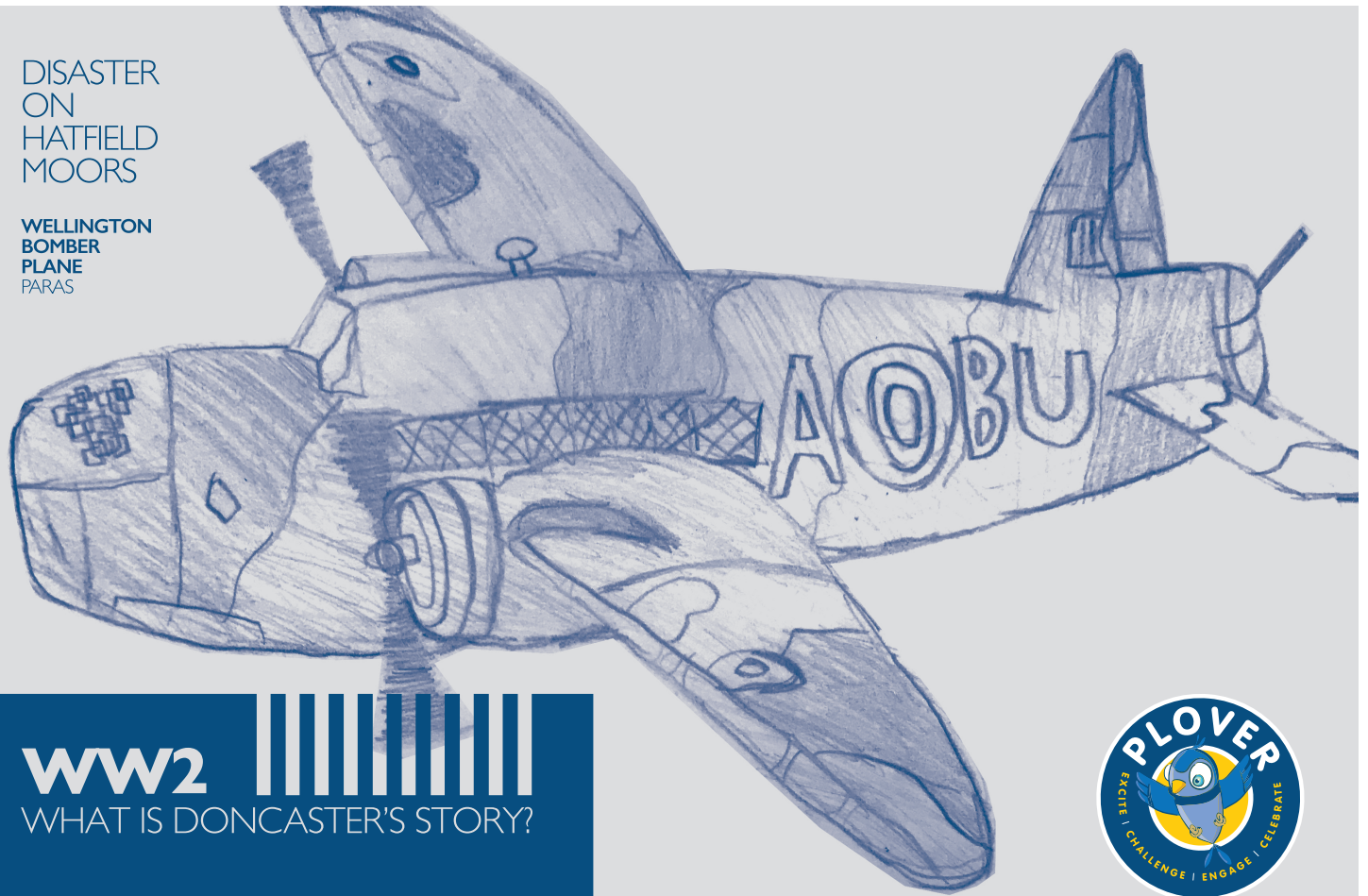


DISASTER  
ON  
HATFIELD  
MOORS

WELLINGTON  
BOMBER  
PLANE  
PARAS



**WW2**



WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?



WW2: WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?

## Disaster on Hatfield Moors

On the 27th September, 1941 the Wellington Bomber - call sign W5557 - crashed as a result of thick, dense fog on Hatfield Moors near Doncaster. Unfortunately, three members of the Polish crew died immediately with the fourth member of the crew sadly dying 24 hours later.

