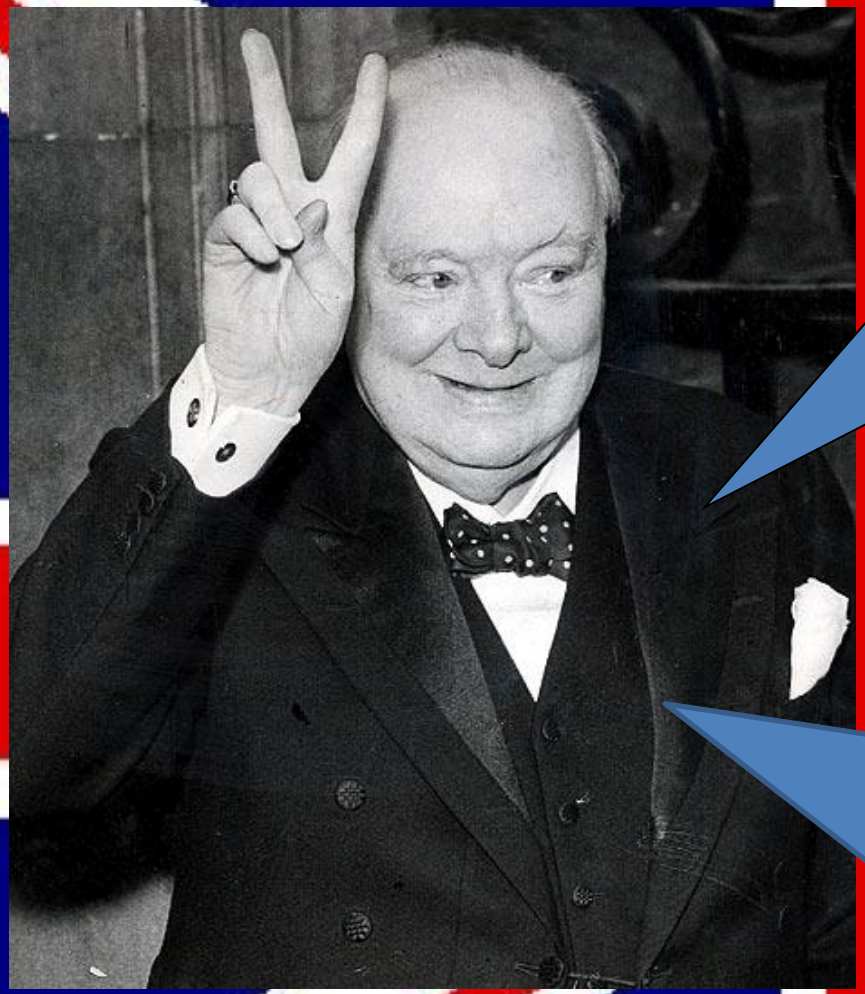
THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

