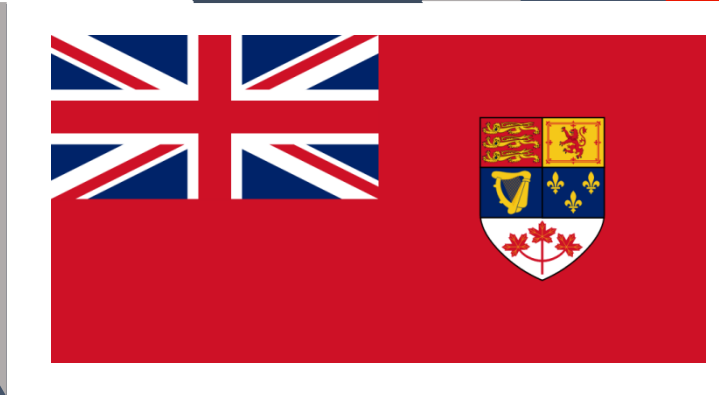
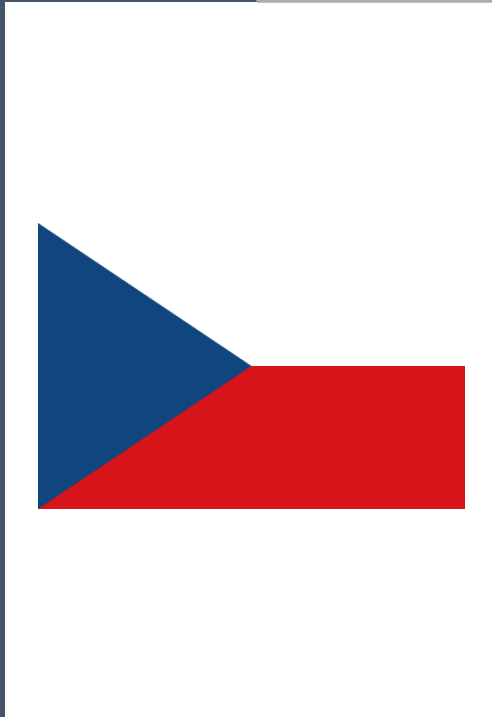
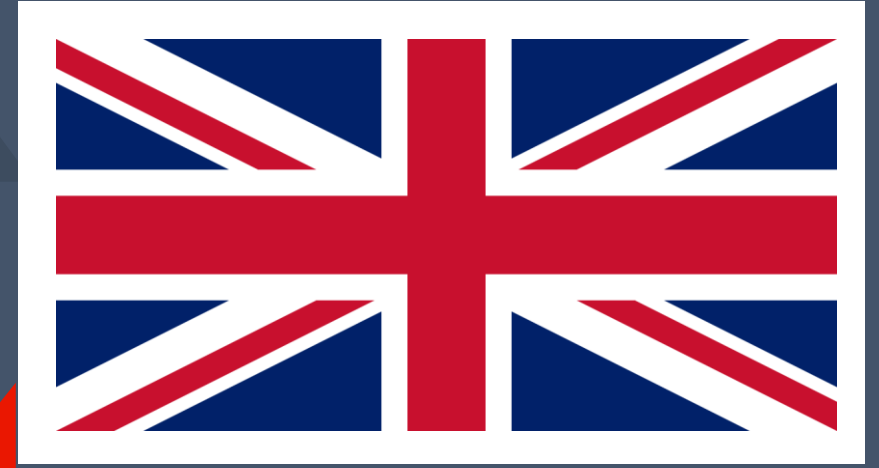
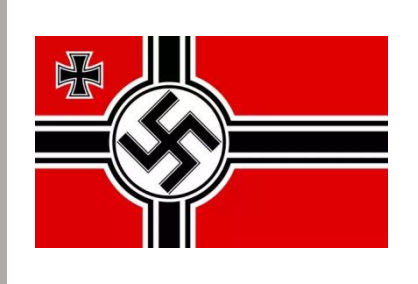
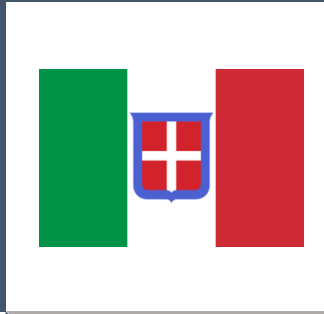
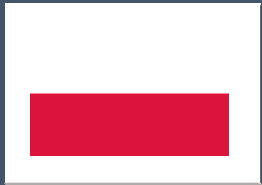


The Battle of Britain

Where, when, and who?

The Battle of Britain took place in central-southern England, from the 10th July 1940 to the 13th October 1940. It was an air battle and every twelfth allies pilot was a Pole.