W5557 crashed on Hatfield Moors due to horrific weather conditions. Heavy fog badly affected visibility causing the aircraft to collide with trees. However, another possibility was that the W5557 was low on fuel as other planes had reported being low on fuel when they returned from their mission.

The wreckage was discovered on Hatfield Moors in 1985 where the plane had come down. The damage that the aircraft had sustained showed how the plane had crashed. Historians were able to use this evidence to help them learn more about the plane's missions from RAF Lindholme.



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### What was W5557's mission?

Scan the QR code with your phone to watch our video and find out.



### Did you know?

The Wellington was a long range bomber that could conduct night-time bombings. It had a range of 2550 miles.

DONCASTER'S  
CONTRIBUTION  
TO WW2

HORSA  
GLIDER  
AT D-DAY  
CARIS



WW2



WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?





WW2: WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?

## Doncaster's contribution to World War 2

Many may have heard of D-Day, but did you know that Doncaster contributed to this key event?

The Plant Works, which usually built locomotives (trains), temporarily changed to a Horsa Glider workshop. The Horsa Glider was an aircraft which transported troops over to Normandy beach, where D-Day all began!

There were also factories that made parachutes for the paratroopers (a soldier that parachutes into battle). Crompton/Parkinson - that once stood on Wheatley Hall Road - was commissioned to make cartridges for rifles between 1939 and 1941.

The Sprotbrough Foundry was opened in 1943. The purpose of the factory was to make tracks for Centurion Tanks - more commonly known as caterpillar tracks! Women mainly worked in all of these factories, making a great contribution to the war effort!



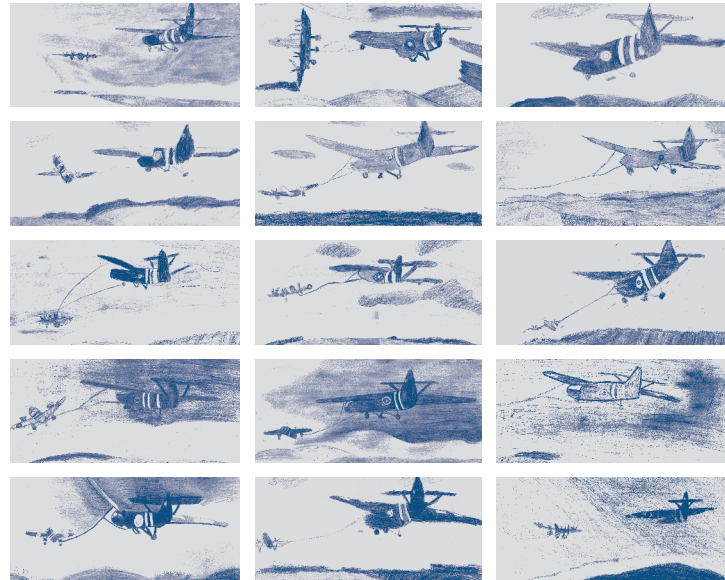
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### How long is a Horsa Glider?

Scan the QR code with your phone to watch our video and find out.



### Did you know?

3,655 Horsa Gliders were built in Britain?



DONCASTER'S  
WW2  
HERO

DOUGLAS  
BADER  
TILLY



**WW2**



WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?



WW2: WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?

# Doncaster's WW2 hero: Douglas Bader

Douglas Bader was born on February 21st 1910. His childhood was spent living in the community of Sprotbrough – a Yorkshire village. His initial school was Temple Grove Prep School and his secondary was named St Edwards. According to sources, Douglas' father sadly passed away when he was 12.

In 1928, Bader joined the RAF; two years later, he was commissioned as one of their pilots of excellence. Here, his colleagues dared him to perform low flying aerobatics. Being a daredevil, he agreed; however, he crashed. Horrific, life-threatening injuries meant he had to have his legs amputated (removed).

As part of 'The Few', Douglas Bader was determined to win the Battle of Britain. Eventually, he was captured and taken as a prisoner of war. Whilst in a POW camp, he tried to escape several times so his prosthetic legs were taken. Finally: the war ended; he was freed; and his false legs were returned.



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### Did Douglas Bader fly again after having his legs removed?