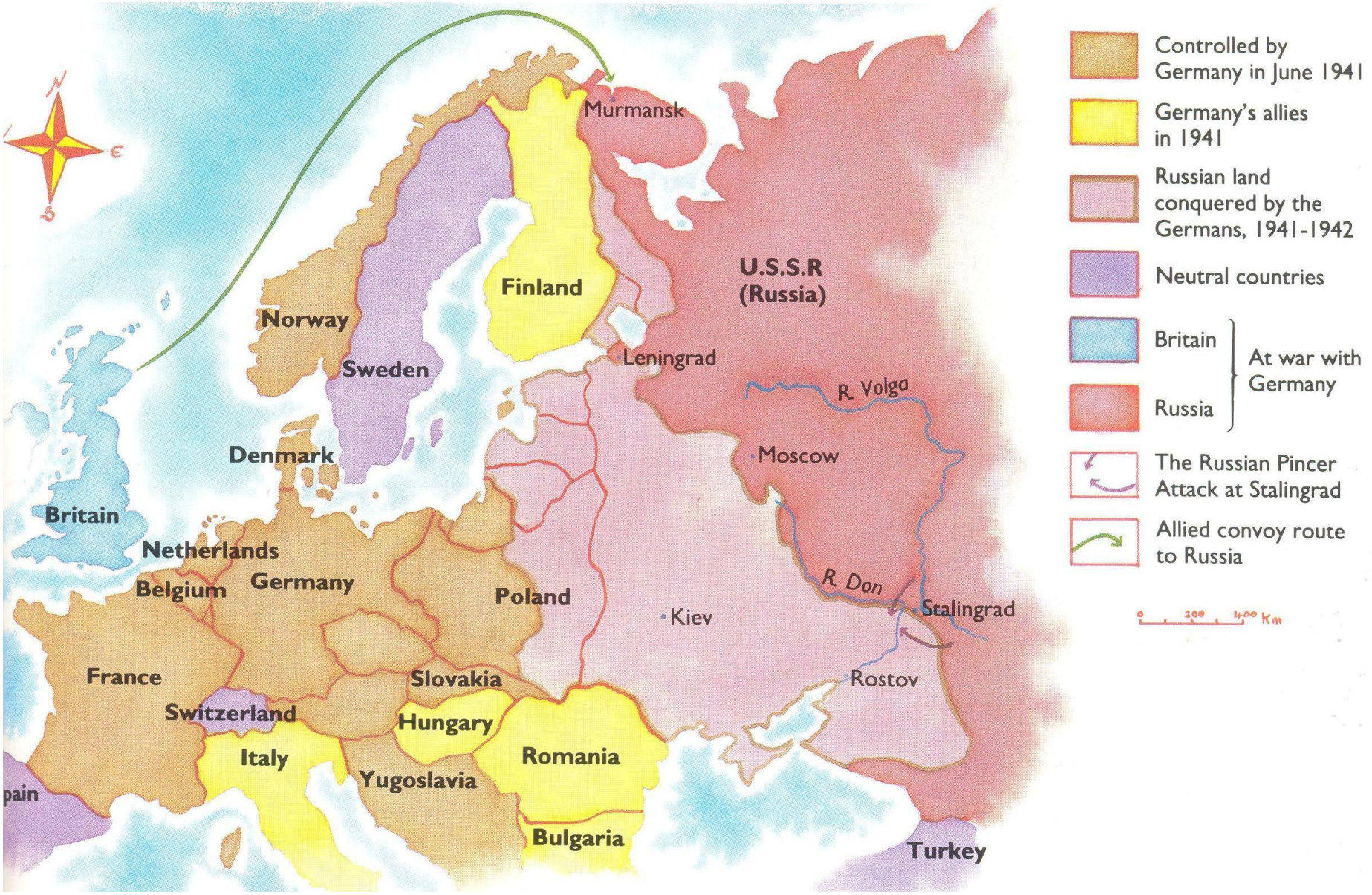
LO: to understand what the Battle of Britain was and its importance during WW2.



The Battle of France is over. I expect the Battle of Britain is about to begin…let us therefore be prepared to do our duty so that…men will say, 'This was our finest hour'.

8th June, 1940

We shall fight them on the beaches, we shall fight them on the landing grounds, we shall fight them in the field and in the street, we shall fight them in the hills. We shall never surrender. (3rd June 1940)


N
E
S
Murmansk
Finland
U.S.S.R
(Russia)
Norway
Sweden
Leningrad
R. Volga
Moscow
Denmark
Britain
Netherlands
Belgium
Germany
Poland
Kiev
R. Don
Stalingrad
France
Slovakia
Rostov
Switzerland
Hungary
Italy
Romania
Yugoslavia
pain
Bulgaria
Turkey
Controlled by Germany in June 1941
Germany's allies in 1941
Russian land conquered by the Germans, 1941-1942
Neutral countries
Britain
Russia
At war with Germany
The Russian Pincer Attack at Stalingrad
Allied convoy route to Russia
0
200
400 Km

The Battle of Britain

Hitler's idea was that German bombers would attack British airfields and destroy all the RAF's aircraft.

Germany had good planes and well trained fighters.

However the RAF were more evenly matched than the Germans thought.

The Battle of Britain

Throughout August 1940 the German attacks increased – on airfields, radar stations, factories, towns and ports.

