The RAF had trouble catching up to the raids because on clear days, there were raids that were up to 100.
   - 11 Group squadrons stayed alert and few three or four ‘scrambles’ per day.
   - The 29th of October was the last daylight battle and the Luftwaffe suffered more than 20 losses.
   - The German strategy changed and started to bomb Britain into submission, attacking the British civilian population and the war economy.
     - London was their target during early October to early November. 300 or more of Bf 109 appeared in a few nights during a full moon period in mid-October.

The Blitz

The Blitz began on 7th September 1940 where raids took place on day and night. Between mid-September and mid-November, German bombers attack London while Birmingham and Bristol were attacked in min-October.

The Luftwaffe attacked industrial and port cities in mid-November 1940 and February 1941.

On February 1941, Hitler ordered the Luftwaffe to concentrate on port facilities.
   - During the period of 19th February and 12 May, the Nazi mounted 51 attacks against the port facilities with seven directed against municipal areas such as London.
   - The most devastating raid took place in 10th/11th May 1941. German bombers flown 571 sorties – some flew two or three missions.
     - 711 tons of high explosive bombs (167 were unexploded the next day) while 86,173 incendiaries dropped.
     - There were around 1436 people killed and 1800 seriously injured.
     - 700 acres were destroyed and the costs of damages were 20,000,000 pounds.
     - The Fighter Command released 325 aircraft and claimed 28 enemy aircraft.

Tactics

- Fighter Pilots were the key players in the Battle of Britain
- The Germans used the Messerschmitt Bf 109 E
- The British used the Hawker Hurricane and Supermarine Spitfire Mk I
- The Germans’ aim was to cripple Britain by ‘dog fighting’ the RAF Fighter Command
- The British’s aim was to deny any entrance to the Luftwaffe by using the Hurricanes to attack incoming raids, get through the screen of fighters and destroy the bombers. The Spitfires would be dealing the German fighters.
- Radar was discovered by Robert Watson-Watt when Watt was asked to make a ‘death ray’ by the Air Ministry.
- He did not invent the ‘death ray’, but discovered that radio transmitters would make an echo sound from a plane that was over 200 miles away.

The Dowding System

- The Dowding system that was linked with the fighter control was a well-kept secret and an advantage
- The Dowding system was a united defense system that has technology, ground defenses and fighter aircraft in a unified defense system.
- The system not just controls the fighter force, but controlled other fundamentals in the defence network such as anti-aircraft guns, searchlights and barrage balloons. The RAF had to defend the defence of Britain in four geographical areas called ‘Groups’: 10, 11, 12, 13
- The groups were split into more sectors. Each group has a ‘Sector Station’ which directs fighter into combat.
- Along the south and east coast, there are radar stations lined up called CH (‘Chain Home”).
  - It gives early warnings of German raids, but cannot detect aircraft once they were inland.
- There were ‘Chain Home Low’ that detects aircraft that were flying below 1000 feet; the radar still had trouble sensing low-flying aircraft.

Results of the Battle of Britain

- Shortly after, Berlin was attacked, and Hitler retaliates by turning focus to London
- Civilian casualties: 23002 British dead in 5 months, 32138 injured
- RAF losses: 1250 aircrafts destroyed and 1017 fighters dead
- Luftwaffe lost more than 1700 German fighter planes; many casualties included experienced crew
- Operation Sealion was put on hold since Hitler was alarmed by the losses

Significance of the Battle

- First major battle fought entirely on air
- Gave the allies hope; defying expectations that Britain would meet an untimely fate when faced with Blitzkrieg and changed the perspective on the outcome of the war