The Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain was a plane warfare battle fought mainly between Britain and Germany. It was the Spitfire’s and Hurricanes against the Merssersmits and Focke-wolfs. The Battle of Britain was named by Winston Churchill in this quote “The Battle of France is over I expect the Battle of Britain is about to begin”.

It all started with the Blitz Krieg when Germany were just marching through countries and taking them over but when they got to the end of France they had a problem. England was OVER the channel. But Hitler had great admiration for Britain and he offered to shake hands and call it a truce with Churchill but Churchill wasn’t having any of it he wanted to stop Germany from taking over any other countries so he said NO.

So Germany threatened to take over the skies and the sea. Churchill realized that Germany would be able to take the French fleet of Battle ships and that was one of the biggest fleets in the world so quickly he sent his ships to destroy the French fleet and they did. They killed 8 service men 3 troops and 10 civilians mostly accidentally but anyway they got away unharmed.

Hitler tried to make another offer, but an hour after Churchill received the message he refused it so Britain was at war with Germany. As soon as Hitler heard he was furious so he brought Herman Goring into the picture and told him what needed to be done. Goring was an ace pilot in world war one so he knew how to deal with the problem. Goring sent over some bombing raids on the airfields on the south coast of England but two hiankle’s accidentally veered off towards London on their way back but they had a few bombs left onboard so they dropped them and of course on London.

Churchill got so mad but also quite pleased at this because this an excuse for him to do what he had been planning to do all along but didn’t have a reason to do so, he sent over a bombing raid of Lancaster’s on Berlin. They dropped a small shock raid and then went back. Hitler got so furious again he made another speech and said “if England bomb are cities for 2 nights we shall bomb there’s for 50 nights we will wipe them out and cut of their high spirits”.

And Hitler bombed England’s cities for 56 of the 57 following nights this was called “the blitz”. This was of course devastating to Britain but what it didn’t wipe out was there high spirits which is what Hitler had planned to do.

About the planes

The spitfire

The Spitfire was an iconic plane of the 2nd world war it was light it was quick it was nifty it was overall a very good plane but it did have its down sides the modern metal frame it was being held together with was very vulnerable if it got hit by machine gun fire anywhere it would do vital damage to the plane and would have to repaired and that could take a long time, it couldn’t stay in the air very long, it didn’t have long machine gun fire itself.

About the details

It had a small radiator underneath its right wing, it is famous for having a merlin Rolls Royce engine that had three exhausts on each side of the engine. Its cockpit was small curved glass at the back and in the middle it was rounded over the top so a person of any height could fit in it and then slanted forward at the front so you could have a good vision. The mark ones and two’s were the only spitfires two fight in the battle of Britain the other marks (up to 24) weren’t invented then the marks from 4 upwards had cannon machine guns which were much better than the 303 machine guns they had before, the mark 1s and 2s of spitfire also had 4 machine guns on both wings. The wheels on a spitfire came into the wings of the plane and the wings were rounded on the ends so it could turn easily at a 180 degree angle. The very first mark 1 spitfires had 2 propellers instead of three. On the spitfire’s left wing it had a radio wave pole and on top they had a communication pole to communicate with their squadron. The spitfire mark 1 could fly at 349 mph and the mark 2 could fly at 440 mph

The Hurricane

The Hurricane was mainly used for shooting down slow moving bombers but not in the 303 squadron’s case. The 303 squadron was a polish squadron of Hurricanes, they shot down more German planes in the Battle of Britain than anyone or anything. They shot down 206 planes and that scored them 20% of all the kills in the battle of Britain. One of the main reasons why they did anything to kill the Germans was because they had seen their parents be abolished in front of them so they had that killer instinct that you needed. One time a 303 squadron pilot was chasing down a Messerschmitt bf 109 but he had run out of ammunition so what he did was go in line with the Messerschmitt and smash the cock pit and down went the plane and exploded beneath the him. Another story is that ace pilot Urbanowicz had also run out of ammunition and did a very similar thing he hit the Messerschmitt on the tail and both planes went down luckily Urbanowicz survived and was back in on the action in no time.

About the details

The Hurricane was a strongly built plane and had an older wooden frame was actually better in a sense to the spitfire because it was more robust it was a wooden frame with fabric stretched over the top, its engine was a merlin Rolls Royce engine just like the spitfire. Its cockpit was on a rail so it could slide back and forth easily. The radiator was put directly underneath the cockpit, its wheels came up into the body of the plane the top speed for a mark 1 was 324 mph and that’s only 25 mph slower than the mark1 spitfire and its weaponry was 8x303 machine guns.

Fun facts

The Hurricane had red tape over its bullet holes so they didn’t get any muck or dust inside.

In England the soldiers probably had better food than the civilians.

Hitler’s decision to bomb London put the war in Britain’s favor because it was the air fields he needed to bomb to stop the planes getting off the ground.

It is estimated that 1,000 British planes were shot down but 1,800 German planes were destroyed.

Britain developed a radar system called chain home, the brilliant idea of air Chief Marshall Dowding and invented by Sir Robert Watson-Watt, there were two types of chain home upper and lower so there was no way to get through without being attacked by British fighters. If the Germans went under the main chain home then they would get caught by the lower chain home. The chain home sent radio wave signals for over 22 miles so the RAF would have plenty of warning and they would scramble into their planes and try and find this raid of planes. One of the downsides of chain home was that you couldn’t tell how many planes there were. So it could be a massive bombing raid or a few German spotter planes.

The Germans equivalent was the knickebein (crooked leg) system which was used in the Blitz. It was to help navigate at night, there were 2 giant radio wave signal devices that were at the top and bottom of Germany they sent out dots and dashes to navigate to the exact point they wanted to bomb in London the main planes that were used in this system were Heinkle’s he 111 and Dornier’s DO 17 and 217 also sometimes Focke Wolfs FW 200.

 

Germany’s more advanced

Germany’s fighter planes were more advanced in the war they had pretty much everything. For example the Messerschmitt bf 109 had cannons when they first started off whereas Britain had 303 machine guns which weren’t so good in the air, and it somehow had a cannon machine gun mounted in its nose.