

Battle of Britain

A Story of the Few

Script

Written by Anthony James

Music by Daniel Hewitt



EDUCATIONAL MUSICALS

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2000 Written by Anthony James
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THIRD EDITION 2005

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ISBN 978-1-905123-11-7

Published by Educational Musicals Limited,
F5 Berkeley House, 6 The Square,
Kenilworth, CV8 1EB.
United Kingdom.

www.educationalmusicals.co.uk

Tel: 01926 855920

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Battle of Britain Bibliography

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Battle of Britain

A Story of the Few

Fact Sheet.

The R.A.F.

The Royal Air Force was created on the 1st of April 1918 during the First World War, only nine years after the Wright brothers had flown the first powered aeroplane. However, during the four years of the war, aeroplane and aero-engine design raced ahead and aeroplanes grew more sophisticated, changing from twin winged biplanes to single winged monoplanes. Even during this war German forces bombed the British mainland but though loss of life and damage were severe, the attacks themselves did not influence the direction of the war in any fashion. However, apart from the odd Zeppelin raid, London itself had never come under direct attack from bombers before. In 1917 the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Robertson, remarked as he watched German bombers flying over London,

“One would have thought the world was coming to an end.”

At this time the R.A.F. was in its infancy. It would be in yet another war in which the British Air Force would prove its worth.

World War Two.

In 1939 Britain was at war again. The Nazi party led by its leader, Adolph Hitler, had already invaded most of Europe and subjugated many countries and ethnic communities. The war in France was over, due to the unstoppable power of Hitler's victorious Third Reich. The allies had retreated and had escaped via the beaches of Dunkirk. Adolph Hitler immediately capitalised on the chaos and disarray following this retreat and decided to invade the islands of Great Britain from the captured ports of Holland, Belgium and France.

Invasion.

Whilst the Germans were experts in land warfare, they were inexperienced with regard to an attack by sea. The English Channel created a natural barrier and Hitler, jubilant at the success of his armies in Europe, expected Britain to choose a peaceful surrender rather than stand-alone.

Control of the Skies.

He was wrong, and his peace offer to Britain in July 1940 was refused. Hitler pressed ahead with his invasion plans but it was clear that no invasion could take place until his air force had control of the skies. Hermann Göring, Chief of the Luftwaffe, (the German Airforce), pledged to the Fuhrer that Britain's Royal Air Force would be banished for ever. Göring's pilots had experienced combat in both the Spanish Civil War and the more recent Battle of France, during which the R.A.F. had lost nearly half its planes and pilots. The Luftwaffe outnumbered the R.A.F. three to one.

Operation Sealion, (*Unternehmen Seelowe*).

Hitler's invasion of Britain was code named Operation Sealion and scheduled for 15th September 1940. The timing was very important as the invasion needed to avoid autumn storms in the Channel.

Britain Waiting.

Britain stood alone during the summer of 1940 waiting for the start of the battle. Air reconnaissance reported the gathering of German forces across the Channel. German planes were now less than an hour's flight away from London. Britain's Prime Minister at the time was Winston Churchill. He gave a radio speech in which he said:-

"The Battle of France is over, the Battle of Britain has begun."

Secret Weapon.

Britain had a secret weapon, unknown to the Germans, a simple technology that many thought a joke. This weapon was called Radar. It enabled the R.A.F. Fighter Command at Bentley Prior in Middlesex to measure the range, number and bearing of incoming enemy planes from a series of Radar stations based along the East Coast. This meant that information being passed from H.Q. to the R.A.F. airfields was only minutes old and proved vital in allowing Britain's fighter planes to intercept incoming enemy squadrons. The Luftwaffe's information as to where British planes were positioned could be anything up to a day old.

Spitfires, Hurricanes and Messerschmitts.

Many people today think that the Spitfire, designed by R. J. Mitchell, was the plane that won the Battle of Britain. It was certainly the pilots favourite, but there were twice as many Hurricanes flying in the skies during the battle and even some outdated Blenheim bombers. Germany's favoured fighter plane was the Messerschmitt 109.

The Battle.

Between late July and early August 1940, wave after wave of nearly 2,600 German bombers and fighters swarmed across the channel. Climbing to meet them came 700 R.A.F. fighters and bombers, every available plane the R.A.F. had. Spitfires and Hurricanes wheeled through the blue skies embroiled in dog fights with German fighters and heavily laden bombers.

W.A.A.F.

When people think of the Battle of Britain they tend only to think of brave pilots taking to the air in Spitfires and Hurricanes. However, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force or Waafs as they were known, formed part of a huge support network that kept the R.A.F. in the air and Britain's military machine working. They were responsible for the deployment of barrage balloons, manning the Ak-Ak guns, keeping the railroads working, carrying dispatches, driving ambulances, buses and military staff cars.

Battle of Britain Facts.

Missions.

Sometimes R.A.F. pilots would fly more than three missions a day.

Bandits & Bogies.

Hostile German planes were called Bandits by Britain's Fighter Command. Unidentified planes were called Bogies.

Bombs Away.

On the 23rd August, 1940 a German pilot, returning to Germany, ditched his bombs over London, not to cause serious damage but to speed his homeward flight. Winston Churchill was outraged and ordered the bombing of Germany's capital, Berlin. Hitler then decided to retaliate and the bombing of London began in earnest on September 7th. Thousands were killed in air raids and special Air Raid Precaution Wardens (ARP Wardens), Fire-fighters and the Home Guard did their best to rescue injured civilians and prevent property damage.

The Blitz.

For twenty eight days the skies above London were filled with bombers. Thousands of tons of TNT rained down, destroying homes, factories and shops. Incendiary bombs created huge fires.

The Victory.

By 17th September 1940 the Luftwaffe's Chief, Hermann Göring, had failed to destroy the R.A.F. but only just. Due to Hitler's change of tactics, German bombers started attacking cities and civilian targets instead of continuing to bomb the R.A.F.'s airfields and radar stations. If they had continued, the R.A.F. would have most likely been destroyed. This change in tactics ended Hitler's opportunity to crush Britain's airforce and any hope of Operation Sealion becoming a success.

The war would continue for another four years and millions would die. But Britain remained a fortress island, and the Nazis had tasted their first defeat in the eyes of the world, and especially the United States of America. If a small island like Britain could defeat the German war machine, maybe there was hope after all.

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

Winston Churchill. British Prime Minister.

Battle of Britain Remembered.

Out of 2,377 British Lancaster bombers built, only two survive. Luckily for us Spitfires have fared considerably better. There are roughly fifty working Spitfires left, renovated by collectors and enthusiasts. Many still fly.

Battle of Britain

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Characters.

Total Characters. 8 main parts, 2 trainee ground crew, 2 ARP wardens, assorted R.A.F. pilots, W.A.A.F. and civilians. (Numbers are flexible).

Tom -	A contemporary schoolboy, Marie's brother.
Marie -	A contemporary schoolgirl, Tom's sister.
Granddad (Old Dizzy) -	The children's interesting Granddad.
Dizzy -	R.A.F. pilot.
Fred -	R.A.F. pilot.
David -	Upper class R.A.F. type.
Kathy -	W.A.A.F. Operations.
Doris -	W.A.A.F. Operations.
Pilot 1 -	A brave pilot who becomes Squadron Commander.

2 Trainee Ground Crew.

2 ARP Wardens, assorted R.A.F. Pilots, W.A.A.F.s and Civilians.

Battle of Britain

A Story of the Few

A grandfather tells his two young grandchildren a story about four young people who join the RAF.

They learn the importance of radar, the fear of air raids and the fight against the Luftwaffe before they are caught up in the momentous Battle of Britain itself.

Battle of Britain is a story based on that epic air battle in the summer of 1940 including insights into one of the most famous fighter planes of all time, the Spitfire, which the children build on the performance space.

