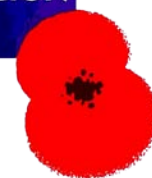




# *The Bulldog Bulletin*

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: Priya Guha British Consul General



ALDERLEY EDGE

The Newsletter of The Royal British Legion  
California Branch No 1

September, 2012



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ARUNDEL



ASHFORD

**The Royal British Legion**

California Branch No 1  
2616 Snowy Egret Way  
Elk Grove, CA 95757

E-Mail Address [Sweetman@britishlegionusa.com](mailto:Sweetman@britishlegionusa.com)

Web Pag <http://www.britishlegionusa.com>



BATTERSEA

**RBL Chairman's September report,**



**The Annual Dues**

**in the amount of \$30.00 are now due.**

Please make your cheque payable to the Royal British Legion and mail to Pamela Sweetman, Treasurer, 2616 Snowy Egret Way, Elk Grove, CA 95757

We would like to welcome our new members Gary Patterson from Lexington, N.C. and John Joseph Strangeway from Stanhope, N.J.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday September 18<sup>th</sup>. at the **Wellington Wine Bar**  
300 Turney Street, Sausalito, CA 94965 at **4.00 p.m.**



**SIPPING ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY.**  
SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA



## **Lord Dowding - Won the Biggest Air Battle of the War and Was Then Fired**

Marshal Dowding never achieved the position he wanted - Chief of the Air Staff. His bad fortune in that quest had its good side - he ended up playing a major role in the Battle of Britain. His early pre-RAF career in the British military was as a gunner in the artillery and he served at a number of overseas British Posts - Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Ceylon and India. In 1914, he got his flying license and began his career in the RFC and eventually the RAF.



Dowding was a loner, like many military leaders, and he did not have a huge following among the British big wigs although they recognized his competence. He was also hounded by RAF officers who wanted his job.

When Goering and the Luftwaffe struck in 1940, the RAF was ready with an excellent defense system (developed by Dowding) even though their numbers were much smaller than the attacking Luftwaffe. Dowding mixed the just-developed radar with other information systems to provide early warning for his aircraft. Thus, the British Spitfires and Hurricane fighters could maximize the time they could confront the Luftwaffe. It was a great defensive strategy but even so, he was criticized by those who felt he was too cautious and everything should be thrown at the Luftwaffe and the issue decided in great battles. But Dowding knew he had to husband the RAF's strength because they faced a much more numerous foe. He knew when to go on defense and Summer 1940 was the time for the RAF to be on defense.

Dowding had been most impressive after Dunkirk when the French were asking for more British air support. But Britain had lost hundreds of aircraft in the French campaign and in the Dunkirk evacuation. When Churchill wavered and was about to send more aircraft to the lost cause in France, Dowding stood his ground and said no more planes should be committed to France, otherwise, there would be no planes to defend England when the Germans turned their attention there. Dowding won the argument and no more aircraft were sent to the lost cause in France.

The Battle of Britain was over by November 1940, and, almost immediately, Dowding was relieved (fired) of his duties by the critical big wigs who blamed him for his defensive strategy, which, in their minds, caused the battle to go on too long. One of his subordinates who had worked hard to discredit Dowding was given Dowding's position.

At first, it was not realized that the Battle of Britain was a victory for Britain. It took years before the experts realized the magnitude of the victory and the genius of Dowding's approach was realized and he finally received the credit he deserved

Click below

<http://www.battleofbritain1940.net/document-8.html>



**Immediately after the defeat of France**, Adolf Hitler ordered his generals to organize the invasion of Britain. The invasion plan was given the code name Sealion. The objective was to land 160,000 German soldiers along a forty-mile coastal stretch of south-east England. Within a few weeks the Germans had assembled a large armada of vessels, including 2,000 barges in German, Belgian and French harbours.

However, Hitler's generals were very worried about the damage that the Royal Air Force could inflict on the German Army during the invasion. Hitler therefore agreed to their request that the invasion should be postponed until the British airforce had been destroyed.

By the start of what became known as the Battle of Britain the Luftwaffe had 2,800 aircraft stationed in France, Belgium, Holland and Norway. This force outnumbered the RAF four to one. However, the British had the advantage of being closer to their airfields. German fighters could only stay over England for about half an hour before flying back to their home bases. The RAF also had the benefits of an effective early warning radar system and the intelligence information provided by Ultra.

The German pilots had more combat experience than the British and probably had the best fighter plane in the Messerschmitt Bf109. They also had the impressive Messerschmitt 110 and Junkers Stuka. The commander of Fighter Command, Hugh Dowding, relied on the Hawker Hurricane and the Supermarine Spitfire.

On the 12th August, 1940, the German airforce began its mass bomber attacks on British radar stations, aircraft factories and fighter airfields. During these raids radar stations and airfields were badly damaged and twenty-two RAF planes were destroyed. This attack was followed by daily raids on Britain.

