

7) WORLD WAR II (1939 - 1945)

7.1) AIRCRAFT OF WWII

World War II saw a great increase in the pace of development and production of aircraft. Large-scale strategic bombing campaigns were launched, fighter escorts introduced, with dive bombers, fighter-bombers and ground-attack aircraft.

Some notable aircraft of WWII:

The Supermarine Spitfire was a British single-seater fighter aircraft used by the Royal Air Force (RAF) and other Allied countries before, during, and after WWII.

The Spitfire played a major role in the Battle of Britain.



The Russian Yakovlev Yak-9 was a single-engine, single-seat multipurpose fighter aircraft which played a major role in retaking air superiority from the Luftwaffe's Focke-Wulf Fw 190 and Messerschmitt Bf 109G fighters during the Battle of Kursk in summer 1943.

The B-17 Flying Fortress was America's most famous heavy bomber during WWII.



The Junkers Ju 87, popularly known as the "Stuka" was a German dive bomber and ground-attack aircraft.

7.2) BATTLE OF BRITAIN



A defining period of the Royal Air Force's (RAF) existence came during the Battle of Britain. Over the summer of 1940, the RAF held off the Luftwaffe in perhaps the most prolonged and complicated air campaign in history. This arguably contributed immensely to the delay and cancellation of German plans for an invasion of the United Kingdom.

Hawker Hurricane Mk I, Junkers Ju 87B-2, in combat over the skies of Great Britain.

*Marginal inscription quote by Winston Churchill.*



Of these few hundred RAF fighter pilots, Prime Minister Winston Churchill famously said in the House of Commons on 20 August 1940

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".