Quotes from Winston Churchill's speeches are used to introduce two of the memorable songs.

Battle of Britain is a fictional story created specifically to give children a lively look at one of the most crucial battles of World War II.

Battle of Britain

A Story of the Few

Song List.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Far Away - | <i>The civilians.</i> |
| 2. Our Great Country - | <i>Dizzy, Fred & civilians.</i> |
| 3. We Will Help - | <i>Kathy & Doris.</i> |
| 4. R.A.F. - | <i>R.A.F. & W.A.A.F. personnel.</i> |
| 5. Eyes That See - | <i>David & Doris.</i> |
| 6a. Spitfire - | <i>The two trainees.</i> |
| 6b. The Air Raid - | <i>Civilians & A.R.P. wardens.</i> |
| 7. We Must Not Lose - | <i>Doris & Fred.</i> |
| 8. The Sun Is Always Shining - | <i>Dizzy.</i> |
| 9. Battle of Britain - | <i>R.A.F. pilots & W.A.A.F. personnel.</i> |
| 10. Finest Hour - | <i>The civilians.</i> |
| 11. Battle of Britain (Reprise) - | <i>All.</i> |

Performance Notes.

This musical has been constructed so that no one character has more than five consecutive lines to learn, apart from the characters of David and Pilot 1 who read some of their parts.

Battle of Britain is a fictional story based on the facts about the aerial Battle of Britain, which took place in the skies above London and Kent during the summer of 1940. This fictional drama is filled with factual information on what it was like to be a civilian, a member of the W.A.A.F. and an R.A.F. pilot during World War Two. It also provides a fascinating insight as to how the R.A.F managed to defeat the Luftwaffe with fewer planes and a secret weapon called radar.

The character of granddad is also the central character, Dizzy. I suggest hair greying spray is not used (although this can be used on Fred & Doris during Scene Four if convenient). To age Dizzy and the other characters simply let them wear hats and stand with a slight stoop or carry walking sticks.

Battle of Britain is a complete musical. It has been written to enable individual interpretation by teachers and young performers. The facts used are as accurate as possible within a structure created to entertain and inform young children. The writer has striven to be politically correct and inoffensive.

Have fun with and enjoy *Battle of Britain*.

Anthony James

Battle of Britain

A Story of the Few

SCENE ONE - The Street

Granddad enters slowly using a walking stick and holding a book. He sits on a folding chair in his front garden. As he bends to sit down he holds his back and groans. He then settles to read his book. Tom and Marie enter quickly and move to the front of the performance area carrying school books. They don't notice granddad. Tom throws his school books down onto the floor. He is disgruntled.

Tom. Why do we have to do homework about World War Two? It was ages ago.

Marie. You just want to play on the computer all night.

Tom. And why not? What's World War Two got to do with me?

Granddad coughs quietly and the two children rush over to him. Marie sits down on the floor by his chair.

Marie. 'Afternoon granddad. What are you doing out here?

Granddad. I've got some old friends visiting this afternoon.... anyway, it's got a lot to do with you.

Tom & Marie. *(Together)* What has?

Granddad. World War Two. It's got a lot to do with you.

Tom. How?

Granddad. Well, remember history is real. It's happened and it shapes the world in which you live.

Marie. Were you in World War Two, granddad?

Granddad. I was.... and I wasn't much older than you.

Tom. *(Suddenly interested)* Wow, what did you do?

Granddad. I was in the Royal Air Force.

Tom. And did you fight?

Marie. Tell us about it granddad.

Granddad. Well it all started for me in the summer of 1940, in something called the Battle of Britain.

Granddad, Tom and Marie exit taking with them the folding chair and their books as 1940s civilians enter and throng around the performance space. They carry shopping bags, umbrellas etc.

SONG 1: Far Away - The Civilians.

During the song the civilians sing of how far away and unreal the war in Europe seems.

Far away a phoney war,
But don't you think that, we know the score.
This phoney war, we know will come to so much more,
And Hitler's knocking at the...

Far away dictator's dream of Britain's island,
Pleasant and green. Dictator's dream.
But something lies just in between,
Something to stop old Hitler's dream.

So far away, yet only on your doorstep.
Won't keep us Britons down.
So far away, yet staying with your mother,
Jerry's nearing, coming to your town,
But you won't keep the British spirit down.

So far away, keep your bravest face on.
We'll keep your place for tea.
So far, so good. Hitler and his cronies.
Haven't set a foot across the sea,
That's why Britannia will stay...

Far away a phoney war,
But don't you think that, we know the score.
This phoney war, we know will come to so much more,
And Hitler's knocking at the...
Far away dictator's dream of Britain's island,
Pleasant and green. Dictator's dream.
But something lies just in between,
Something to stop old Hitler's dream.

So far away, yet only on your doorstep,
Won't keep us Britons down.
So far away, yet staying with your mother.
Jerry's nearing coming to your town,
But you won't keep the British spirit down.

So far away, keep your bravest face on.
We'll keep your place for tea.
So far, so good. Hitler and his cronies,
Haven't set a foot across the sea.
That's why Britannia will stay free!
That's why Britannia will stay free!

At the end of the song a newspaper seller enters holding newspapers and shouting -

Seller. Read all about it. France is lost. British army retreating. Heavy losses at Dunkirk. Read all about it.

Civilian 1. Oh my goodness!

Civilian 2. Germany has invaded France. We're on our own now!

Civilian 3. My friend said that Adolph Hitler and the Nazis would never invade Britain.

Civilian 4. He's invaded everywhere else. Looks like we're next!

The civilians move to the rear of the performance space as two scruffy young men (Dizzy and Fred) enter. One of them stops and buys a paper.

Dizzy. Fred, look, that's torn it.

Fred. What's wrong?

Dizzy. The war in France is over. We are the only ones left to stop that rotter Adolph Hitler from taking over the world.

Fred. Do you think that's what he wants to do?

Dizzy. I'm sure of it, but do you know something, we aren't going to let him do it. He's not getting his grubby, little hands on our great country.

Fred. Too right.

SONG 2: Our Great Country - Dizzy, Fred & Civilians.

Through the song Dizzy and Fred whip up the civilians into a patriotic frenzy. Some of the civilians produce small Union Jacks from their shopping bags and wave them furiously.

Britain has stood alone at the forefront.
We will defend from the air, from the sea.
Great is our land, such wealth and such beauty.
Land of the brave and the bloomin' free.

We will take the stand and save our sacred land.
We'll fight them on the sand so we stay free.

Fight for our cause, take pride in your nation.
Fight Hitler's hoards and his world domination.
Rise to the call, for king and for country.
We need you all, don't let Britain fall.

We will take the stand and save our sacred land.
We'll fight them on the sand so we stay free.

Britain has stood alone at the forefront.
We will defend from the air, from the sea.
Great is our land, such wealth and such beauty.
Land of the brave and the bloomin' free.

At the end of the song the civilians exit leaving Dizzy & Fred. Kathy & Doris enter.

Kathy. The Germans have started bombing our convoys in the Channel.

Fred. Hello Kathy, we're thinking of joining up.

Kathy. I thought you were both too young.

Dizzy. We are, but our country needs us.

Fred. Come on Diz, let's do it.

Kathy. Can we join?

Dizzy. *(He laughs)* But you're girls, you can't help.

Dizzy and Fred exit.

Doris. (*Angrily*) Do you know, one day girls will be treated the same as boys.

Kathy. I know, Doris, but this is the 1940s. Anyway we can certainly do something.

SONG 3: We Will Help - Kathy & Doris.

W.A.A.F. personnel enter and sing with the girls. At the end of the song the rear screens are reversed by the R.A.F. pilots who enter. They also bring on chairs, tables and assorted props.