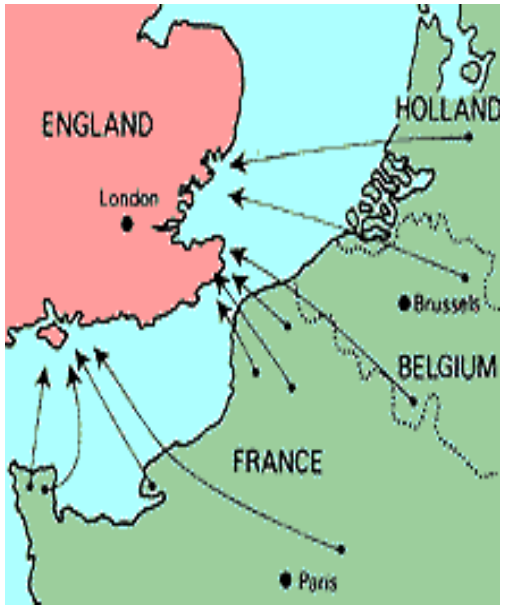
The RAF lost large numbers of planes.

However the Germans had problems. They could only carry enough fuel to fly for 30 minutes at a time.

After conquering France, Britain was the next country Hitler wanted to **invade**.

His invasion plan was known as **Operation Sea Lion**.

The task of the **Luftwaffe** then, was to take out the British Air force (the **RAF**).





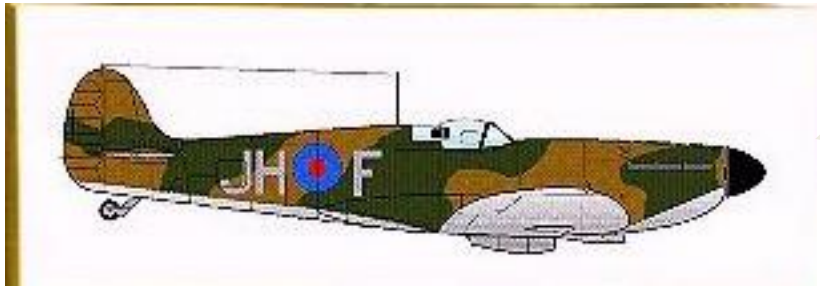


The Battle of Britain begins…

In July 1940 the German Luftwaffe began their assault on England, with more than twice the 600 aircraft available to the RAF.

Every day between July and October 1940 the RAF and Luftwaffe clashed over Britain.

Both sides had the latest aircraft technology, however the RAF had an edge over the Germans with their new fighter planes: The SPITFIRE and HURRICANE.



A Spitfire MK 1

Even though British planes were slightly better, the Germans had an advantage. They had more planes and pilots available.

The Germans were convinced Britain would not be able to replace their pilots and planes when they had been destroyed.

The Germans were wrong!



So how did Britain win?

