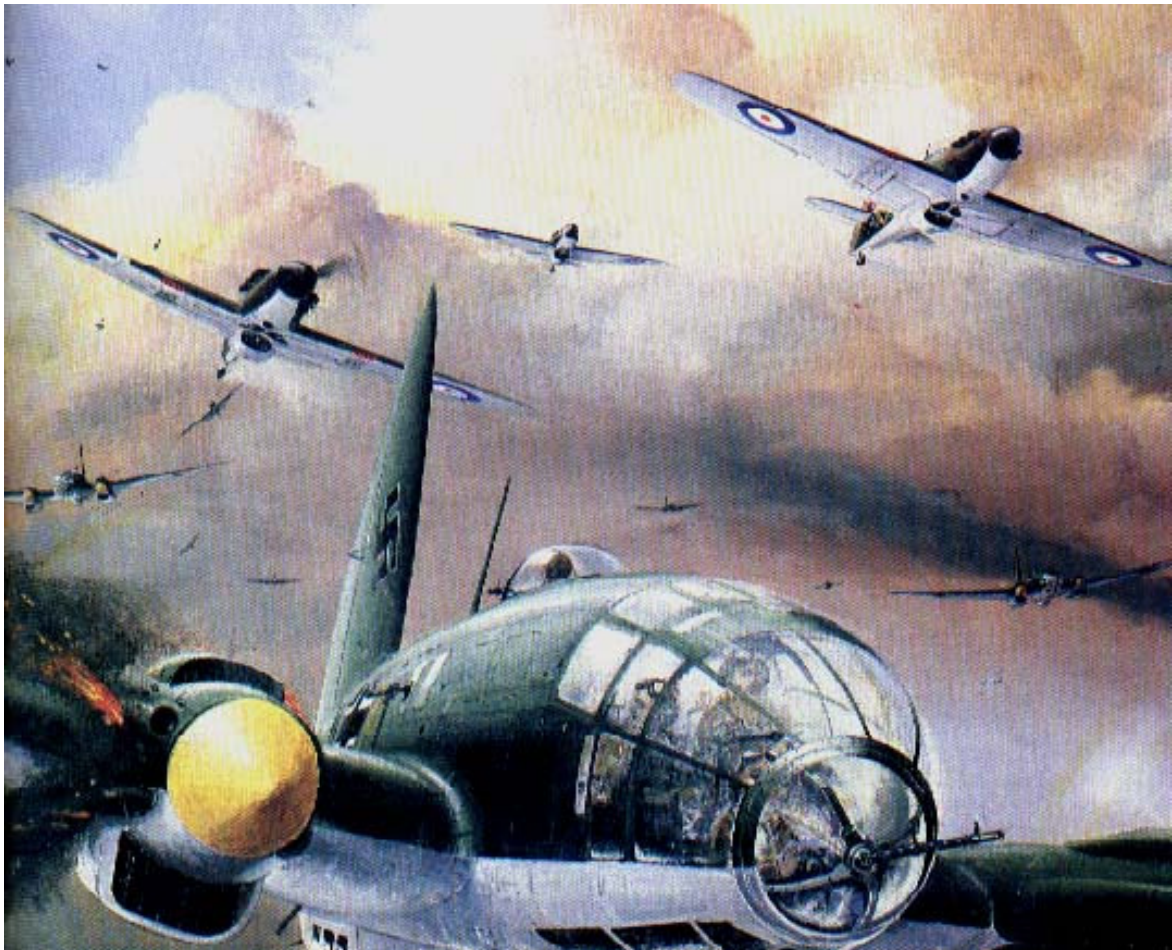


The Battle Of Britain *"Adlertag"*

Southern England, 13th August 1940

By Osprey



In the spring of 1940, Nazi Germany stormed through Scandinavia and the Low Countries of continental Europe with little resistance.



