

1. What was Keegan's view and how do historians feel about it?
2. What other factors appear to have played a part?
3. Explain what the three historians mean by a holistic approach mentioned in the title?
4. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the Big Debate about the Battle of Britain?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

These photographs show different sections of the Battle of Britain monument

German bomber: the Battle of Britain monument



Part of the Battle of Britain monument, 2007 © Andrew Payne.

What is this source?

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What's the background to this source?

The war started in 1939 and went well for Hitler at first. By May 1940 he had conquered Poland, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands. Despite British help, France surrendered in June 1940. Many people expected Britain to try and negotiate a settlement, but new British Prime Minister Winston Churchill decided to fight on.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The Germans produced serious plans to invade Britain and began major preparations involving something like 35 army divisions (600 000 men). Their problem was crossing the English Channel against the Royal Navy. They thought that they might achieve this if they controlled the air and could attack Royal Navy ships. As a result, the first stage of the German invasion plan (Operation Sealion) was to try and destroy the Royal Air Force.

It's worth knowing that...

The pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain became known as 'The Few'. This was because of a speech by Winston Churchill who said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

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Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Air-raid look-outs: the Battle of Britain monument



Part of the Battle of Britain monument, 2007 © Andrew Payne.

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

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Aircraft factory workers: Battle of Britain monument



Part of the Battle of Britain monument, 2007 © Andrew Payne.

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

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Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Air Raid Patrol wardens during the Blitz: the Battle of Britain monument



Part of the Battle of Britain monument, 2007 © Andrew Payne.

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Family in an Anderson shelter: the Battle of Britain monument



Part of the Battle of Britain monument, 2007 © Andrew Payne.

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

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Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

Aircraft ground crew: the Battle of Britain monument



Part of the Battle of Britain monument, 2007 © Andrew Payne.

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

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3. Why do you think there were so many non-British pilots in the RAF during the Battle of Britain?

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

4. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.

- o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the fact that pilots came from many countries?
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Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Badges and names of squadrons: Battle of Britain monument



Part of the Battle of Britain monument, 2007 © Andrew Payne.

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

The Battle of Britain monument



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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Here are some artists' representations of the Battle of Britain

The message of these images is clear. They focus on the fighter pilots whose skill and bravery held off a possible German invasion in 1940. However, do these images tell the whole story? Study the other sources in this investigation and see what you think.

'Diving squadron of Spitfires', 1942

Catalogue ref: INF 3/824

This is a painting by Roy Nockolds, an official RAF artist. Nockolds was a pioneer in painting pictures of machinery. Until then, most of his paintings featured people or landscapes.



What is this source?

Artists working for the British Ministry of Information during the war have produced this artwork. It was to be published in pamphlets or magazines or possibly used for posters.

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There is no doubting the skill and bravery on both sides in the Battle of Britain. However, the small number of pilots who defeated the German air force in 1940 has become particularly famous for their exploits. This was probably because the story of these pilots was so dramatic. It made good propaganda for Britain and was a big morale boost for the population.

The Battle of Britain was an important development in the war. It was Hitler's first defeat, although it was not a decisive one. The bravery of 'The Few' was also immortalised in a speech by Winston Churchill. An epic feature film promoted the story of these men further in the 1960s that was seen by millions.

What conclusions can you draw from this source?