Kathy & Doris.

We will help you, we will help.
Don't be blind to womankind.
We'll assist and we'll pull through.
There's so much that we can do.

If you think that women are the meek and milder sex,
Then you'll have to change your thinking
Or you'll have to change your specs.
Tell you this my brother if you chain us to the sink,
Then this war's as good as over
And you are the weakest link.

We will 'man' the factories.
We will build artilleries.
We will bring the victory on!
We will nurse and cherish you,
When you're left to perish.
You won't even know the war is on.

If you saw a woman as a gentle, passive sort,
Then you must have been mistaken
We will have to cut you short.
We will be the backbone of a nation on its knees.
We will have it on its feet again
And keep our nation free!

We will help you, we will help.
Don't be blind to womankind.
We'll assist and we'll pull through.
There's so much that we can do.
Do. Do.
We can do.

SCENE TWO - The Airfield

Dizzy and Fred enter in R.A.F. uniform. They are followed by two other new trainees. A pilot moves forward to greet them. He shakes their hands.

David. Hello chaps. My name's David. It's nice to have some new blood in the squadron.

Fred. That doesn't sound too promising.

Dizzy. Hang on, what are you two doing here?

Doris. Well we're girls and we can help. I'm part of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. The W.A.A.F. We work in operations. Without us you wouldn't know where the enemy planes were.

Dizzy. Well it's a surprise to see you.

Fred. But a nice one.

David.And you're just in time. Adolph Hitler has promised to destroy the R.A.F.

Kathy. If he does, Britain will be invaded from across the English Channel.

David. Well chaps, it's up to us to stop him.

SONG 4: R.A.F. - The R.A.F. Pilots & W.A.A.F Personnel.

In the face of mortal danger, we will all take the lead.
And our squadrons and battalions, they will never concede.
The skies of Britain hold,
Such glory and such gold.
Our airborne vision fights derision.
Airborne vision. R.A.F.
R.A.F. We're the R.A.F.

We protect you. We defend you. We will fight, we will die.
From the take off, to the touch down, we are one with the sky.
The skies of Britain hold,
Such glory and such gold.
Our airborne vision fights derision.
Airborne vision. R.A.F.
R.A.F. We're the R.A.F.

Fred. The R.A.F. is great but I've read that the Luftwaffe outnumbered us 3 to 1.

David. They do, but we have a secret weapon.

Dizzy. I didn't know we had a secret weapon.

Doris. That's why it's a secret weapon silly.

David checks that no-one is listening before he stagewhispers into Dizzy's ear.

David. It's called Radar.

Dizzy. (*Shouting*) Radar!

David. Sssh! Careless talk costs lives you know.

Dizzy. (*Whispering*) Sorry.

Doris. The Germans have more planes than we have, but they haven't got Radar. They don't know where our planes are, but as soon as they take off we know where they are.

Fred. It's brilliant!

David. It's better than brilliant.

SONG 5: Eyes That See - David & Doris.

Through the song the pilots hold a game of hide and seek. They blindfold Dizzy and he tries to find them, he can't. Someone hands him a walking stick that he carefully waves in front of him. He catches several pilots who give up good naturedly.

Few of us will ever see,
What the world has shown to me.
When locked in battle in the sky.
When every choice you make is do or die.

Eyes that see, will make us free.
Eyes that see, our destiny.

Eyes that see, you see our destiny.
Keeping the blameless free.
Yours are the eyes that see.
Eyes that guide, you keep them open wide.
For all the eyes that died.
Open those eyes wide.

Few of us will ever find.
Peace of heart and peace of mind.
But up here where the air is clear.
In spite of all this pain my eyes still see.
Eyes that see.
Eyes that see.

At the end of the song a 'phone rings (This is included on the CD at the end of this song).

David. Scramble, scramble!

Trainee 1. Is that how he likes his eggs?

Pilot 1. No silly, it means to get to our planes.

Everyone apart from David, Dizzy, Fred and the two trainees run off.

David. Sorry chaps, you can't come. You're still in training.

David now runs off to join his squadron.

Fred. Wow, we're actually in the R.A.F.

Dizzy. Do you know, when I was small, I used to jump out of our apple tree in the garden to see if I could fly.

Trainee 1. And could you?

Dizzy. *(Rubbing his head)* No.

The others laugh.

Fred. So what are you two training to be?

Trainee 1. We're going to be ground crew. We are going to keep your wonderful planes in the air.

Fred. Our wonderful planes, what planes are those?

Trainee 1 & 2. The best little fighter planes in the world.....

SONG 6a: Spitfire - Trainees 1 & 2.

This song starts with a Spitfire sound effect.

Spitfire always shining.
Spitfire true divine thing.
I'm in love with you.
Spitfire high and mighty.
Spitfire bold and bright
She's always proud and true.

Mention her name no other basks in such fame,
You are the pride of every airman put the others to shame.
Fight the good fight, you mav'rick bird of the night.
You are the only one to see the light.

Spitfire steeped with virtue,
None shall scold or hurt you,
Spitfire skilled and strong.
Spitfire quick and cunning,
Spitfire, Jerry's running,
Running from the throng.

Mention her name no other basks in such fame.
You are the pride of every airman put the others to shame.
Fight the good fight you mav'rick bird of the night,
You are the only one to see the light.

Spitfire always shining.
Spitfire true divine thing.
I'm in love with you.
Spitfire high and mighty.
Spitfire bold and bright
She's always proud and true.

Mention her name no other basks in such fame,
You are the pride of every airman put the others to shame.
Fight the good fight you mav'rick bird of the night,
You are the only one to see the light.
You are the only one to see the light.

The song ends with an air raid siren, which continues under the next section of dialogue, and runs into song 6b. Doris runs onto the performance space and bundles the four R.A.F. personnel down onto the floor, on the left hand front of the performance space as seen from the audience.

Doris. Take cover.

Trainee 1. What is it?

Doris. It's an air raid. The Luftwaffe are trying to destroy our airfields so we can't take off.

Fred. The radio says that the Luftwaffe are going to bomb coastal towns.

Doris. They've already started.

SONG 6b: The Air Raid - Civilians & ARP Wardens.

As soon as the song starts the civilians enter and position themselves on the opposite side from the R.A.F. and W.A.A.F personnel.

It's a battle for all Britain.
It's a battle for the land.
Now the war is far from far away.
We're ready for this judgement day.
I hope it's not my time today.
I hope you understand.

It's a battle for our freedom.
It's a battle for our fate.
And if we can't defend the sky,
Our chance is gone we'll say goodbye.
We die to live but live to die.
A fact we contemplate.

We must stand united to withstand oppression's force.
Will we die today? This we cannot say.
We must stand united to withstand oppression's force.
Will we die today? This we cannot say.

It's a battle for all Britain.
It's a battle for the land.
Now the war is far from far away.
We're ready for this judgement day.
I hope it's not my time today.
I hope you understand.

We must stand united to withstand oppression's force.
Will we die today? This we cannot say.
We must stand united to withstand oppression's force.
Will we die today? This we cannot say.

At the end of the song ARP Wardens escort the shaken civilians off the performance area and remove chairs etc: until the siren sounds the all clear, (on the CD). Doris, Dizzy, Fred and the two trainees rise as several tired pilots enter.

Doris. Where's David?

Pilot 1. I'm sorry Doris he didn't make it.

Fred. And our friend Kathy?

Pilot 2. The Luftwaffe scored a direct hit on the operations room, I'm sorry.

Pilot 3. Thousands must have lost loved ones.

SONG 7: We Must Not Lose - Doris and Fred.

This song is a quiet song. At its end another piece of music starts and this is a cue for the two trainees to build a Spitfire on the left hand side of the performance space as the audience sees it (see Art Pack). Fred shakes Dizzy's hand before he exits with Doris.