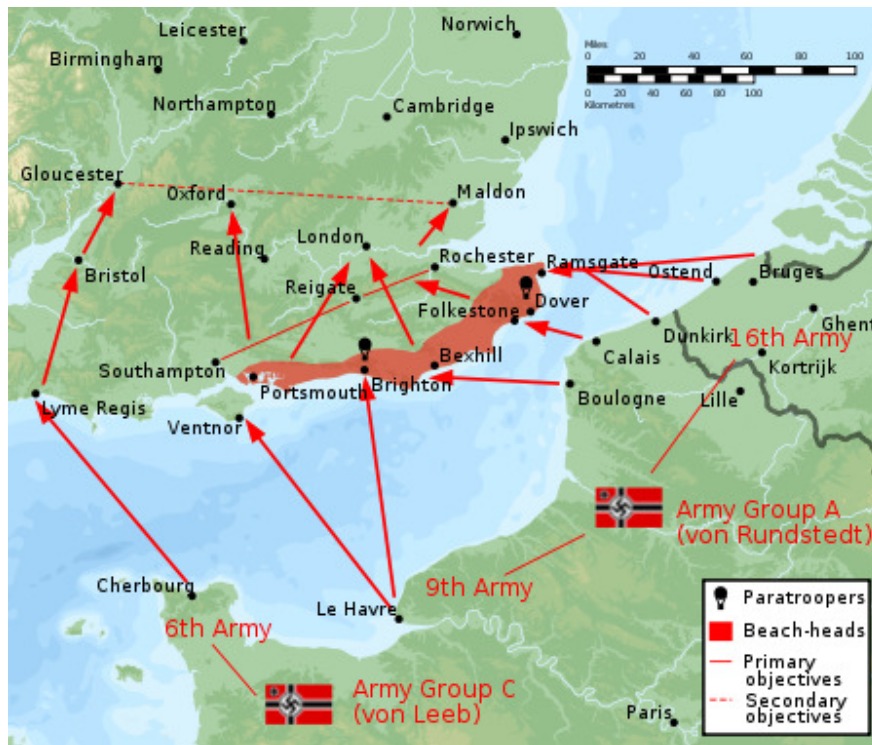
The goose-step never did win X-Factor

After France fell and the BEF evacuated at Dunkirk, Britain stood alone against the Nazis.

On June 18th British Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared before the House of Commons, *“...what General Weygand called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin...Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, ‘this was their finest hour.’”*



On July 16, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler ordered the military to prepare an amphibious invasion of Britain, which became known as Operation Sealion. Germany would first have to weaken the Royal Air Force, the Royal Navy and coastal defense stations through aerial attacks.



Sea Lion plans

The key to this plan was the establishment of German air superiority over southern England and the English Channel. That task fell to Goering and his Luftwaffe.

The British Government's fears were confirmed when British intelligence intercepted coded German radio transmissions that made it clear that an invasion of Britain was imminent. Military planners determined they would rely upon air and naval power as their primary defense, as they knew that they would quickly lose the war if German troops set foot on British soil in large numbers.



Left: Typical British fortified beach in 1940

Right: German commanders observe the white cliffs from northern France

The first stages of Operation Sealion began tentatively as a series of probing bomber attacks against British ships in the English Channel and ports in Southern England.



Kanalkampf in art and reality

On July 19th, Hitler made a last minute speech advocating peace, but Churchill ignored the appeal.

The fighting over the Channel and coastal southern England continued into August, but the Royal Air Force only rarely came out to defend the ships in the channel, preferring to hold off until the German planes got closer to the mainland, nearer to the limit of their range. As a result, British shipping in the Channel suffered heavy damage, but the RAF was able to conserve pilots and planes for the coming battle.