Major parties of the conflict

Allies:

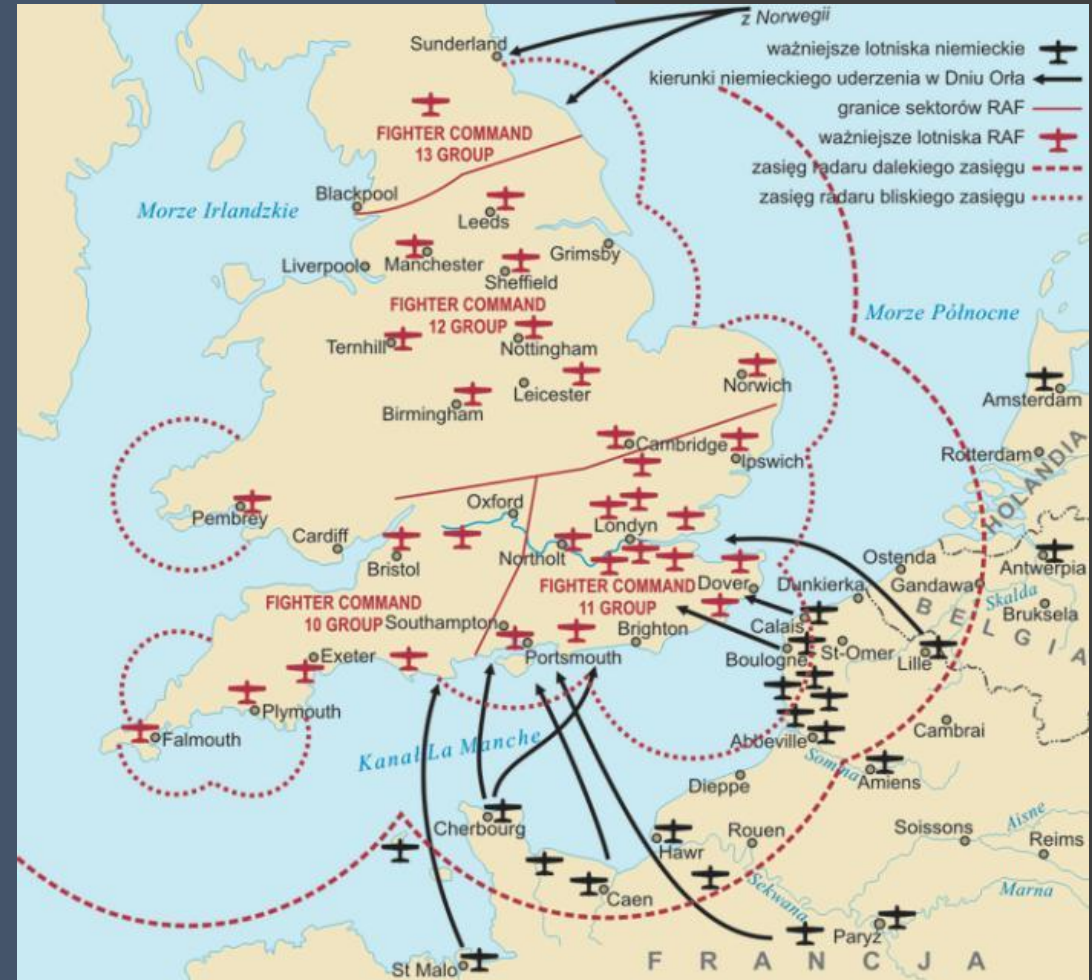
- Great Britain
- Poland
- Czechoslovakia
- Canada

Axis:

- III Reich
- Italy

Causes

After conquering France, the III Reich offered a peace pact to the Great Britain, but the Prime Minister of GB, Winston Churchill did not accept it. To start an invasion Hitler had to send German landing troops. He could not do it, because the Royal Navy was really strong. After all, Hitler decided to attack Great Britain from air to transport his soldiers through the La Manche Channel.



Adolf Hitler – Commander of The III Reich



Winston Churchill – The Prime Minister of Great Britain



Bombarding

At the beginning of the battle, Germans bombarded airports and military bases. Then Luftwaffe carried out intensive bombing of the largest cities in The Great Britain. Next, Germans decided to attack the civilian objects to put the pressure on the GB government to sign the surrender. This resulted in the death of many civilians and the destruction of important buildings such as hospitals, factories, harbours and railway junctions.



Londoners hiding in
the underground
from bombing



Top commanders of allies

Hugh Dowding



Keith Park



Richard Saul



Top commanders of Axis

Hermann Göring




Albert Kesselring



Hugo Sperrle





The number of
used planes
and losses of
both parties

Allies

1963 aircrafts

Losses:

1087 machines

27450 dead civilians

32128 injured

Axis

2550 aircrafts

Losses:

1733 machines

Aircrafts of RAF (Royal Air Force)



Aircrafts of Luftwaffe



Poles in Battle of Britain

By the side with Royal Air Force four Polish divisions were fighting in this battle. The most famous was 303 Squadron. It had the best ratio of downed enemy machines to his lost ones.



No. 303 Squadron



The end of The Battle of Britain

After 2 months of fighting the Germans failed to gain control of British airspace, and only suffered significant losses. The last massive bombing of London took place on October the 31st, 1940. After that date, attacks were only from time to time.

It was the first serious military loss battle of the III Reich.

Officially, air raids on the Great Britain were suspended because the Germans directed all their power to the east - to conquer the Soviet Union.

Thank you for your attenion

Piotr Matusiak, VIII B class