Doris & Fred. We must not lose the battle.
We must not lose this war.
If we can hold together,
We stand to gain much more.
We must not lose our spirit,
We must not lose our will.
For fear will be the victor.
It's fear, not war, that kills.

We must not lose our passion.
We must not lose our sight.
If we can last the hour,
Then we can last the night.
We must not lose our vigour.
We must not lose our mind.
We must not lose this war.
This war is for mankind.

Show me a man, woman or child.
Fear in their eyes, fear in their smile.
Show me the land, show me the sky.
All of this is ours,
We must defend 'till the end of the day is nigh.

We must not lose the battle,
We must not lose this war.
If we can hold together,
We stand to gain much more.
We must not lose our spirit,
We must not lose our will.
For fear will be the victor,
It's fear not war that kills.

We must not lose this war.
We must not lose this war.

(The music continues so that the Spitfire can be built at the end of the song)

Dizzy. Well this is it. Thanks chaps.

Trainee 1. Good luck on your first training mission.

Pilot 1. Just keep her level and your wingman will keep an eye on you.

Dizzy. Do you know, I've always wanted to be able to fly.

Pilot 1. Yes, I've heard. Well I hope you have better luck than when you jumped out of that apple tree.

Dizzy. Thank you sir.

Pilot 1 and the two trainee ground crew exit taking with them the lower airfield screens and leaving the empty blue sky screens. Dizzy climbs into his Spitfire.

SCENE THREE - The Sky

SONG 8: The Sun is Always Shining – Dizzy.

Far above the war we fly.
Masters of the binding sky.
Up here near the sun, the world it seems as one.
Some will see that...

When the war is solved and done.
There will still be blinding sun.
Some will still be blind, folly of mankind.
Some will see that...

The sun is always shining, above the bonds of earth.
The sun is always shining, I join the tumbling mirth.
The sun is always shining, the lifting mind I've trod.
The sun is always shining, I've touched the face of God.

Far above the war we fly.
Masters of the binding sky.
Up here in the sun, the world it seems as one.
Some will see that...

The sun is always shining, above the bonds of earth.
The sun is always shining, I join the tumbling mirth.
The sun is always shining, the lifting mind I've trod.
The sun is always shining, I've touched the face of God.

The sun is always shining.
The sun is always shining.
The sun is always shining.

At the end of the song Fred enters and shakes Dizzy's hand.

Fred. Well that's done it, we're R.A.F. pilots now.

R.A.F. pilots, W.A.A.F. personnel enter, some congratulate Dizzy and Fred.

Pilot 1. Listen everyone. I have a dispatch here from Fighter Command
(*He reads the next section*).

“The situation is critical. When we started this battle a wing consisted of 36 planes. Wings are now made up of ten planes. A quarter of our pilots and squadron commanders have been lost. As many of you know, several nights ago the Luftwaffe started bombing London, this has allowed us time to re-group. Fighter Command is now all that stands between Britain and invasion.”

Pilot 2 rushes onto the performance area.

Pilot 2. Scramble everyone, scramble. Radar's just picked up a huge wing of Luftwaffe heading our way.

Pilot 1. To your stations everyone.

R.A.F. pilots, W.A.A.F. personnel exit hurriedly, leaving Dizzy and Fred. They both rush over to Dizzy's plane and Dizzy climbs in. Fred consults his checklist.

Fred. (*Reading from his checklist*) Instruments.

Dizzy. Check.

Fred. Flaps.

Dizzy. Check.

Fred. Chocks away Dizzy, Tally Ho!

Dizzy. Tally Ho Fred!

Fred exits.

SONG 9: Battle of Britain – R.A.F & W.A.A.F. Personnel.

This song begins with part of a speech by Winston Churchill. During the song some of the R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. personnel return to the performance area and use suspended model planes to recreate a slow motion aerial dogfight above their heads, and those of the audience (see Art Pack).

Never in the field of human conflict,
Have so few been so sure.
That the destiny of man,
Is as precious as the land and sea.
We must stay free,
For this battle is destiny.

Never before have we owed such bounty,
To those we call the few.
And the lives we live today,
Are preserved because of they,
Who gave their lives to save,
So the many salute the few.

Selflessly defying mortal danger.
This could be the last day of your lives.
Dying to defend a perfect stranger.
You owe them so much more,
You owe your lives, you owe your lives...

For never before have we owed such bounty,
To those we call the few.
And the lives we live today,
Are preserved because of they
Who gave their lives to save,
So the many salute the few.

Selflessly defying mortal danger.
This could be the last day of your lives.
Dying to defend a perfect stranger
You owe them so much more,
You owe your lives, you very special few.

At the end of the song Dizzy climbs out of his Spitfire. Several R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. personnel enter the performance area, along with the two trainee ground crew. They all look tired, some lie on the floor. Dizzy is joined by Fred and Doris.

Doris. It feels like I haven't slept for weeks.

Fred. Me too.

Dizzy. I'm off for a bath, I need one.

Fred & Doris. *(Both holding their noses)* Phew...too right.

Dizzy exits as Pilot 1 enters.

Fred. Here we go again.

Fred starts to get up and Pilot 1 stops him.

Pilot 1. No, it's not a scramble.

He gets out a dispatch from his pocket and reads it out loud.

Pilot 1. "All Radar positions report little or no activity. Squadrons can stand down from alert."

Everyone cheers.

Doris. Does this mean the Battle of Britain is over?

Pilot 1. No, not exactly, but we have won. We've stopped the German invasion and the R.A.F. is battered but not beaten.

The civilians enter and start congratulating the R.A.F. and W.A.A.F.

SONG 10: Finest Hour - The Civilians.

Britain stood alone, unmoved.
Britain shook, but Britain proved.
When in danger hold you ground,
When the odds look low, regroup and pound.
Once Britannia ruled the waves.
Breakers pounded, never slaves.
Now Britannia rules the air,
For we never give in.
No we never give in.

We have seen our finest hour.
Overcame the Führer's power.
When in Britain don't dictate.
We do not respond to raging hate.
Now Britannia rules the sky.
We salute the few who died.
We salute the victory,
For we never give in.
No we never give in.

Drink to Churchill and drink to king.
Sing the old and new glory battle hymns.
To the few, to the few who died,
To the raging Spitfire's pride.
For we never give in.
For we never give in.
For we never give in.

At the end of the song the two trainee ground crew start to dismantle the Spitfire. The civilians and remaining R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. personnel leave the performance area, turning the rear screens around to show the street background from scene one.

SCENE FOUR - The Street

Tom enters excitedly, carrying his granddad's fold up chair.

Tom. So you were an R.A.F. pilot during the Battle of Britain, wow!

Marie. Was that the end of the war?

Granddad. No that wasn't the end of the war, but on the 17th of September 1940, Hitler postponed the invasion of Britain and never tried again.

Tom. Did the bombing stop too?

Granddad. No, at night the R.A.F. couldn't see the bombers. Many cities were bombed in both Germany and Britain. Many people died.

Marie. That's a shame.

Granddad. It certainly is.

Tom. *(Looking off the performance space)* You said earlier some friends were visiting you today. I think they've arrived?

An old Fred and an old Doris enter.

Fred. *(Laughing)* I hope you're not boring these youngsters with your Battle of Britain stories again Dizzy.

Tom. They're not boring at all. *(Tom lifts his arms into the air as if they are wings and runs around the performance space making the sound of a Spitfire).*

Marie. What I want to know is how you got your nickname?

Doris. Ah well, I'm afraid that was my fault.

Granddad. When I was around your age, I used to climb a lot of trees.

Marie. So why were you called Dizzy?

Doris. Well, you see, your granddad's afraid of heights.

The group all laugh as behind them all the show's characters return to the performance area for the finale song.