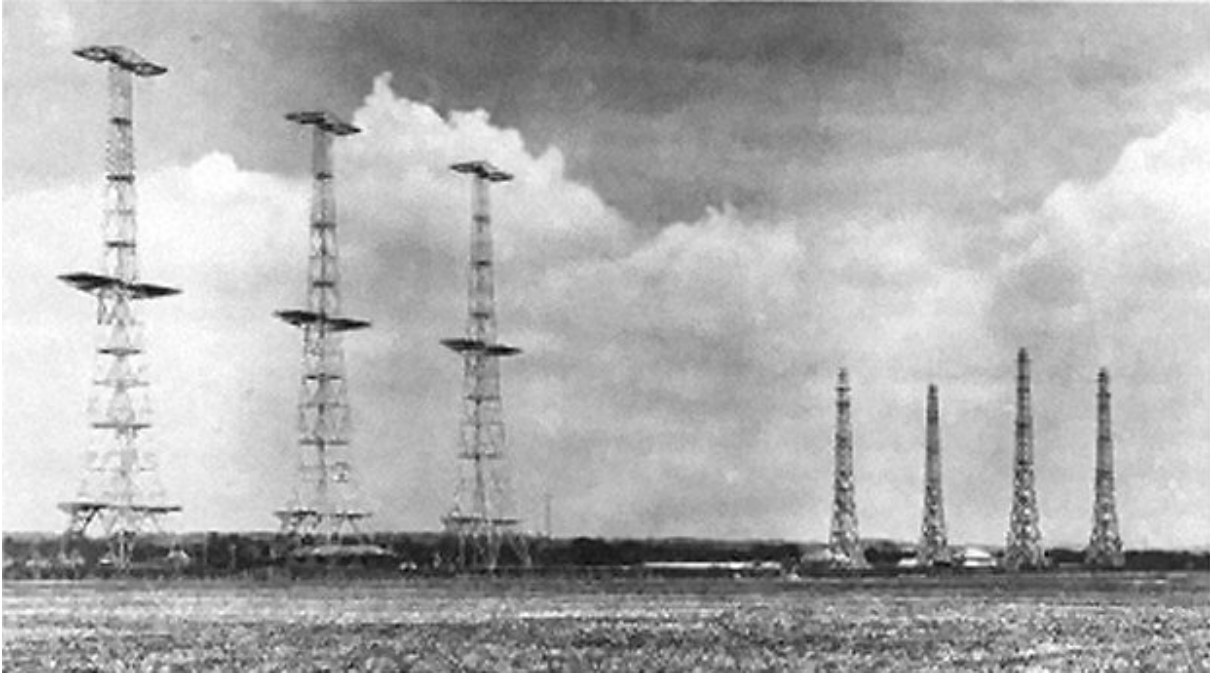
While the Luftwaffe had in excess of 2,000 combat ready aircraft (as opposed to the 675 in British inventory) from France to Norway that could strike England, this would be the first time they would be used in a non support manner. In other words, up to this point the German Air Forces had played a support role to the German Ground forces. German planes were designed for short distance tactical strikes and local air superiority. They lacked strategic heavy bombers. More importantly, they lacked quality fighters with the fuel endurance to act as escorts to the bombers they did have.



The Ju87 Stuka proved vulnerable and was quickly withdrawn as losses mounted

Hermann Goering issued the “Eagle Day” directive on Aug. 2, ordering the Luftwaffe to focus its attacks of the RAF Fighter Command in an effort to commit the RAF and wipe her out

The plan developed by Luftwaffe command called for a concentrated strike against British radar installations (even though most of the Luftwaffe commanders erroneously felt the British Radar Defense System (RDS) was of little consequence). Due to bad weather, the radar strike did not occur until August 12th and this mission was successful. The next day launched the ‘Eagle Day’ attack against airfields all over Southern England.



