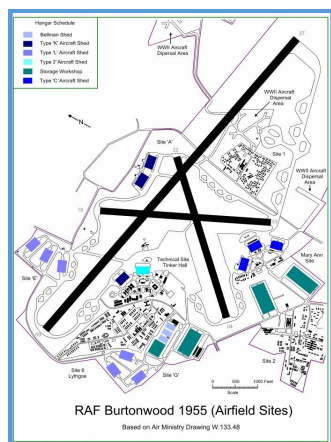


LKS2 History Knowledge Organiser

Why Is RAF Burtonwood So Important to Warrington?

Key Vocabulary

allies	The Allies were originally the UK, France and Poland and were later joined by USSR, USA and China
axis	The Axis powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
air raid	An attack in which bombs were dropped from the air to the ground
air raid siren	A device that sounds an alarm to warn people when an <i>air raid</i> is expected
blitz	The Blitz was a German bombing campaign against the UK. The term originated from the German word Blitzkrieg, for 'lightning war'
evacuation	Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one.
home front	Doing things at home to support the war
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion
rationing	Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something



Key Facts

WWII was a battle between two groups of countries - The Allied Powers and the Axis Powers.

Hitler wanted Germany to rule Europe and to gain more land and power, German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declare war on Germany - beginning WWII on 3rd September 1939

RAF Burtonwood opens in 1940 and become the largest US WWII Air Force Base in Europe

In 1945 there were 18,500 US personnel on base including many women.

The bombing of London, known as the blitz lasted for 57 consecutive nights.

The Battle of Britain was the first military campaign fought solely in the air.

Over 3.5 million people, mostly children, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing.

Over 15,000 aircraft spent time at Burtonwood, including the famous Memphis Belle, but no aircraft ever took off from Burtonwood.

In 1965, it was proposed that Burtonwood would be a good site for a regional airport but it was never actioned.

In 2009 the final bunkers were demolished. However the scars of the bunkers and runways can still be seen from the M62 motorway.

Many of the road names in Chapelford are named in memory of the base - California Drive and Dakota Park, for instance. And Mary Ann Meadows near Westbrook is a wooded area named in memory of the main repair depot, Mary Ann Site.