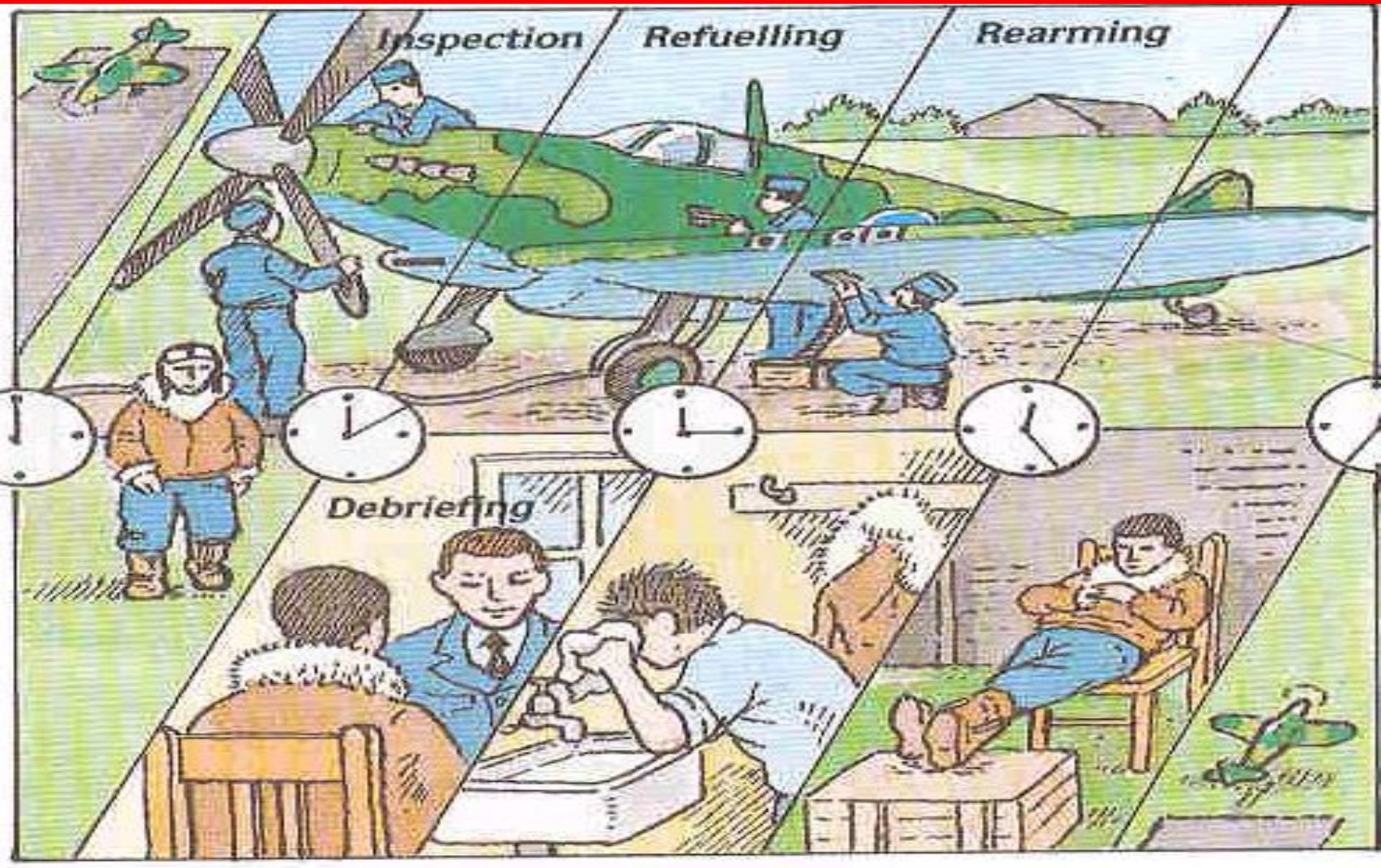
Why did Britain win?

The German planes had only enough fuel to fly for 30 minutes at a time, and they flew close together – this made it easier for the British planes to attack them.

