



ON THE HOME FRONT

Go back in time - You are entering a hall which will help to put you in touch with the people of Britain at the time of World War II, what they were thinking, what they were feeling, what they were seeing...

Can you see the Anderson Shelter?

What were these shelters made from?

Corrugated Metal

Why were they needed?

To protect the public during air raids. People had shelters in their gardens as they were quicker and easier to reach than large public shelters.

Circle the three words that you think best describe how people would have felt whilst in the shelter.

Tired Frightened Sad Happy Bored Peaceful
 Cold Cosy Cramped Excited

For children living in the cities life was about to change dramatically...

Look at the children in the waiting room.

Why are these children being evacuated?

Air raids were focused on large towns and cities so to protect children from air raids, they were evacuated to the relative safety of the countryside.

List 4 things the children are carrying with them.

- 1) Gas Mask Boxes
- 2) A Toy
- 3) Name Tags (Evacuation Labels)
- 4) Suitcases

What 4 things would you miss most if you were being evacuated today?

- 1).....
- 2).....
- 3).....
- 4).....

Many children returned to their families when the feared bombing raids did not come. In the Autumn of 1940 their worst fears were to be realised, the Blitz began...

Take a look at the street scene.

What was the Blitz?

.....

There are six helpers in this scene.

Which job do you think was the most dangerous?

.....

Why?

.....

Imagine yourself as part of the scene, which helper would you have wanted to be?

.....

Why?

.....

Turn your back on the Blitz scene. You will find a grey Fire engine.

How has the fire engine been adapted for use in the blackout?

Head Lamp Covers have been fitted to the head lamps.

Other vehicles also had to observe blackout regulations but this might cause problems on the roads.

Can you think of any possible dangers of vehicles being adapted in this way?

The head lamps only light up a small area of road making it hard to see in front of you.

The threat of attack from air was always imminent...

In order to protect the people, enemy aircraft needed to be detected so a Radar system was used.

Find the Radar receiver.

What could the operators tell?



The distance the planes were away.



The colour of the planes.



What the planes were carrying.



The number of planes.



The direction the planes were coming from.

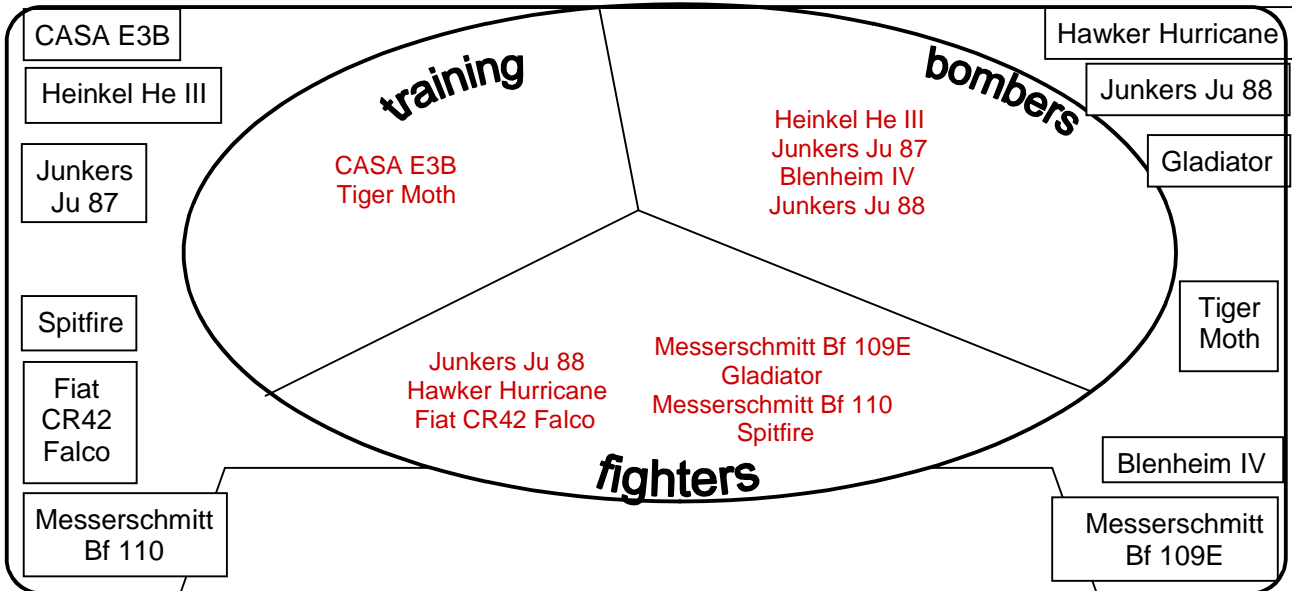
As you leave this gallery and move into the aircraft hall you will notice an unexploded bomb, imagine if this had fallen through the roof of your home.

As war continued on the home front, what was happening in the air...?

IN THE AIR

Aircraft had been used in World War I but not in the same way as they were now used in World War II. The Air Force was now crucial to the outcome. The aircraft had many different but important roles to play during the Battle of Britain.

Find the aircraft listed below. Which group do they belong to? Fill in the chart



You will have noticed that not all the planes here were flown by the allied forces. Try separating the fighter planes into those flown by the Allied forces and those flown by the Axis forces.

Allied Forces (RAF and allies)	Axis Forces (Luftwaffe and allies)
Spitfire Hawker Hurricane Gladiator	Messerschmitt Bf 109E Messerschmitt Bf 110 Fiat CR42 Falco Junkers Ju 88

Can you see any differences or similarities between the aircraft of the two air forces?

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BATTLE OF BRITAIN DISCOVERY SHEET

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In this hall you will have seen a Spitfire and a Hurricane. Both of these aircraft played very important roles in the Battle of Britain; See what you can find out...

Fill in the missing gaps

Spitfires and Hurricanes were both powered by Rolls - Royce Merlin engines. At the time of the Battle Britain they each had 8 machine guns. More Hurricanes than Spitfires took part in the battle, but the Spitfire is more famous. The maximum speed of the Spitfire is 570 km/h. The Battle of Britain took place in 1940

You will have noticed by now that some of the planes have some unusual features...

Which of the planes have transparent noses?

The Blenheim IV and the Heinkel HE111-H

Why do they have transparent noses?

As both planes are bombers, it gives a better view of the ground

Imagine you were the airman whose duty it was to sit in the nose of the plane during the flight, how would you feel?

There are many symbols used on aircraft. Nowadays you might see the company name printed on the side of the aircraft...

Look around! You will be able to see many different symbols.

Choose one symbol from an Axis forces aircraft and one from an Allied forces aircraft and try drawing them below.

Allied Forces

Axis Forces

As you walk through the rest of the museum see what other features and symbols you can see. Maybe you will already be familiar with some...

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