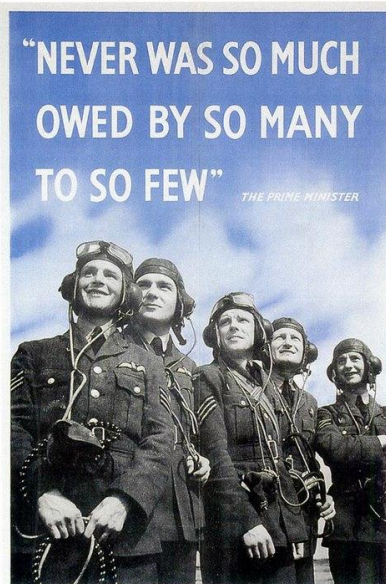


Source A: B.J. Ellan, a Spitfire pilot, describes what he saw on 15 September

I saw above the black specks a tangle of white condensation trails – the whole sky ahead seemed filled with aircraft. As we got closer I recognised the bombers as Dorniers, about thirty in each formation stretching away towards the coast. Above the bombers weaved Messerschmitt 190s. Never before, or since, have I seen so many enemy aircraft. There were hundreds of them! It was an amazing sight and one which I shall remember all my life.

Source B: A poster issued by the British government immediately after the Battle of Britain.



Source C: The inside of a radar station, 1940.



Source D: Hitler's order, 1 August 1940

Using all possible means, the German air force will smash the British air force in as little time as possible.

Source E: The memories of Theodor Plotte, who was part of the crew of a Stuka dive-bomber

We were in Normandy, France, and from there we flew the Stukas to England. While I was based there we lost 85 planes shot down over England and the Channel. Later on the crews mutinied. They didn't want to fight any more because their planes could not compete with the Hurricanes and Spitfires.

Source F: From a modern world history book, published in 2001. It is describing the strengths and weaknesses of the RAF and the Luftwaffe.

Experienced radar operators could accurately estimate the size and speed of approaching aircraft. In previous campaigns the Germans had been able to destroy most of their enemies' aircraft on the ground. Britain's investment in radar meant that RAF planes were not caught on the ground as the Luftwaffe approached.