

The Second World War 1939-1945

Age- KS2/Secondary School/S1-3

Topic- RAF

From July-October 1940, Fighter Pilots of The Royal Air Force (**RAF**) took part in the defence of the British Isles, in what became known as **The Battle of Britain**.

Spitfire and Hurricane Squadrons flew into combat to stop German Bombers and their fighter escorts. The RAF also led a bombing campaign against Nazi Germany and supported Allied Forces around the world.



Spitfire aircraft

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Sketch of Dennis
'Hurricane' David



Dennis 'Hurricane' David was an 'Ace' pilot who flew Hawker Hurricanes in both the **Battle of France** and the **Battle of Britain** in 1940.

At 23 years old, David became a Wing Commander and trained several squadrons at **RAF Annan** in fighter tactics.

The Battle of Britain was a long campaign with heavy losses on both sides. The RAF successfully prevented a German invasion of Britain.

During the battle, the RAF and Luftwaffe fought for air supremacy and many pilots and planes were lost.



RAF Squadron Leader's
uniform



A typical World War Two pilot's
leather flying hat and goggles.

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RAF Annan, an **Advanced Fighter Training Station**, was based on the site where Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station is located today. The RAF base became operational in 1942 and stationed 55 Operational Training Unit. Trainee fighter pilots flew at low altitude over the Solway Firth and simulated aerial combat and dive bombing during their training.

On this airfield, young inexperienced fighter pilots from across the British Commonwealth and United States were trained for the invasion of occupied Europe.

On **6th June 1944, D Day** took place which was a massive invasion force of British, American and Canadian troops assault the Normandy Coastline. Allied soldiers landed on the beaches to free North-West Europe from the Nazis. The RAF pilots, trained at RAF Annan, carried out fighter sweeps and dive bombing attacks on ground targets.

During training at RAF Annan, many planes crashed in the fields and farms of Dumfries and Galloway due to poor weather conditions, mechanical failures and pilot error.

The Solway became known as Hudson Bay due to the large number of RAF Hudsons that crashed on route from Coastal Command in Silloth.



Hurricane fighter aircraft. These aeroplanes first flew on 6 November 1935 and were based at RAF Annan as training aircraft. Many of the planes had been previously used during The Battle of Britain in 1940