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## *The battle of Britain*

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### ❶ Hitler's instructions on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1940.

- 1 “In order to establish the necessary conditions for the final conquest of England I intend to intensify  
2 air and sea warfare against the English homeland. I therefore order as follows:
- 3 – The German Air Force is to overpower the English Air Force with all the forces at its command, in  
4 the shortest time possible. The attacks are to be directed primarily against flying units, their ground  
5 installations, and their supply organizations, but also against the aircraft industry, including that  
6 manufacturing anti-aircraft equipment. [...] – I reserve to myself the right to decide on terror  
7 attacks as measures of reprisal. ”

### ❷ The narrative of a British fighter pilot.

- 1 “I turn off, and spot a single Messerschmitt Bf 109<sup>1</sup> below and ahead. I follow it through the thick  
2 smoke billowing over the Thames and finally catch up with it over the Estuary. I fired for three  
3 seconds. The 109 is hit and a stream of black smoke trails behind his tail so I close in to 50 yards  
4 and fired for the last time. Pieces of the German fighter are torn away before it suddenly bursts into  
5 flames and then explodes in fire and brimstone with pieces of wreckage going in all directions.”

Dennis NEWTON *A Few of the Few.*

### ❸ Battle of Britain: gun camera film showing tracer ammunition from a British Supermarine Spitfire fighter, hitting a German Heinkel He 111 bomber.



➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, explain how the British faced the Nazi onslaught in the summer of 1940.

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<sup>1</sup>The Messerschmitt Bf 109 was the most produced German fighter of the Second World War.