As a result of the effective range of the Luftwaffe, the battle was mainly fought over southern England. This area was protected by Fighter Command No. 11 under Keith Park and Fighter Command No. 12 led by Trafford Leigh-Mallory. They also but received support from the squadrons based in the eastern counties.

Between 1st and 18th August the RAF lost 208 fighters and 106 pilots. The second half of the month saw even heavier losses and wastage now outstripped the production of new aircraft and the training of pilots to fly them. Those British pilots that did survive suffered from combat fatigue.

During the Battle of Britain Trafford Leigh-Mallory came into conflict with Keith Park, the commander of No. 11 Fighter Group. Park, who was responsible for the main approaches south-east of London, took the brunt of the early attacks by the Luftwaffe. Park complained that No. 12 Fighter Group should have done more to protect the air bases in his area instead of going off hunting for German planes to shoot down.

Leigh-Mallory obtained support from Vice Marshal William Sholto Douglas, assistant chief of air staff. He was critical of the tactics being used by Keith Park and Hugh Dowding, head of Fighter Command. He took the view that RAF fighters should be sent out to meet the German planes before they reached Britain. Park and Dowding rejected this strategy as being too dangerous and argued it would increase the number of pilots being killed.

The climax of the Battle of Britain came on the 30th-31st August, 1940. The British lost 50 aircraft compared to the Germany's 41. The RAF were close to defeat but Adolf Hitler then changed his tactics and ordered the Luftwaffe to switch its attack from British airfields, factories and docks to civilian targets. This decision was the result of a bombing attack on Berlin that had been ordered by Charles Portal, the new head of Bomber Command.

The Blitz brought an end to the Battle of Britain. During the conflict the Royal Air Force lost 792 planes and the Luftwaffe 1,389. There were 2,353 men from Great Britain and 574 from overseas who were members of the air crews that took part in the Battle of Britain. An estimated 544 were killed and a further 791 lost their lives in the course of their duties before the war came to an end.

## Heinrich Himmler - Head of the SS

**The most feared German leader**, he held the power of life and death over all and did not mind using it. Being a master organizer made him even more dangerous. Himmler had the look of a school teacher. He was quiet and introverted but with so much political power that he was allowed to have his own armies and, at one time, commanded thirty five divisions of troops in addition to the Gestapo, the secret police force and other police apparatus.



The Gestapo was one of the most powerful and cruel police forces that ever existed.

Himmler's organization was so powerful that it almost constituted a government within a government. Additionally, he was not above using the occult in his organization.

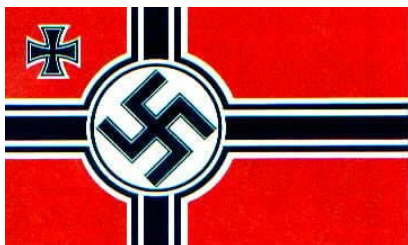
SS organizations were responsible for the concentration camps. Although Himmler had over 5,000,000 people killed, it is said the only time he personally watched a group of Jews being shot by firing squads, he almost fainted.

Despite his brutality, Himmler, as early as 1943, foresaw the end for Germany and he tried to broker a number of deals (without Hitler's permission) to end World War 2 in Europe.

When the war ended, Himmler blended in with refugees in an attempt to escape but was apprehended and, as he was being examined by a Doctor, he committed suicide with cyanide poison implanted in a tooth. A book challenging the authenticity of his death was written. But he had good reason to commit suicide since the only fate left for him, if incarcerated, was a hangman's noose.

Click Below

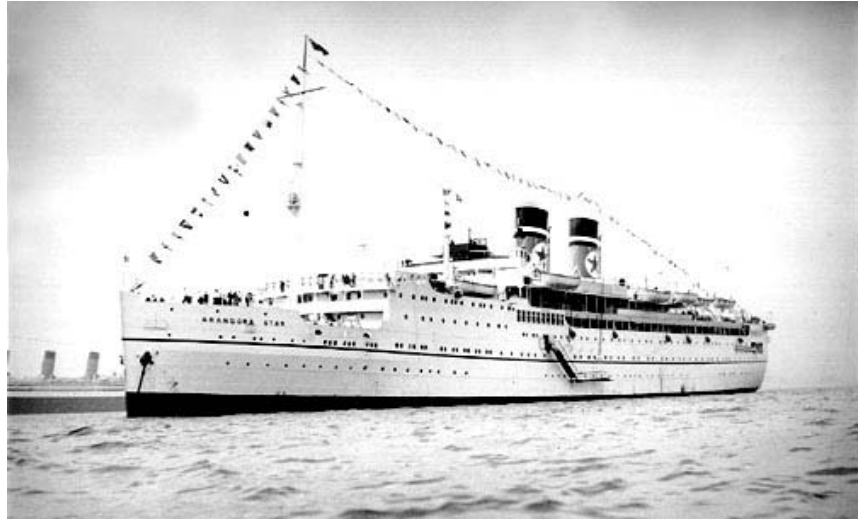
- ( 1 ) [http://www.enwikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich\\_Himmler](http://www.enwikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Himmler)
- ( 2 ) <http://www.germaniainternational.com/himmler3.html>



### **ARANDORA STAR (July 2, 1940)**

One of four ships placed at the disposal of the War Office for the transportation of enemy aliens to Canada.

