

Large print guide

# **BATTLE OF BRITAIN**

Ops Room

On the afternoon of the 15th of September 1940, the German air force launched a huge raid against London. This phone call would begin Duxford's involvement in the day's events, sending the Big Wing of 5 squadrons, with 49 pilots, in an attempt to intercept the attack...

**14:05**

**'Ops A'**

**Sub Controller**

Hello Hucknall, George Sector receiving...

Understood. Thank you. Sir, Bentley have ordered the Wing to patrol Hornchurch. A large raid is reported to be approaching the coast between Dungeness and Dover, and 11 Group are throwing everything they have at it.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Right, ladies. Start getting the blocks ready in case they head our way. Ops, how many aircraft are available?

**'Ops B'**

**Deputy Controller**

49 available, sir. 11 damaged in the earlier raid.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Right, Ops. We need to get them up straight away.  
Scramble all squadrons!

**'Ops B'**

**Deputy Controller**

Yes, sir. Douglas, scramble 2-4-2 immediately and form up the Wing. Hello 3-0-2, scramble, scramble. 3-1-0, scramble, scramble. Hello Fowlmere, scramble 1-9 and 6-1-1 squadrons immediately. Scramble. All squadrons scrambled, sir.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Thank you, Ops.

**14:10**

**'Ops B'**

**Deputy Controller**

All squadrons except 2-4-2 now airborne, sir.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Why isn't Douglas up yet? They're taking far too long.  
Ambrose! Connect Lorag Leader's radio to the tannoy.

**Ralph Ambrose**

**Radio Operator**

Connected, sir.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Dorey Control to Lorag Leader. Douglas, what's the hold up? Your orders are to form the Wing overhead as quickly as possible and proceed to Hornchurch to patrol at Angels 2-5, buster.

**Douglas Bader**

**Big Wing Commander**

Lorag Leader to Control. Stop worrying, Woody. We'll be up soon, over.

**14:30**

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Ops, update on 2-4-2?

**'Ops B'**

**Deputy Controller**

Sir, 2-4-2 now airborne.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Thank you, Ops. Let's hope they make it in time.

**14:35**

**Women's Auxiliary Air Force member**

**Ops Room Plotter**

South – L for London – 9-7-3-5 – Duxford Wing – 4-9 aircraft at 8.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

They should be over Sawbridgeworth now. Dorey Control to Lorag Leader. Douglas, vector 1-7-5, over.

**Douglas Bader**

**Big Wing Commander**

Lorag Leader here. Received and understood.

**14:40**

**'Ops A'**

**Sub Controller**

Yes, this is G Sector.....right. Thank you. Sir, the Observer Corps are reporting 3 large formations of enemy aircraft approaching Sevenoaks and

Maidstone on a 30 mile-wide front. Estimates 150 to 200 bombers, 400 fighters. Likely target London.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Thank you, Ops. Dorey Control to Lorag Leader.  
There's some trade heading northwest to the south of you. 500 plus bandits at Angels 2-1, over.

**Douglas Bader**

**Big Wing Commander**

Lovely.

**14:50**

**Douglas Bader**

**Big Wing Commander**

Lorag Leader to Dorey Control. Bandits sighted over southeast London. Climbing and positioning up sun to attack.

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Dorey Control. Understood, Douglas. Give them hell. Guns, ring AA Command to let them know the Wing are close to London.

**'Guns'**

**Army Liaison Officer**

Yes, sir.

**15:00**

**Douglas Bader**

**Big Wing Commander**

Lorag Leader to Wing. Tally-ho. Tally-ho. 40 enemy bombers to port. Climb to Angels 2-0 to intercept. Luton Leader, Charlie Leader, the party is on. You know the drill. You take care of the fighter cover. Caleb and Calla Leaders, follow me to the bombers.....

**Stan Turner**

**RAF Pilot**

Blue 2 to Lorag Leader, 109s behind and above!

**Douglas Bader**

**Big Wing Commander**

Hell, bandits! All squadrons engage! Lorag, break up, break up!

**Jerrard Jeffries**

**RAF Pilot**

Calla Leader to Squadron. Large formation of bandits approaching from the south. Stand by for head-on attack. Wait for my order... Calla, engage!

**Alexander Hess**

**RAF Pilot**

Red Leader to Green Leader, 2 109s at 5 o'clock high!

**Josef Hubacek**

**RAF Pilot**

Green Leader here. I'm hit. Can't see what got me. Cockpit full of smoke, tail coming apart. Attempting to bail out.

**Alexander Hess**

**RAF Pilot**

They got me. My kite is on fire! Bailing out.

**Jerrard Jeffries**

**RAF Pilot**

This is Calla Leader! This is Calla Leader! I've got one. His starboard engine's on fire, but I'm out of ammo. Repeat, I'm out of ammo. Returning home. Good luck, chaps!

**Woody Woodhall**

**Ops Room Controller**

Dorey Control here. Enemy heading back across the Channel..... Bring yourselves home, gentlemen.

The 15th of September was the Luftwaffe's final attempt to destroy RAF Fighter Command. Thanks in part to Duxford's squadrons, it failed, forcing Hitler to abandon his plans to invade Britain.