SONG 11: Battle of Britain (Reprise) – All

This song begins with part of a speech by Winston Churchill, and includes a section of the British National Anthem.

Never, in the field of human conflict,
Have so few been so sure.
That the destiny of man,
Is as precious as the land and sea,
We must stay free,
For this battle is destiny.

Never before have we owed such bounty,
To those we call the few.
And the lives we live today,
Are preserved because of they,
Who gave their lives to save,
So the many salute the few.

Selflessly defying mortal danger.
This could be the last day of your lives.
Dying to defend a perfect stranger,
You owe them so much more,
You owe your lives,
You owe your lives...

For never before have we owed such bounty,
To those we call the few.
And the lives we live today,
Are preserved because of they,
Who gave their lives to save.
So the many salute the few.

Selflessly defying mortal danger.
This could be the last day of your lives.
Dying to defend a perfect stranger,
You owe them so much more,
You owe your lives,
You very special few.

At the end of the song all bow.

THE END



The Work of Artist Anthony James

Artist Anthony James has worked extensively as "**Creaturama Workshops**" in education since 1992. His work, based on the use of junk materials, has featured in three nationally touring exhibitions. Anthony has also worked as a television and theatre "Production Designer" and his work has appeared on many T.V. programmes. As part of "**Creaturama**", Anthony also runs workshops based on real historical subjects and the following pages are taken from these formats and are based on techniques that have proved to be achievable in the field.

WARNING.

All scissors are dangerous, even if plastic. Make children aware of this prior to scenery, costume and prop construction. Check collected junk for such items as glass and metal tins. In a past workshop a six inch carving knife was handed to me, found in a pile of donated junk materials. Also check that bottles and food containers have been emptied and cleaned properly. *(There really is nothing like the smell of festering milk in the bottom of an old plastic milk bottle to make children sick).*

MATERIALS.

All of Anthony's work is based on the use of two inch wide masking tape. To use thinner tape is a false economy as the children will just use more of this to achieve the same effects. Wide masking tape, scissors and cardboard are the only real indispensable materials needed. **THE FEATURED TECHNIQUES WILL NOT WORK WITH THIN MASKING TAPE.** Other useful materials include coloured papers, kitchen rolls, cereal boxes and old newspapers.

MASKING TAPE.

Masking tapes differ widely in their quality and price. Be aware of differing prices and shop around, the savings you can make may surprise you. Remember masking tape is created for masking so most masking tapes can be painted over. Do not confuse with gummed tape or parcel tape *(both are usually dark brown as opposed to light cream)*. Make children aware that ripping tape with their teeth is unwise, particularly if they are "First teeth"! Cutting with scissors or breaking by using the thumb placed on the roll's edge are both acceptable. Make children aware that masking tape and hair do not mix!

DO NOT BE AFRAID.

The biggest hurdle in three-dimensional model making is a misconception that it is a complex or unattainable skill. The trick is in making items stick together properly and after some initial practice you will realise just how easy this is.

PAINTING.

When three-dimensional creations are painted, try getting the children to paint them one colour first. The primary coat as I call it. This stops a random mixing of colours occurring when several are used at the same time. Once the primary coat is dry other colours and features can be added. If paint refuses to cover tape or plastics, use a small amount of PVA glue mixed with a ready mixed paint.

FINALLY.

All the techniques featured have been tried out before their inclusion in this pack and are achievable by children from reception upwards. They are meant as a guide only and it is up to you and the children's individual talents as to just how ambitious you wish to be. Get the children to make big things. Model making is great fun and is a lively and informative way of teaching Art, History and Technology.

Good Luck & Enjoy

As seen on
BBC TELEVISION'S

"CREATURAMA" - Page 2

Scenery.

Scene 1. The Street.

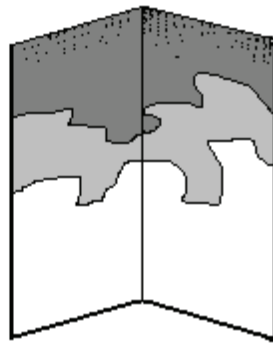
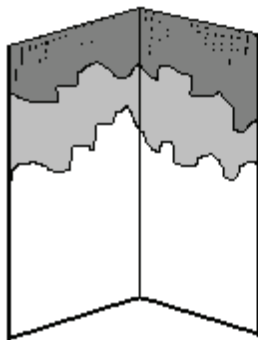
Scene 2. The Airfield.

Scene 3. The Sky.

Scene 4. The Street.

The scenery for "*Battle of Britain*" should be constructed out of several large furniture boxes made out of strong brown cardboard. To create two screens, cut a large box down opposing corners. Remember the screens should be big enough to hide several children but not so big as to bend or buckle. If the cardboard's internal corrugation is running from top to bottom this will help rigidity. You can create as many screens as needed this way, for any size of performance space.

Scene 1. This can be a pre war terrace street and can be copied from a local one or from a book.

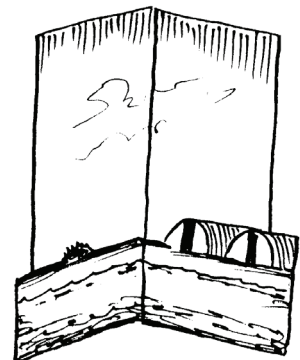


Scene 2. The Airfield is the reverse of the street screens. The screens themselves are just light blue sky with two very short flats that fit in front of this background. These can have a green grass strip with buildings and trees in the distance as per the illustration. When these two low screens are removed the background sky can be used for Scene 3. The sky can be dark blue at the top and very light blue at the bottom, but a flat blue will do.

Scene 3. This scene is the sky background painted on the rear of the street screens, without the two airfield screens. This simple depiction of a light blue sky creates the backdrop for the dogfight and the Spitfire.

Scene 4. This scene is simply the screens reversed to show the street again.

Remember that when one side of the cardboard is painted it will probably warp as the paint dries. This will be rectified when paint is applied to the other side.



"CREATURAMA" - Page 3

The Spitfire.

Easily the most complicated prop to create for *"Battle of Britain"*, this should also be the most fun and rewarding to create.

Fuselage.

