

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Allies</b>	The Allied Powers were Britain, France, Russia, and the United States who joined together to fight in WWII.
<b>Anti-aircraft</b>	A gun or missile used to attack enemy aircraft.
<b>Barges</b>	A long flat-bottomed boat for carrying freight on canals and rivers, either under its own power or towed by another.
<b>Fuhrer</b>	A German word for leader.
<b>Luftwaffe</b>	The German Air Force.
<b>Nazi</b>	A member of the National Socialist German Workers' Party.
<b>Occupied</b>	When an army has conquered an area.
<b>Radar</b>	A system for detecting the presence, direction, distance, and speed of aircraft and ships



## Why was winning the Battle of Britain in 1940 so important?

- The Royal Navy was the most powerful navy in the world and the German Kriegsmarine was quite weak in comparison.
- The Luftwaffe, the German Air Force, was much stronger than their navy.
- The Luftwaffe lost 1733 aircraft and 915 RAF fighters were shot down.
- The Battle of Britain ended in victory for the Royal Air Force after 12 weeks.

Germany had invaded, and now controlled most of Western Europe.

The British soldiers were rescued during Operation Dunkirk.



France had fallen to Hitler.

In 1940 Winston Churchill was the newly appointed coalition Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



May 1940

After occupying the Channel Islands on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1940, Hitler then called for the invasion of Britain to commence.

June 1940

On 10<sup>th</sup> July 1940 Hitler ordered the Luftwaffe to begin the Battle of Britain.



July 1940



1914-1918

World War I

September 1939

The Second World War began with an unprovoked German attack on Poland.

May - June 1940

Operation Dunkirk 190,000 British and 140,000 French troops were rescued from the beaches at Dunkirk.

July - September 1940

The Battle of Britain was fought by the German Luftwaffe and the British Royal Air Force for 12 weeks in the skies.

September 1945

The Second World War ends with an unconditional surrender from Germany on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May. These dates are celebrated as VE (Victory in Europe) day.