Chain Home radar transmitters

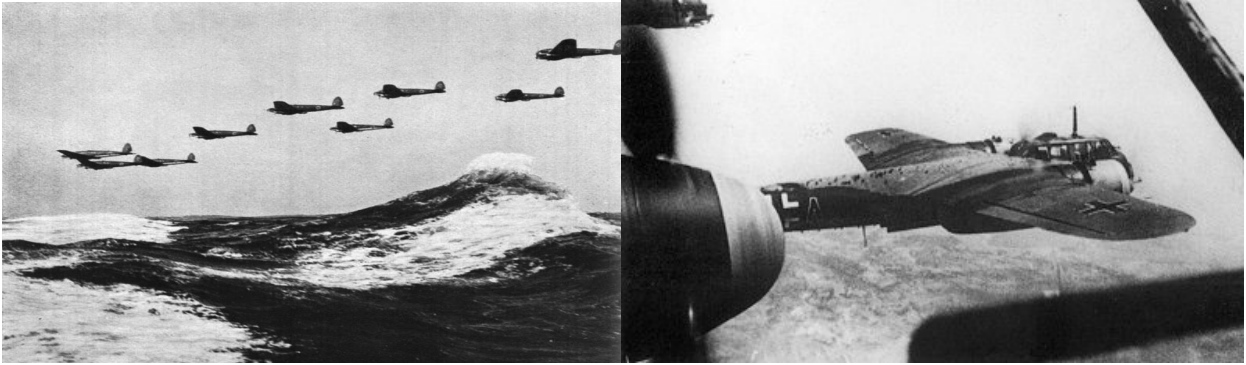
On August 13TH Germany sent more than 1,400 bomber and fighter sorties across the English Channel in the morning and late evening on bombing raids on air bases and military command posts in southern England, assuring crews that the RAF was near to collapse. This was not the case as the RAF reported 78 German aircraft destroyed to only 13 RAF machines, of which no RAF pilots were lost. Also, the bases that were hit belonged to Coastal Command, not Fighter Command. Eagle Day had been a failure.



Left: A Spitfire is hit whilst attacking a He-111

Right: Pilots from No601 "County Of London" simulate a scramble to their Hurricanes in 1940

While this gave British pilots a certain sense of optimism, the sheer numbers of planes the Germans sent meant that many bombers were still reaching their targets. Nevertheless, even after three weeks of incessant attacks after 'Adlertag' the RAF was still very much intact.