The Arandora Star sailed from Liverpool, without escort, to St. John's, Newfoundland, carrying 473 German male civilians interned when war broke out in 1939, and 717 Italian male civilians interned after Mussolini declared war on June 10, 1940. The vessel carried a crew of 176 and a military guard of some 200 men.



Also on board were some Italian internees from internment camps on the Isle of Man, many of whom were genuine refugees mistakenly selected for deportation.

The 15,501 ton Arandora Star (Blue Star Line) was torpedoed and sunk by the German U-boat U-47, (Korvkpt. Günther Prien, 1908-1941) seventy five miles off Ireland, at 7.05am.

A second explosion, apparently a boiler, broke the ship in two before she finally sank at 7.40am. At about 2.30pm, the Canadian destroyer, HMCS St. Laurent, found the lifeboats and started to take the survivors on board.

They reached Greenock in Scotland on Wednesday, July 3, at 8.45am. where the sick and injured were taken to Mearns Kirk Hospital in Newton Mearns by a fleet of ambulances. The 813 survivors were later put on another ship, the Dunera, and transported to Australia.

A total of 743 persons lost their lives on the Arandora Star: 146 Germans, 453 Italians, and 144 crew and soldiers. (The U-47 went missing on March 7, 1941) In Bardi, a village in northern Italy, a chapel has been built to commemorate the victims of the Arandora Star.

This disaster changed British internment policy. From then on, all internees were interned in British camps only. (On a remote cliff on the island of Colonsay a memorial was unveiled to commemorate all those who perished and in particular to a Giuseppe Delgrosso whose body was washed ashore near this spot.

Near the memorial plaque is a cairn of stones. All visitors are requested to bring a stone and add it to the cairn so that it will continue to grow.)

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**My wife was screaming at me:** "Leave! Get out of this house!" she ordered.

As I was walking out the door she yelled, "I hope you die a slow and painful death!"

So I turned around and replied, "Oh, so now you want me to stay

**This is a dramatic British poster** picturing a serious ship captain with binoculars at the ready. It is on the "loose lips sink ships" theme that cautions: "Never mention arrivals, sailings, cargoes or destinations to anybody." It was printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by Stafford & Co, Ltd., Netherfield, Nottingham. This is a dramatic British poster picturing a serious ship captain with binoculars at the ready. It is on the "loose lips sink ships" theme that cautions: "Never mention arrivals, sailings, cargoes or destinations to anybody." It was printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by Stafford & Co, Ltd., Netherfield, Nottingham.



**How long could you go without daylight, family contact, or any precise idea of where you are? A submariner on HMS Talent can do it for three months. Andrew Preston survived five days - and surfaced with a new respect for our silent service**

Click Below

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/moslive/article-1318268/HMS-Talent-Five-days-aboard-Britains-silent-warriors.html>

### **Voted Best Scottish Short Joke**

**A bloke walks into a Glasgow library and says to the prim librarian,**

**'Excuse me Miss, dey ye hae ony books on suicide?'**

**To which she stops doing her tasks, looks at him over the top of her glasses and says,  
'Buggeroff, ye'll no bring it back**

---

## **Assassination Attempt on Hitler's Life**

**9.20pm on Wednesday, November 8, 1939**

Johann Georg Elser, born January 4, 1903, had served an apprenticeship as cabinetmaker (Schreiner) and from 1929 to 1932 worked in Switzerland at this trade then returned to Germany to assist in his fathers lumberyard.

He bitterly resented the Nazi stranglehold on labour unions and the growing restrictions on religious freedom.

He then decided to kill Hitler by placing a time bomb in one of the columns behind the podium where Hitler was to give a speech in the Burgerbrau Beer Cellar in Munich.

The bomb was set to detonate at preciesly 9.20pm on Wednesday, November 8, 1939. At 8.10 Hitler enters the beer hall but at 9.12pm he suddenly ends his speech and departs.

Eight minutes later the bomb explodes killing eight people and wounding sixty-five including Eva Braun's father. Seven of those killed were Nazi Party members.

Elser, who, since 1933, refused to give the nazi salute, is later arrested as he tried to cross the border into Switzerland at Konstanz.

He was held for questioning due to the 'strange content' of his belongings. He was transported to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, and later confined in the concentration camp at Dachau.

On the 9th Of April, 1945, two weeks before the war ended in Europe, Johann Elser was executed by the SS. In the city of Bremen a street was named in his honour, Georg-Elser Weg.

In Berlin a memorial has been erected and a plaque to his memory is sited in his hometown, Koenigsbronn. (In September, 1979, the Burgerbraukeller was demolished.

On its site now stands the Munich City Hilton Hotel)