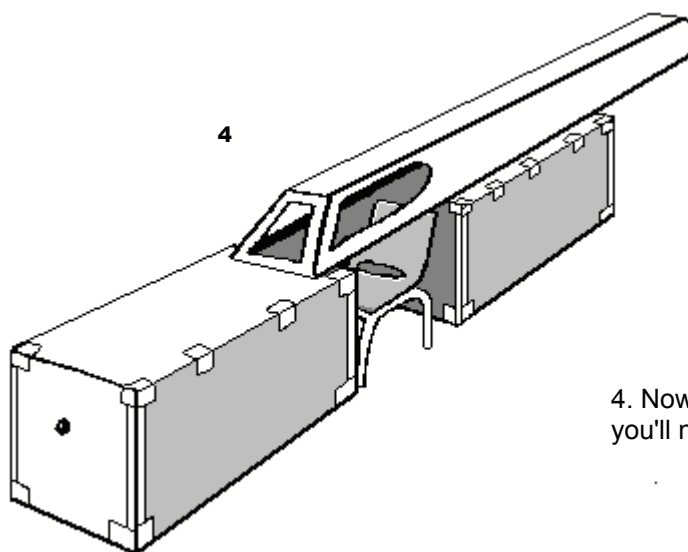
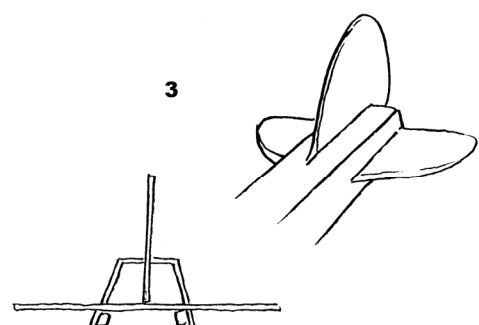
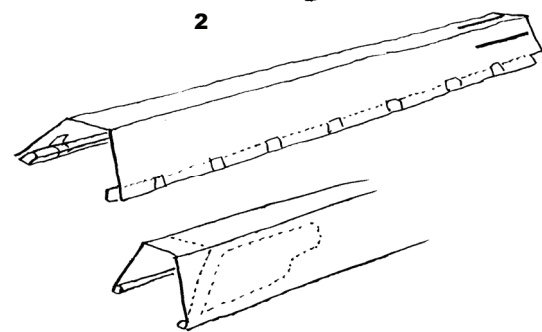
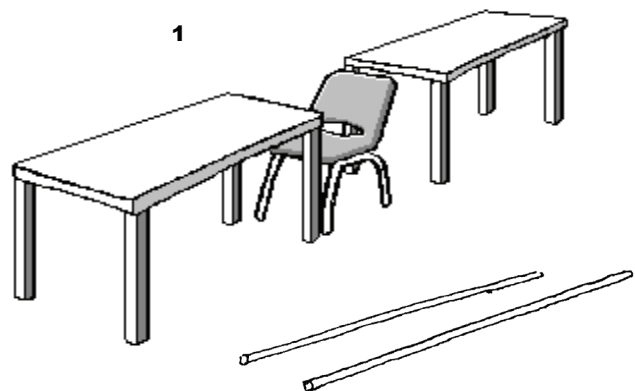
1. Chose two small tables for the fuselage of your Spitfire, and a chair for the pilot. Now fill in the sides of both tables with large pieces of brown corrugated cardboard. You can either fill in all the sides or just those that are going to face the audience. Attach the cardboard with masking tape or even appropriately coloured gaffa tape (also called cloth tape). You can also fill in the sides of the chair if you wish, but this is optional and depends on how much time you have.

Cockpit and Upper Fuselage.

2. Once the two tables are covered it is time to make the cockpit. This can be made several ways but one of the best I feel is to invest in two 8ft pieces of 1 x 1 timber. Using several pieces of thick, brown cardboard, create a shape, as in the illustration, that a child can sit under while the cockpit itself is suspended between the two pieces of wood give this structure rigidity when it is constructed in the show. Cut out two side windows in one end to create the Spitfire's side windows.

The Tail.

3. The Spitfires tail can be slotted into three cuts made in the tail end of the cockpit construction. The horizontal tail section is cut out from one large piece of cardboard, slotted into the two side cuts, while the tail fin is slotted into the cut made at the top. The upright vertical fin can now be taped upright by attaching it to the horizontal tail fins inside the rear of the cockpit construction.



4. Now go and have a cup of tea, you'll need it by now!

"CREATURAMA" - Page 4

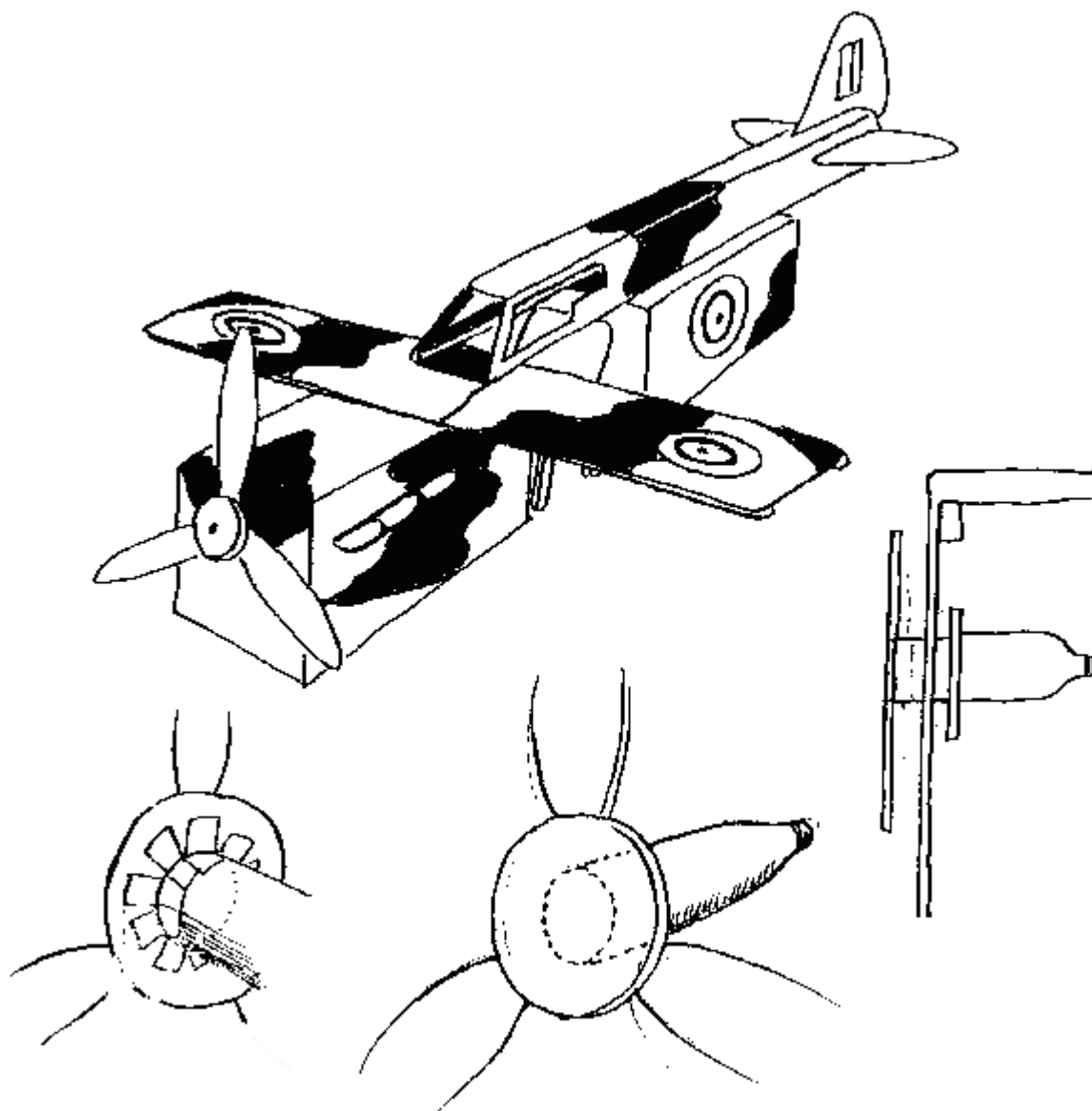
Wings.

The Spitfire's two wings can be created from one piece of cardboard. Again these can be strengthened along their edges with thin wood to prevent sagging. This can either be 1 x 1 timber, as in the cockpit construction, or even long pieces of cane or bamboo. Create a slot for the wings just above the cockpit support timber and roughly behind the seating area. The wings should now be able to slide through the upper fuselage construction as in the illustration.

Prop.

The Spitfire's propeller can be a large cardboard shape attached to the front cardboard which is attached to the front table. If you want to be really clever you can secrete a child under this table when the plane is built in the performance space during the show. Using a plastic bottle firmly fixed to the back of the prop and placed through a hole in the cardboard, they can act as an engine slowly turning the prop every time the Spitfire is supposedly in flight. A push-on collar can fix the prop into position so it doesn't have to be held all through the show.

If you want to include a Messerschmitt 109 in the show follow the directions as above. Simply paint it light grey with black splodges for Luftwaffe camouflage.



