

History Knowledge Organiser

Year 6

Summer (ii)

What was the impact of the Battle of Britain?

Substantive Knowledge - What we need to know

The Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain was a major air battle fought between Germany and Great Britain in 1940 during World War II. The battle was fought in the skies over England and was a turning point in the war because it was the first major defeat suffered by the Germans and prevented them from gaining control of the air. The Luftwaffe's failure to gain air superiority over Britain meant that Hitler's plan to invade Britain, codenamed Operation Sea Lion, was abandoned. This was a crucial victory for Britain and prevented a German invasion which could have changed the course of the war. The battle boosted the morale of the British people and showed that Germany could be defeated.



British RAF plane



The German Luftwaffe

The battle also had a large impact on the people of London and the Southeast, who were subjected to intense bombing by the Luftwaffe during the battle. The bombings were aimed at destroying British airfields, factories, and ports in order to weaken Britain's war effort. London, in particular, was heavily bombed during the battle, with over 18,000 tons of bombs dropped on the city.



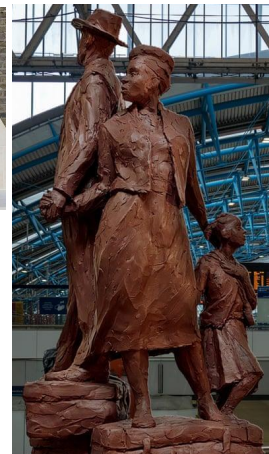
Allied forces

More than 600,000 African soldiers fought alongside Great Britain during World War II. 2.5 million Indian soldiers also fought in the war. An estimated two million African-Caribbean soldiers fought in both world wars.



Lilian Bader

Lilian Bader was a Black British woman who served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) during World War II. She was one of the first Black women to join the British armed forces. Bader was born in Liverpool in 1918 and grew up in a mixed-race family. She joined the WAAF in 1941 and served as an instrument repairer.



Windrush Square

Windrush Square is located in Brixton, London.

A sculpture in the square commemorates the sacrifices made from across the Empire during World War I and World War II.

The sculpture is a tribute to the contributions made by people from the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia to the war effort.

The Imperial War Museum in London



Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

If the RAF had not held off the Luftwaffe, Hitler would have likely moved forward with his Operation Sea Lion invasion of the British Isles. 56 Luftwaffe aircraft were shot down over the south of England. This one-day tally convinced Hitler that the Luftwaffe could not gain aerial superiority over the English Channel.

Core Vocabulary

Fascism – a type of government that puts the needs of the country above the needs of the individual.

Luftwaffe – the German air force.

Nazi – a short form of the German name for "National Socialist German Workers"