Second World War aircraft

These notes are intended for adults who are supporting school groups around the Museum.

groups around the Museum.		
Airspeed Oxford	These planes were used for all aspects of aircrew training and later were also used as air ambulances. Aviator Amy Johnson was flying an Airspeed Oxford when she disappeared.	
Avro Anson	The Avro Anson was slow, cold and noisy and is the most famous British aircrew trainer of all time. Used in huge numbers, 'Faithful Annie' was remembered with affection by many RAF aircrew of the Second World War.	
Avro Lancaster	This aircraft flew on 137 sorties; more missions than any other allied bomber, except one which no longer exists. Most Lancasters didn't survive more than 22-25 missions. Lancasters were also used for the Dambusters mission.	
Boeing B17 'Flying Fortress'	American daylight bomber. The B17 was nicknamed the "Flying Fortress" because it was heavily armed and could survive, and inflict, heavy damage.	
Bristol Beaufighter	In his book <i>Enemy Coast Ahead</i> , Guy Gibson tells the story of a squadron ordered to convert to Beaufighters which they refused to do. The authorities sent a Beaufighter to perform spectacular aerobatics which	



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	the pilots watched. Crowding round the aircraft afterwards, they discovered the pilot was a young woman from the ATA. After this, of course, they had no problems in flying the Beaufighter!
Bristol Beaufort	The Beaufort operated very successfully as a torpedo bomber, but also carried out the essential role of mine layer. In the spring of 1940, they began dropping magnetic mines in enemy coastal waters and continued to do so until mid-1943.
Consolidated B24 Liberator	American four-engined bomber supplied to the RAF. The B24 Liberator served in the Far East at the end of World War Two, was transferred to the Indian Air Force who later presented it to the RAF Museum.
Curtiss Kittyhawk	American aeroplane operated overseas by the RAF. Painted with a shark mouth to make it look scary!
de Havilland Mosquito	The Mosquito was made largely of wood and was designed as an unarmed bomber, relying on its superior speed to escape enemy fighters. It was nicknamed 'The Wooden Wonder'.

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Fairey Battle	The Fairey Battle had the same engine
	as the Spitfire and the Hurricane. As
	the Battle was much bigger than the
	fighter aircraft, it meant it was quite a
	slow aeroplane.
Fiat Falco	The Italian Falco here at the Museum
	was flown by Sergente Pilota Pietro
	Salvadori who had to perform an
	emergency landing on a beach in
	Suffolk. He became a prisoner and
	commented that he was happy to be
	out of the war, was dissatisfied with
	the Italian officers, and didn't like
	Belgian weather, the Germans, or their
	food!
Handley Page Halifax	Lost on its first operation to attack
	the Tirpitz. This battleship was hidden
	in a Norwegian fjord. The Halifax was
	hit by anti-aircraft fire and came
	down on a frozen lake into which it
	sank. Recovered about 30 years later
	and displayed in "as found" condition.
	British single-seater aircraft which
AFOF	played a vital role during the Battle of
	Britain. The arguments continue about
Hawker Hurricane	which was better – Hurricane or
nawker nurriculle	Spitfire? What do you think?
DO O H AND	Single-seater fighter aircraft. With the
	use of drop tanks, these planes could
	travel more than 1,500 miles in one
	trip. (Drop tanks were extra fuel tanks
Hawker Tempest	which could be released from the
	plane when they were empty.)

	
Hawker Typhoon	The Typhoon was introduced in 1941
	and was the first 400mph fighter in
	the RAF. During the Second World War
65	it was used as a tank destroyer.
Heinkel He111	The He111 was a fast and
neinkei nei i i	manoeuvrable medium bomber which
NT SI	
	was used extensively by Germany in
, •	the early part of the Second World
Heinkel He162	War.
Heinkei Heioz	Single engined jet fighter. The Heinkel
	He162 was one of Nazi Germany's
(6)	last-ditch attempts to win back
8	control of the skies with a cheap jet
	fighter capable of being flown by
	almost anyone. This plane came too
	late to have any effect on the
	outcome of the war.
Junkers Ju87	German plane widely known as the
1	"Stuka", the Ju87 was one of the most
	feared aircraft during World War Two.
FIX	It had a fearsome siren which terrified
	those who heard it.
Kawasaki – Ki-100-1b	Japanese fighter aeroplane which was
	only used for a short time towards the
	end of the war.
Lockheed Hudson	Useful aeroplane. The wooden lifeboat
A	was designed to be dropped by
- 100 M	Hudsons to rescue airmen who had
	ditched. This one served in the Far
	East so no red spot on the roundel –
	the Japanese symbol was a red disc.
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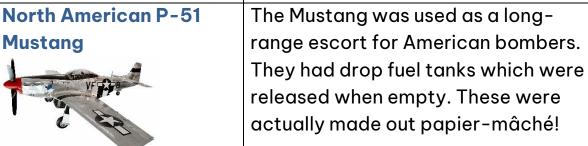
Messerschmitt 109 **Messerschmitt 110** Mitsubishi Ki-46-111

Germany's fighter, operating at the limit of its range in Battle of Britain. It could spend only 15 minutes or so over England before having to return to refuel. More heavily armed than the Spitfire and equipped with a fuelinjected engine.

The Messerschmitt 110 was used as a night fighter by Germany. The Radar antennae sticking out at the front look like a deer's antlers. They were used to detect enemy aircraft. Radar works in the same way that bats use echolocation to find their way.

The Allies gave code names to Japanese planes. The code name for this plane was 'Dinah' - female first names were code for bomber and reconnaissance aircraft.

Second World War trainer - hence **North American Harvard** bright yellow for visibility.





Supermarine Spitfire	British single-seater fighter aircraft which played a big role during the Battle of Britain.
Westland Lysander	Lysanders were used to undertake missions for the Special Operations Executive (espionage) keeping in contact with the French Resistance. Noor Inayat Khan would have been flown to France for her mission in a plane just like this one.

What the roundels (symbols) mean -



RAF aeroplanes



American aeroplanes



Japanese aeroplanes



German aeroplanes