Scan the QR code with your phone to watch our video and find out.

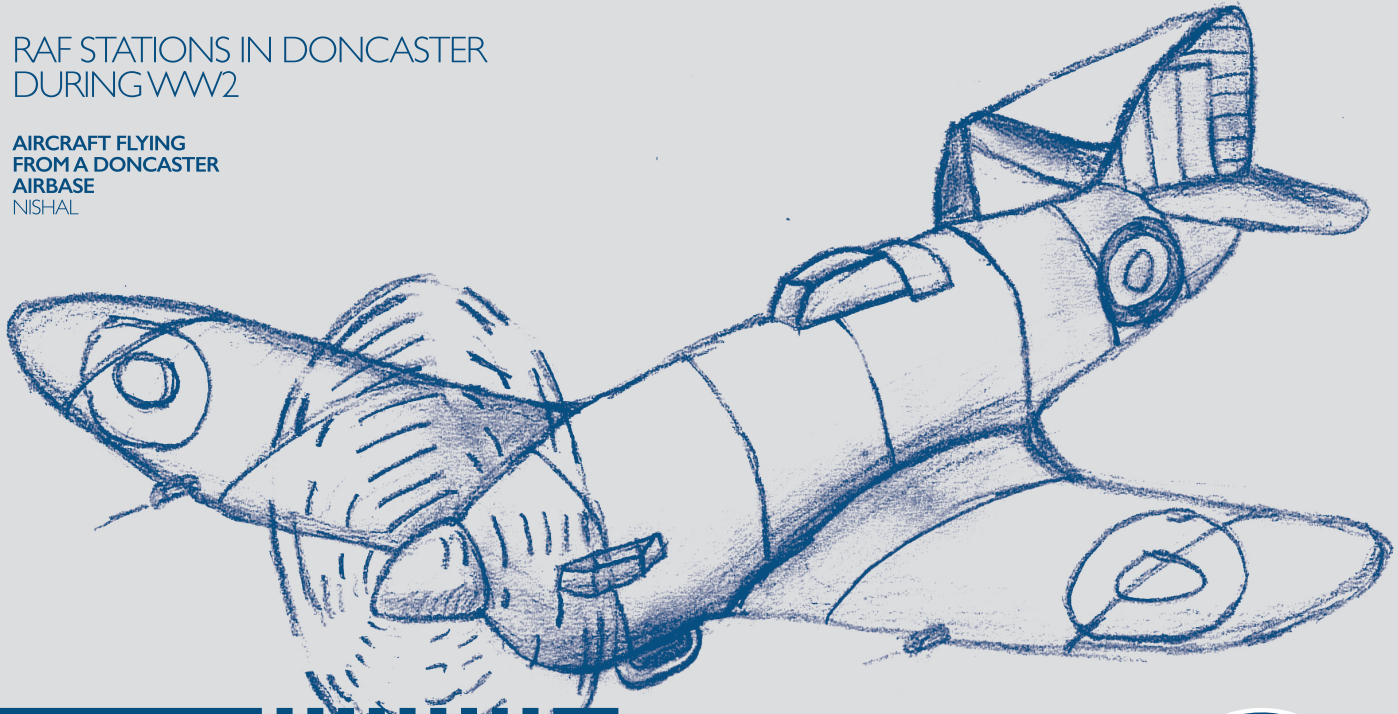


### Did you know?

Douglas' mother remarried Reverend Ernest William Hobbs just one year after the death of his beloved father.

# RAF STATIONS IN DONCASTER DURING WW2

AIRCRAFT FLYING  
FROM A DONCASTER  
AIRBASE  
NISHAL



**WW2**



WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?





WW2: WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?

# RAF stations in Doncaster during WW2

Originally, there were five operational RAF bases in Doncaster during WW2. These were RAF Lindholme, RAF Bircotes, RAF Bawtry, RAF Finningley and RAF Doncaster.

Bomber Command was based at RAF Bawtry, now known as Bawtry Hall.

RAF Lindholme was home to No.1 Lancaster Finishing School. This RAF base also had a bomb store in its grounds. It was originally called RAF Hatfield Woodhouse, however, it had its name changed as it kept getting mixed up with another airbase.