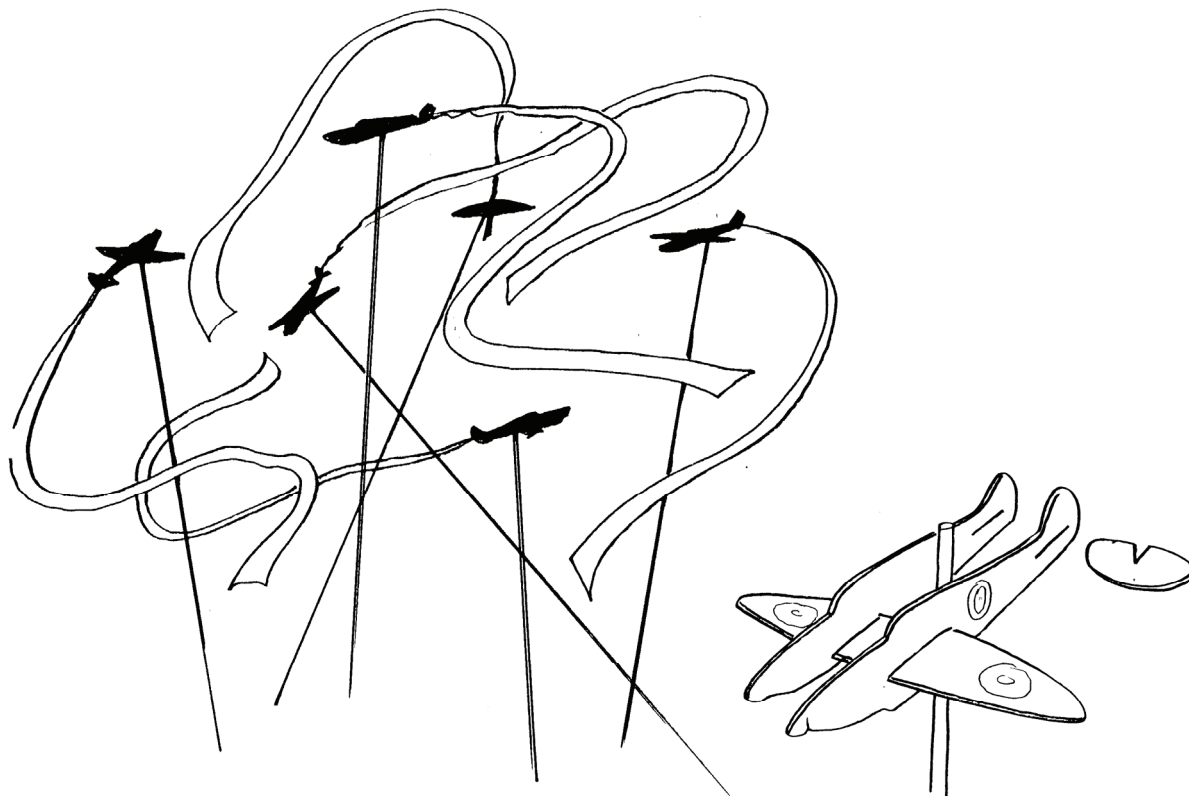
"CREATURAMA" - Page 5

Spitfire & Messerschmitt models.

These are used during song 9.

Create two card stencils from a photocopied enlargement of the picture supplied on page 6. Get the children to draw around these stencils and create card or cardboard versions of the fuselage and wings. Join two fuselages together and two wing sections to create the models. These can then be stuck with tape to large bamboo canes or thin pieces of wood. Attach very thin tissue paper to the tails to give slipstreams and smoke trails for effect.

Remember, when the children recreate this scene, that the planes should sweep through the air slowly and gracefully. Try to prevent the children from emulating a swarm of agitated wasps!



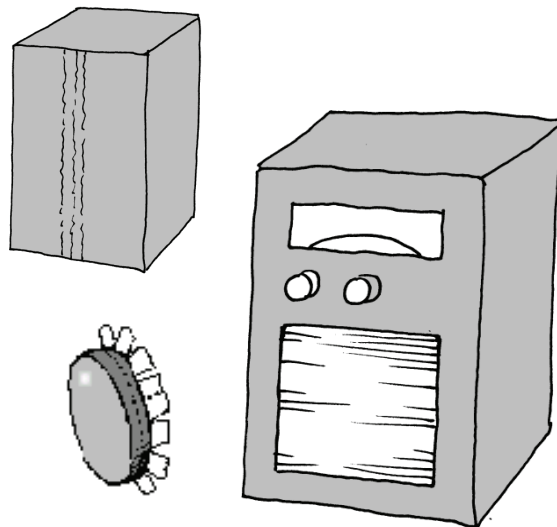
Wireless

A simple way of creating a 1940's Wireless is to use a box of your choice. Turn the box inside out to hide any laminated surfaces or graphics. Do this by cutting the box down one side and then turn it inside out and reattaching the side together using masking tape.

To create the speaker use corrugated card as the covering material. Simply cut a rectangle or a more sophisticated shape as you wish, then attach this to the box with double sided tape.

For dials use bottle tops or small milk containers. These are attached with masking tape, wrapping the tape around the container and then cutting 'petals' (the finished article should resemble a flower). Now attach these where you like and paint your wireless to resemble dark wood. Most bottle tops will be difficult to paint so try to find tops in the colours you would like the dials to be rather than try to paint them.

Finally a frequency bar can be created with a pen and paper or on a computer, again this can be attached when the paint is dry with double sided tape.

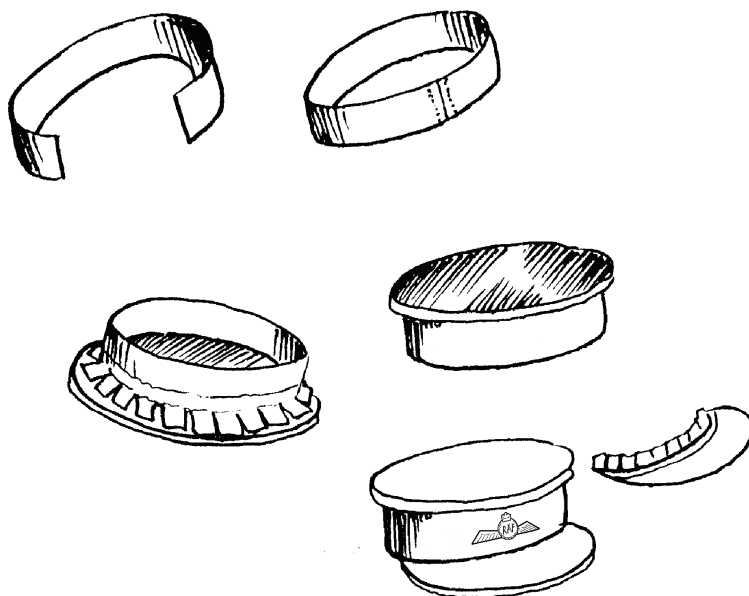


"CREATURAMA" - Page 6

R.A.F or WAAF Cap.

Use a piece of cereal box cardboard and create a long strip that will fit around the wearer's head. Make sure the laminated side with all the writing on is turned in, so you can paint the blank grey side when it's completed. Using a thicker piece of cardboard, create a slightly larger disc to which the crown is attached with tape, as in the illustration. Again draw around the crown part of the cap and extend the circle to create a peak. This can be attached again, as in the illustration. Paint dark blue.

When the cap is dry you can wind a strip of thin, black electrical insulation around the cap, just above the peak. Now photocopy the cap badge supplied below, which should be the right size. Spray mount or double-sided tape this to some thin card, and then attach this to the cap, again with double-sided tape.



Costumes.

R.A.F. & W.A.A.F.