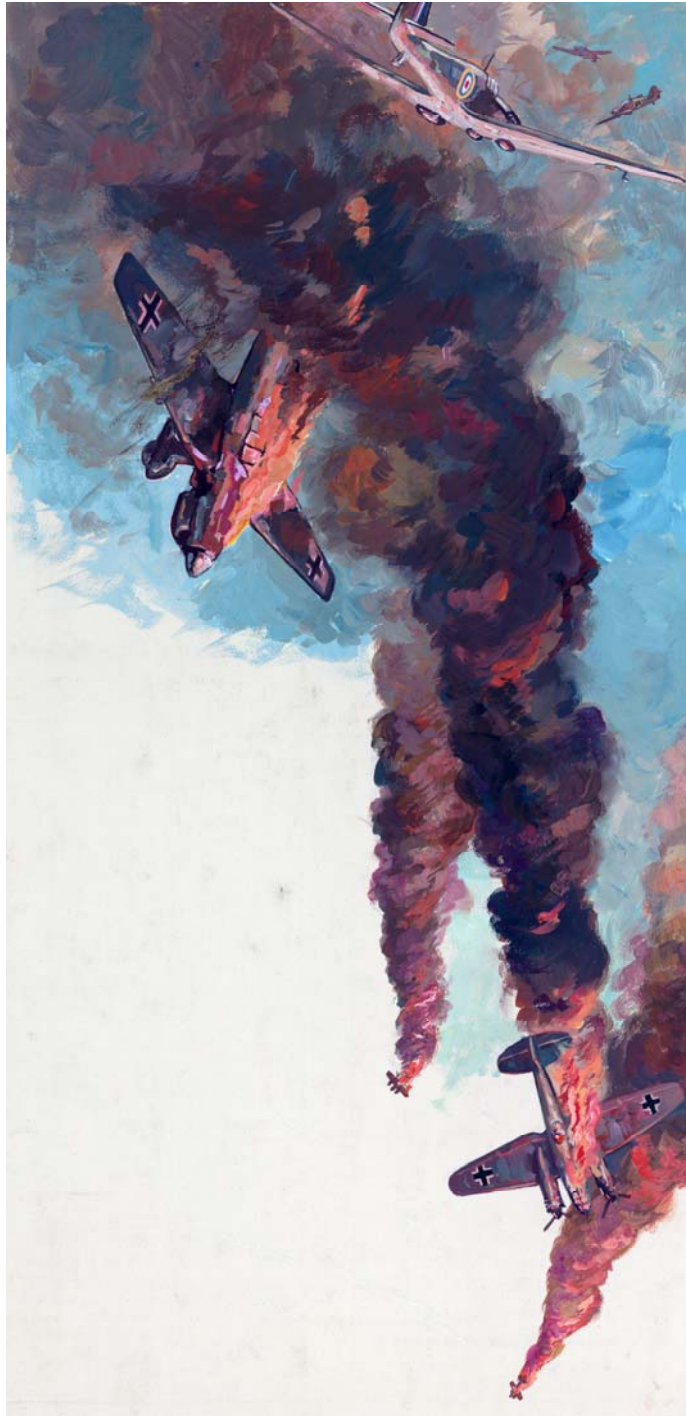
1. Which of the following words could be used to describe this source: heroic; terrible; grim; organised; exciting; dramatic; inspiring; realistic?
2. Try and come up with some of your own words.
3. Does this source show us anything about RAF weapons or tactics?
4. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the role of the pilots?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

'Battle of Britain', 1940

Catalogue ref: INF 3/1630

This is a painting by British war artist Leslie Oliphant.



<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/>

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

What is this source?

Artists working for the British Ministry of Information during the war have produced this artwork. It was to be published in pamphlets or magazines or possibly used for posters.

What's the background to this source?

The war started in 1939 and went well for Hitler at first. By May 1940 he had conquered Poland, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands. Despite British help, France surrendered in June 1940. Many people expected Britain to try and negotiate a settlement, but new British Prime Minister Winston Churchill decided to fight on.

The Germans produced serious plans to invade Britain and began major preparations involving something like 35 army divisions (600 000 men). Their problem was crossing the English Channel against the Royal Navy. They thought that they might achieve this if they controlled the air and could attack Royal Navy ships. As a result, the first stage of the German invasion plan, Operation Sealion, was to try and destroy the Royal Air Force.

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What conclusions can you draw from this source?

1. Which of the following words could be used to describe this source: heroic; terrible; grim; organised; exciting; dramatic; inspiring; realistic?
2. Try and come up with some of your own words.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

3. Do you think this source is just the artist's imagination? What sources could we use to check this?
4. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the role of the pilots?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.

'British Fighter Pilot', date unknown

Catalogue ref: INF 3/1689

This drawing was by Fortunino Matania. He was born in Italy but had settled in Britain in the early 1900s. In WW2 Britain was at war with Italy but Matania considered himself British.



WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

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What conclusions can you draw from this source?

1. Which of the following words could be used to describe this source: heroic; terrible; grim; organised; exciting; dramatic; inspiring; realistic?
2. Try and come up with some of your own words.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: BATTLE OF BRITAIN

3. This source is not just a picture of a pilot. The artist uses techniques to say something about this pilot, and all the other pilots as well. What impression are we meant to get from this picture?
4. Look at the plan for your TV documentary.
 - o Do you think you will give some time in the documentary to the role of the pilots?
 - o How much of the 30 minutes do you think you will give?

Use this storyboard framework to plan your documentary.