RAF Finningley trained aircraft crews for their bombing roles. Later, this airbase became the site for Doncaster Airport. Squadrons such as Nos. 7 and 102 were based there. As the war progressed, their war role involved the flying of a variety of aircraft such as the Handley Page.



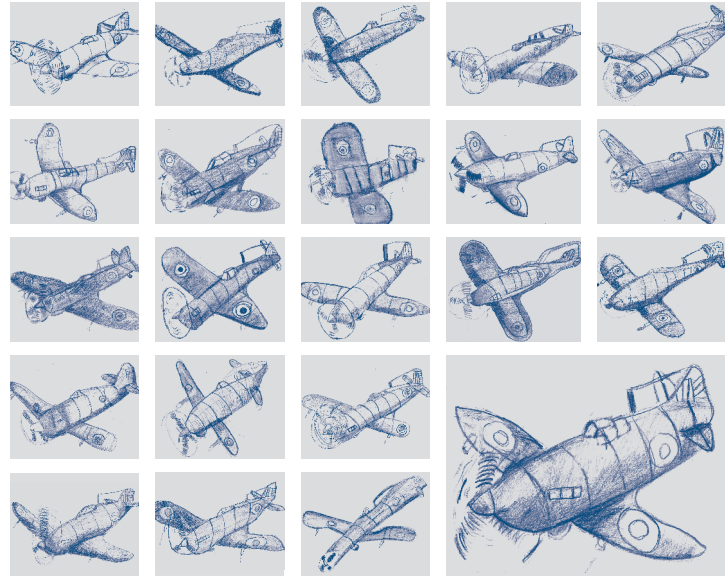
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### How many RAF bases were in or around Doncaster?

Scan the QR code with your phone to watch our video and find out.



## Did you know?

RAF Bawtry was located at Bawtry Hall and was a Bomber Command?

THE  
BLITZ  
IN  
DONCASTER

THE  
BALBY  
BOMBINGS  
LACEY

WW2

WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?



WW2: WHAT IS DONCASTER'S STORY?

## The Blitz in Doncaster: The Balby bombings

During World War 2, Balby, a village in Doncaster, was bombed. The catastrophe took place on 9th May, 1941. The bombings occurred during the Blitz - the German word for lightning. The Blitz began on 7th September 1940 and it lasted approximately eight months.

Sadly, Doncaster was affected by the Blitz, resulting in the deaths of 20 people – with a further 80 who were injured! Although this may not seem an incredibly high figure in comparison to other towns and cities across the country, it was equally as devastating for the civilians of Doncaster. Some of the victims of the Balby bombings were Edward Casson (aged 18), Edward John (aged 45) and Esther May Casson (aged 20).

Unfortunately, a total of 38 homes were completely demolished during the Blitz in Balby, and a further 900 homes across the town suffered damage to some extent.



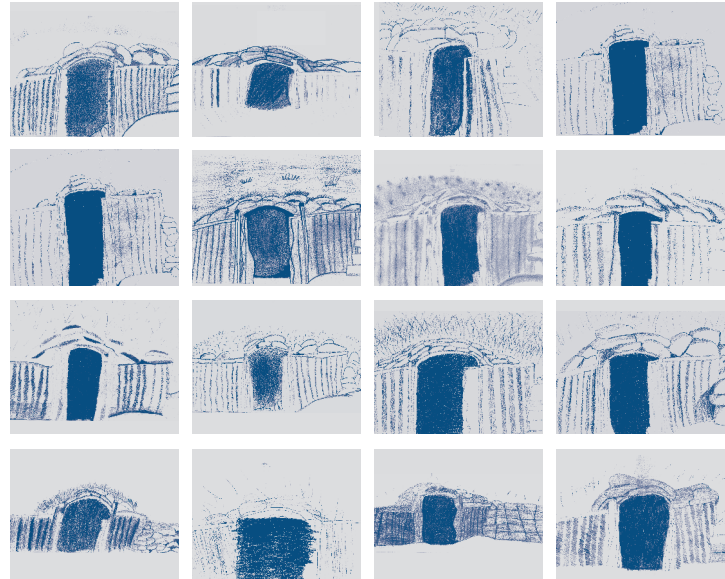
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Do you know how many bombs were dropped in Doncaster in WW2?

Scan the QR code with your phone to watch our video and find out.



### Did you know?

The bombs hit Western Road, Balby and knocked almost the entire road down!