Unlike other shows in our portfolio, the costumes for "*Battle Of Britain*" have to look like military uniforms, so creating them with cardboard and paper is impractical. Here are some suggestions on how to create the right look using readily available items of actual clothing. The R.A.F. personnel can wear white polo necked jumpers or white / light blue shirts with ties (navy). Jackets can be acquired from parents or charity shops and should be navy coloured. You can paint gold or stick gold paper to the buttons to get the right look. Belts fastened around the outside of the jackets will create the right feel. Trousers can also be in navy.

W.A.A.F. uniforms are almost identical to the above only with navy skirts instead of trousers. Trousers only became fashionable for women to wear after World War Two. Stockings with seams were worn with black shoes. To signify stocking seams, a black line can be drawn up the back of each leg. Bright red lipstick creates a forties feel and hair would have been worn up.

R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. costumes can also be based on school uniforms with black or navy blue trousers or skirts with white or light blue shirts. Many school uniforms use these colours as their bases.

Civilians.

Again parents can either supply old clothes or charity shops can be searched. Remember in the 1940s even young people dressed in an old way. Young men as well as old men would wear high waisted trousers and waistcoats. Women would wear their hair up in buns or under turbans, and again bright, red lipstick can be used. Give your civilians plain brown paper bags as shopping bags. Rarely does anybody leave home and not carry something.

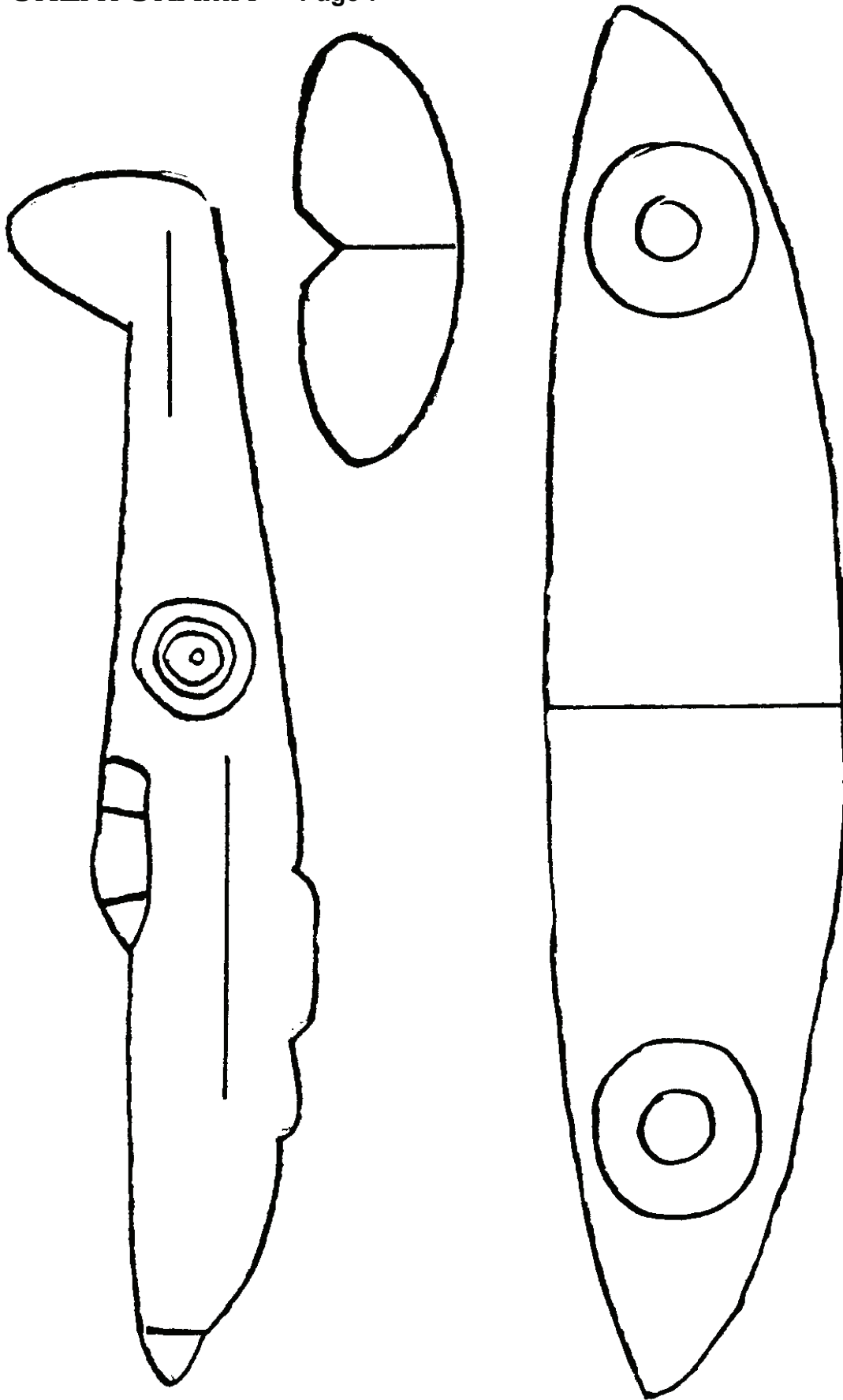
Cap Badges and Extra Decoration.

The same badges used on the caps can be used as a chest badge. Stripes can be created using yellow electrical insulation tape. These can be put around the sleeves or stuck on jacket shoulders in V shapes

Finally, if girls are playing RAF characters, use eyeliner pencils to create small, neat moustaches. These look great, they not only change the wearer's sex but also really create an authentic forties feel.



"CREATURAMA" - Page 7



Potty Panto

Snow White & The Magnificent Seven
Goldilocks and the Three Scares
Daring Dick Whittington
Jack and the Big Stork!
Aladdin's Lump

Our 10 minute Assembly Shows

Watch out for other titles in this unique range of educational assembly pieces:

The Gunpowder Plot – Remember, Remember the 5th of November
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The Ancient Olympics – The Story of Callipateira
The Ancient Olympics - The Olympic Traditions
The Spanish Armada – The Invasion of England
The Lucky Viking – The Discovery of America
The Warrior Queen - The Romans in Britannia
The Warrior Queen - Boudica, Warrior Queen
The Boy King - The Legend of Tutankhamun
The Victorian Historian - History is Boring?
Saint Nicholas – The Real Santa Claus
Dazzling Daedalus – An Inventor's Story
The Magic Tree - A Story for Christmas
Henry VIII – Henry and Anne Boleyn
Henry VIII – The Break with Rome
The Trojan Horse – The Fall of Troy
Battle of Britain -Their Finest Hour
Pompeii – Escape from the Cloud
Pompeii - Life in a Roman Town
Gettysburg – Brothers at War
Athens – To Vote or Not to Vote
Athens – It Could be You!
Trafalgar – Nelson's Finest Hour
Trafalgar - Napoleon's Navy
Trafalgar – Nelson's Navy
1066 – William's Army
1066 – Harold's Army

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Happy Christmas Tommy – *The Miracle of 1914*
Saint Nicholas – *The Real Santa Claus*
The Magic Tree – *A Story for Christmas*
The Star Child – *The Christmas Story*

Includes an historical fact sheet, script, an Art Pack showing costumes and props, a music score of three songs and a CD with rehearsal and backing tracks of the three songs.



Battle of Britain

A Story of the Few

Their grandfather tells two young schoolchildren a story of four young people who join the RAF.

They learn the importance of Radar, the fear of air raids
and the fight against the Luftwaffe
before they are caught up in the momentous
Battle of Britain itself.

Battle of Britain is a story based on that epic air battle in the summer of 1940 including insights into one of the most famous fighter planes of all time, the Spitfire, which the children build on the stage.

Quotes from Winston Churchill's speeches are used to introduce some of the memorable songs.

ISBN 978-1-905123-11-7

