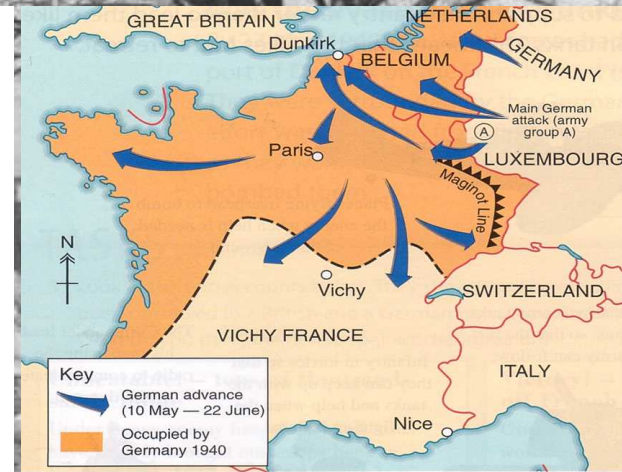


*L.O. I can explain the causes and consequence of historical events on the past and the present.*

A reminder...

- In May 1940, Germany invaded France. The French and British armies were quickly overpowered by the German Blitzkrieg.
- Toward the end of May, in a daring rescue attempt, ships from England picked up 300,000 British and French soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk.
- Britain stood alone against the might of the German war machine. Hitler was surprised that Britain did not surrender like France. He ordered his generals to invade Britain. Their invasion plan was code named Operation Sealion.



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What happened next? ...

British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, 1940

- In order for the German Blitzkrieg to work, the Luftwaffe had to first destroy the RAF, to prevent it posing a threat to German troops as they landed in Britain.
- The Battle of Britain was the first major battle fought entirely in the air. Hermann Goring's air force began its assault on England in July 1940 with more than twice the 600 aircraft available to the RAF.
- The desperate situation that Britain was in can be summarised by Britain's new Prime Minister, Winston Churchill:



[youtube.com/watch?v=G4BVzYGeF0M](https://youtube.com/watch?v=G4BVzYGeF0M)

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-the-battle-of-britain-and-beyond/zrk847h>



The RAF were crucial in Britain's survival in the Nazi regime.

Listen here about the Battle of Britain.




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What was  
Southampton's  
role in The  
Battle of Britain?

In pairs, read the  
article and  
highlight any  
information that  
helps you answer  
this question.

**News**  
15th September 2015  
**A city in the frontline of the Battle of Britain**  
By Jez Gale







[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#) [0 comment](#)

**SOUTHAMPTON**, with its vital docks as the enemy's target, was, well and truly in the Battle of Britain arena 75 years ago.

In 1940, with the nation's future hanging in the balance, men and women toiled 17 and 18 hours a day to produce desperately needed **Spitfire** fighter. Many of them died in two bombing raids in September that year against the Supermarine Aviation Works, as the Luftwaffe sought to extinguish one of RAF Fighter Command's main suppliers. The first of the daylight raids, on the 24th, saw 17 aircraft approach from the south and drop 29 high explosive bombs and one incendiary. The Supermarine works was lucky — of the 17 bombs which fell on the site, most landed in the mud of the river, and there was little damage to the buildings. But some of the workers had ran into a shelter beneath the railway embankment. This took a direct hit and most of those killed.

**Most read**

- 1 
- 2 
- 3 
- 4 



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Southampton is integral to the story of the Spitfire. The prototype Spitfire first flew from Southampton Airport and production of the earliest models was based at the Supermarine factory in Woolston. This was bombed in the Second World War with great loss of life to local workers.

Production continued in and around Southampton, dispersed in locations as varied as bus garages and launderettes. The bravery of Southampton people in continuing to build the Spitfire under constant threat of enemy bombing raids was crucial in the protection of England, and the Allies' eventual victory.



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The prototype Spitfire was designed by R J Mitchell and first took to the air at Southampton Airport on 5 March 1936. With a powerful Rolls Royce Merlin engine and eight machine guns it was a formidable fighting aircraft. Sadly, Mitchell was to die before seeing the aircraft go into operational use.

The Air Ministry ordered 310 Spitfires to be produced at the Supermarine factory at Woolston in Southampton. By 1940 the area was at fever pitch with the production, development and operation of all sorts of fighting aircraft. The industry was now employing thousands of technicians and engineers. Production of the Spitfires at Woolston was at full capacity. This was now an open-ended order for the aircraft to replace many of which were lost during the Battle of Britain. September 1940 could perhaps be described as this country's darkest hour; in two daylight raids the Woolston works were destroyed, killing 110 people.