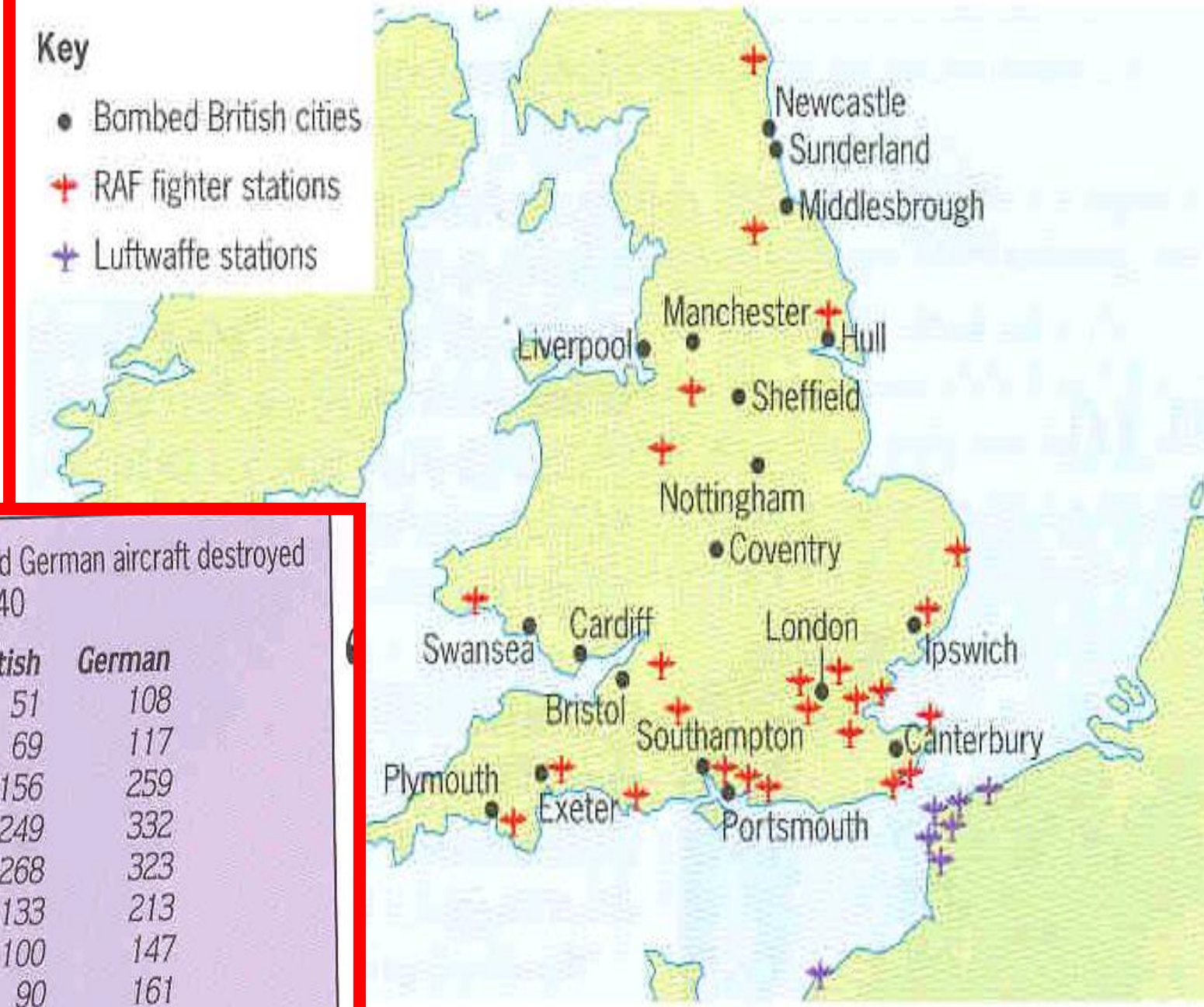
The British lost large numbers of planes, but produced 563 new planes each month.

Although the British pilots were fewer in number than the Germans, they worked very hard. Pilots would have a short break then get into a new plane and fly again. The men were very brave.





A drawing showing the duties of a British fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain



SOURCE 4 British and German aircraft destroyed 1 July–31 October 1940

	British	German
1–15 July	51	108
16–31 July	69	117
1–15 August	156	259
16–31 August	249	332
1–15 September	268	323
16–30 September	133	213
1–15 October	100	147
16–31 October	90	161
Totals	1116	1660

The Battle of

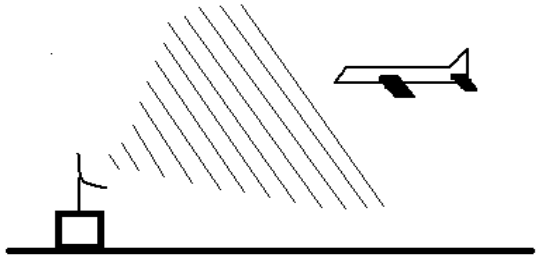
The British also had **RADAR**.

This meant the British could see when the German aircraft were about to cross the English Channel.

The British fighters could therefore be in the places the Germans were about to attack.

This piece of **technology** helped to get over the fact that the RAF was outnumbered.







