

Year: 6

Term: Autumn 2

Topic: How was the Battle of Britain a turning point in WWII?



Conflict

The **Battle of Britain** was a very important part of World War II. In 1940, Germany, led by **Adolf Hitler**, had taken over most of Europe, including France. The only big country left to fight back was Great Britain.

Hitler wanted to invade Britain, but first he needed to destroy the **Royal Air Force (RAF)**, which protected Britain from air attacks. In **July 1940**, Hitler gave orders for a sea invasion of Britain called **Operation Sealion**. But before he could send ships, he had to make sure the RAF was out of the way. So, he sent the **Luftwaffe** (the German air force) to attack British planes, airfields, and radar stations.

This started a huge air battle over Britain. On **15 September 1940**, Germany launched a massive bombing attack on London. This day is now remembered as **Battle of Britain Day**. The RAF fought back bravely and stopped the German planes. Because of this, Hitler had to cancel his invasion plans.

Even though the invasion was stopped, Germany continued bombing British cities at night. This was called the **Blitz**. London was bombed for 57 nights in a row, and other cities like Coventry, Liverpool, and Birmingham were also badly damaged. To keep children safe, over 3.5 million people, mostly children, were **evacuated** from cities to the countryside.

The Battle of Britain was the first time Hitler was stopped in World War II. It showed that Germany could be defeated and gave hope to the rest of the world. That's why it is remembered as a **turning point in history**.

Glossary

- aerial warfare** The use of military aircraft and other flying machines in war.
- air-raid** An attack by enemy planes dropping bombs.
- allies** Countries (including Britain, France, Poland and the USA) who fought against the Axis Powers.
- axis** Countries (including Germany, Italy and Japan) who fought against the Allied Powers.
- blackout** A wartime ban on streetlights and other lights at night, to reduce the risk of bombing by enemy planes.
- blitz** A prolonged period of German air raids on Britain.
- evacuation** People moving away from a dangerous place to somewhere safe.
- home front** The people who stay in a country and work while that country's soldiers are fighting in a war in a foreign country.
- Luftwaffe** The German air force during the war.
- Nazi** Short for National Socialist Party (in Germany) and the name given to supporters of Hitler.
- war effort** All that is being done to win a war.