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The Blitz on Southampton was devastating and the town was hit time and time again, not only because of its aircraft industry but because of its docks and its many other strategic targets. It is an irony that the maps the German pilots used to navigate and accurately attack the target were originally produced at the Ordnance Survey in Southampton. The situation was extremely grim. Lord Beaverbrook, the Minister for Aircraft Procurement, came to Southampton and insisted that the Spitfire must be produced locally in any location where aircraft could be built. In a very short time, laundries, bus stations, garages etc. were requisitioned and within a few weeks the aircraft was back in production all over Southampton.

By the end of the war, 8,000 Spitfires had been built this way, having been constructed in pieces and taken to airfields for assembly and test flying. At this time the Spitfire possibly touched the lives of almost every family in Southampton. The difficulties in building the Spitfire in this way should not be underestimated when one considers the fact that this was done during the height of the Blitz and very often by unskilled labour. A large part of the workforce were women and young men, as most eligible men were out fighting for their country. The Spitfire was to remain in production throughout the entire war and eventually over 22,000 of the aircraft were built.



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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_bBB9d6MuU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_bBB9d6MuU)



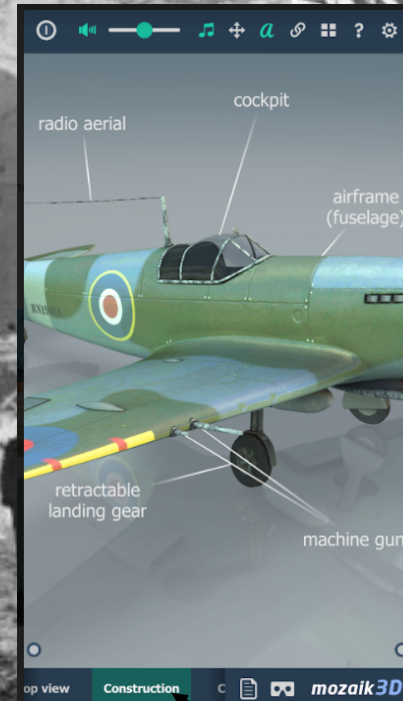
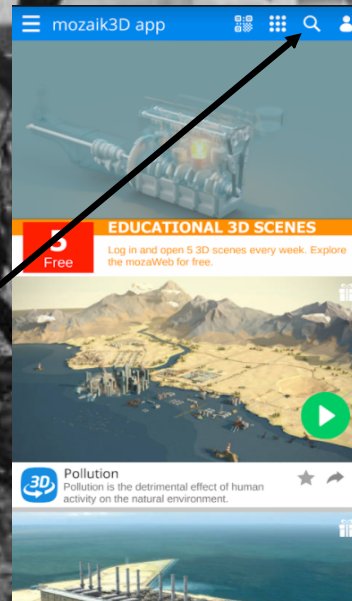
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Mozaik3d app



Let's take a look at a Spitfire fighter aircraft...

Open the app and type 'Spitfire' into the search bar.



Discover and explore by using and scrolling through the tabs at the bottom of the screen,

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Who was Nicholson?  
Why is his legacy important to local history?





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Who was Nicholson?  
Why is his legacy important to local history?

Using your knowledge of validating sources, read the articles and explore the sources to find out more about Nicholson.



With me



# Additional resources - listen to stories and accounts about the legacy of the war on life today.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07nrbdn>

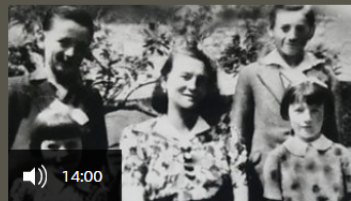
## Available Now



### Episode 10 Legacy of War

Sean Bean explores how wartime experiences have filtered down through the generations.

BBC RADIO 4



### Episode 9 Legacy of War

Sean Bean presents a series exploring how war experiences filter down the generations

BBC RADIO 4



### Episode 8 Legacy of War

Sean Bean presents a series exploring how war experiences filter down the generations

BBC RADIO 4



### Episode 7 Legacy of War

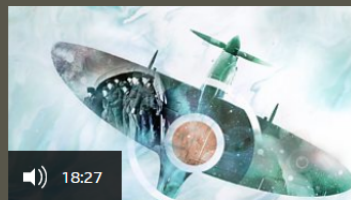
Sean Bean presents a series exploring how war experiences filter down the generations

BBC RADIO 4



### Episode 6 Legacy of War

Sean Bean presents a series exploring how war experiences filter down the



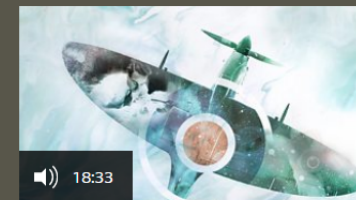
### Scramble Spitfire: The People's Plane, Spitfire: The People's Plane

A day that changed the course of World



### Teenage pilots Spitfire: The People's Plane, Spitfire: The People's Plane

How does it feel to fly a Spitfire?



### Faster and higher Spitfire: The People's Plane, Spitfire: The People's Plane

The plane's designers try to respond to