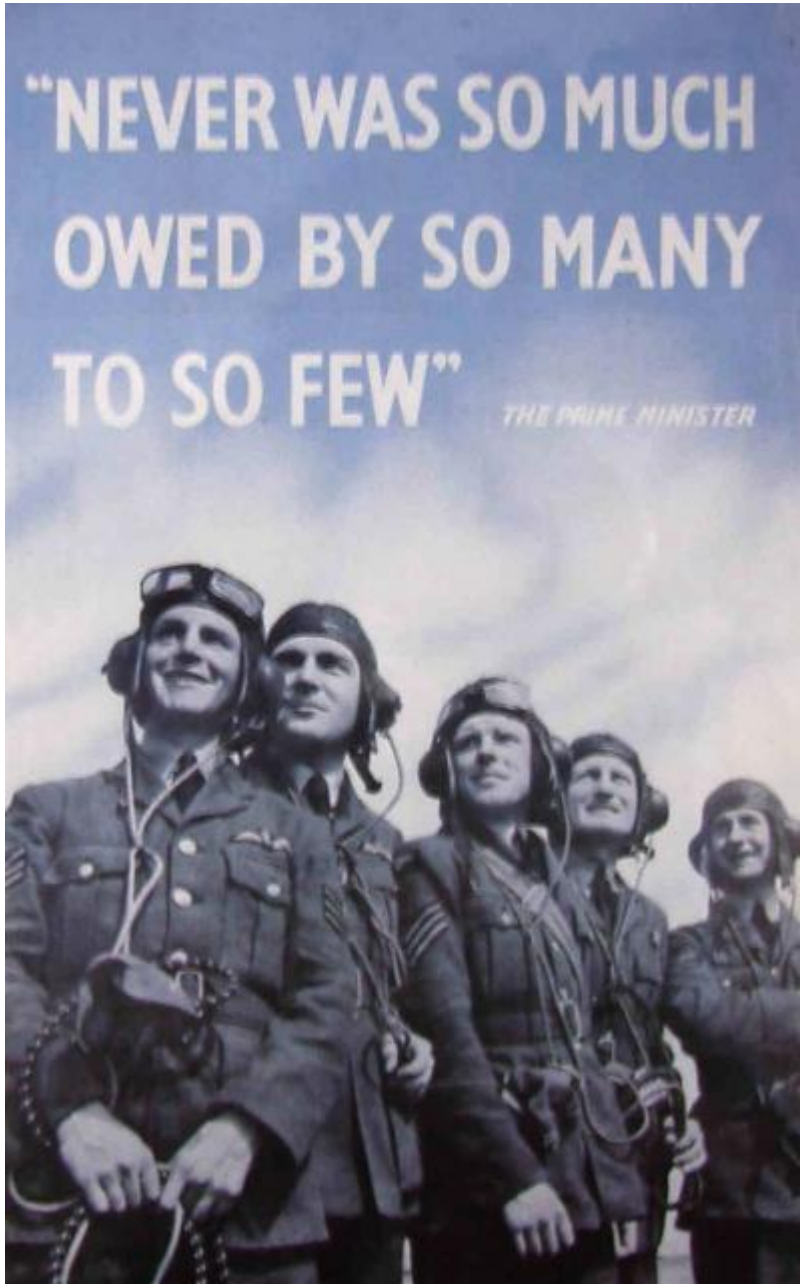
Source D: School Textbook, 1985.

Britain won because it had air defence based on new technology – radar.

On September 17th, Operation Sea Lion was called off.

Britain had won it's first victory in the Second World War.

The pilots were known as heroes, and the Battle of Britain was seen as one of Britain's finest hours.



Questions

1. How would you describe Churchill's attitudes towards the Germans?
2. How important was technology in helping the RAF win the Battle of Britain?
3. Draw a picture of Radar into your Home learning book and explain how it works

Task 1A

You're going to decide what the main reasons as to why were Britain won the Battle of Britain.

First you must put the cards in order from MOST IMPORTANT to LEAST IMPORTANT.

1644 German pilots were killed, but only **446 RAF pilots** were killed in 1940.	The Germans lost **1652 planes**, the RAF only lost **1085**.
Britain produced an average of **563 new planes each month** between July and September 1940.	Hitler's bombing of factories didn't work, and factories and industry **carried on producing** war materials.
Britain had **RADAR**. This meant the British knew where the Germans would be attacking and could meet them and stop them.	**Bad weather** and the **skill** of the RAF pilots made many of the Luftwaffe's raids unsuccessful.
The British fighter planes (the **Hurricane** and **Spitfire**) were faster and could move better than the German planes.	The German planes could only fly for **30 minutes** at a time.
The German planes flew **in groups** which made them easy targets.	There were fewer pilots in Britain, but between landing and taking off again, they only had **short periods of rest** while the planes were refuelled.

Task 1B





Now you are going to design a creative poster showing why the Allied Forces won the Battle of Britain, including the **reasons** that you think were most the important! Please carry out and include your own independent research on your poster.

Top Tip! – Think about researching information from more than one source to increase the reliability of your information and in order to reduce likelihood of bias. **Can you find a German perspective on the The Battle of Britain?**

(See Home learning overview for useful links.)