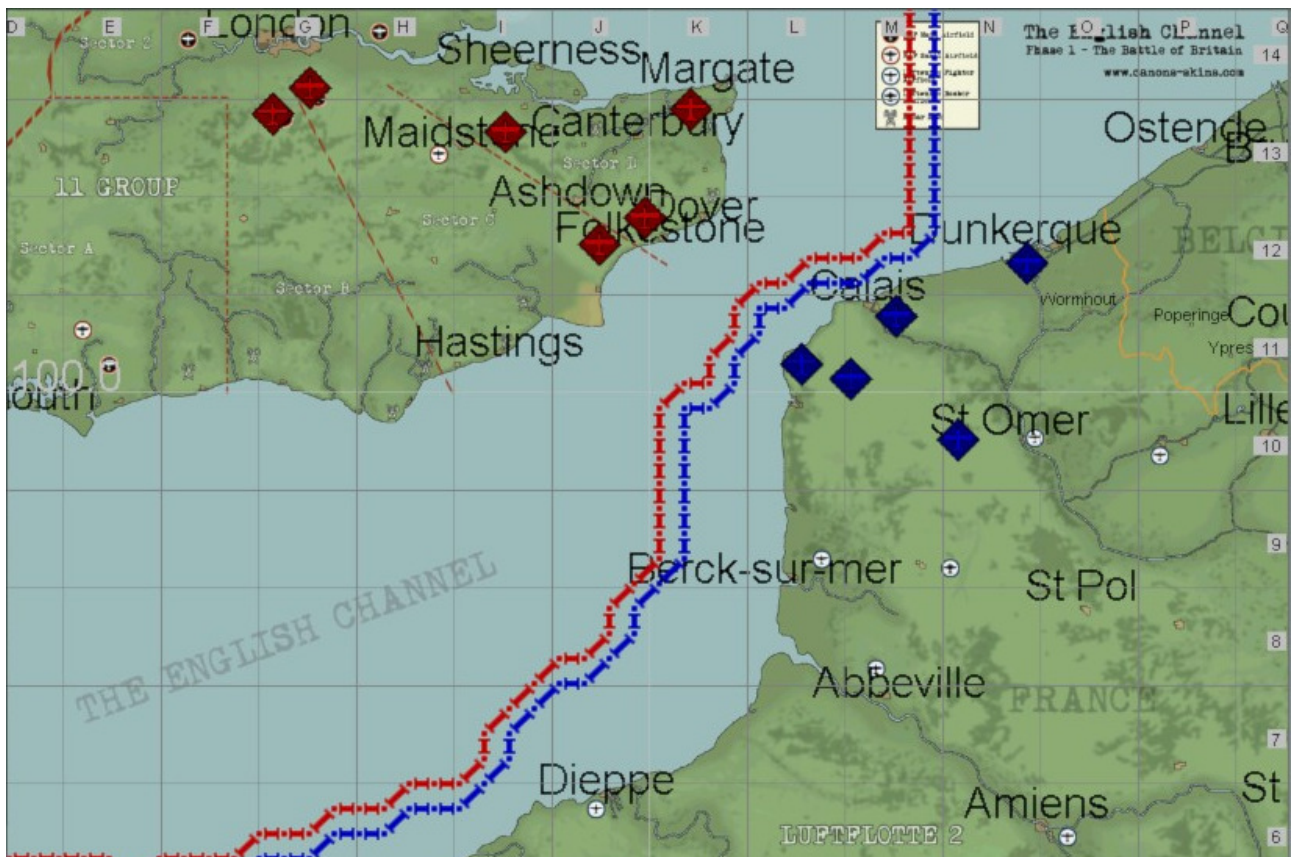


*Left: He-111 formation over the unforgiving cold and rough English Channel
Right: Ju88's on a raid*

Operation Sea Lion was postponed indefinitely on 17 September 1940 and never carried out as Germany turned her attentions East.

About this mission

Radar is enabled for the RAF but not for the Luftwaffe. This is historically correct. The weather and time is also historically correct. The RAF have limited Spitfires and Hurricane II's. German AI bombers and heavy fighters will attack Dover and some RAF airfields throughout the mission. RAF Kenley and RAF Biggin Hill are heavily protected airfields



Scoring

Targets are motorcycles in buildings are worth 40 points each with a 10 point defensive bonus for survival for the RAF (subject to change!)

RAF types

Hurricane Ia ~ 60pts

Hurricane Ib ~ 65pts

Spitfire Ia ~ 85pts

Spitfire IIa ~ 90pts

Blenhiem ~ 70pts

Luftwaffe types

Bf109E4 ~ 85pts

Bf110C ~ 70pts

Ju87 ~ 50pts

He111H ~ 125pts

He111P ~ 115pts

Ju88A ~ 125pts

RAF Mission

Scramble and defend against Luftwaffe attack. Only Kenley (KN) and Biggin Hill (BH) provided proper AAA defence.

You have unlimited Hurricane Ia fighters at all bases but limits as follows:

Hurricane Ib x8ea @ KN & BH, x4ea @ other bases

Spitfire I x3 ea @ KN & BH, x2ea @ some bases

Spitfire IIa x2ea @ KN & BH, 1x @ Lympne

Flying over to France is not recommended as the flak is immensely strong there

Luftwaffe Mission

Attack and destroy any target of military significance plus shipping and the port of Dover

You are equipped with unlimited Bf109E4, Bf110C4 and Ju87Stuka. The Bf110C4B is limited to 14. You also have 2x Ju88, 2x He111H2 and 4x He111P2 medium bombers.

Intelligence reports that the forward RAF bases are improperly protected. Kenly and Biggin Hill are significantly protected and should be avoided.

Use your aeroplanes wisely.....

Map by Osprey, briefing by 69th_Tango and Osprey