

#kenleycommontrail

Learn
about the
roles
women
had in
WW2


Kenley
REVIVAL

Discover their finest hour

Creativity, curiosity, conversation!

Discover Kenley's WW2 secrets

Discover the WW2 features of Kenley airfield and uncover stories of hero pilots and brave young WAAFs, learn about important events that took place here, the famous Spitfires and Hurricanes that called Kenley home during the Battle of Britain and how this period affected the local people who lived around the airfield.

SUITABLE
FOR AGES
5-10

Want to find
out who were
the spitfire
pilots who flew
from Kenley?





This is a picture of Churchill flying at Kenley

Runway

These runways have seen many a Spitfire or a Hurricane in their time! This is where planes would take off from to defend Britain where pilots scrambled and where the lucky ones and their planes would return safely home.



Spitfires travel at a top speed of 584km/h which is much faster than the Germans fastest plane at the time.

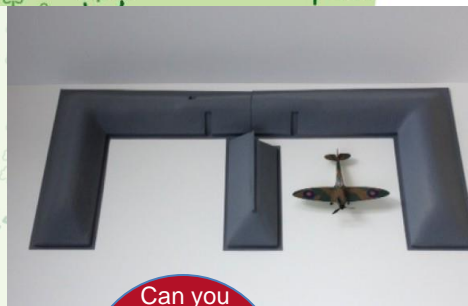
Always remember that Kenley is an active airfield. So for your safety remain outside of the yellow line at all times and please read all on-site safety signage.

Would you like to have been a pilot in WW2?

Plantation

Blast pen

These were built very quickly out of cheap materials by the RAF to protect their planes during bombing raids. They found that the pens cushioned the impact from the bombs and stopped the planes from toppling over. Spitfires and Hurricanes were very light and easily damaged.



Can you stand where a Spitfire would have stood?



This is a German photo of Kenley taken on 18th August 1940.

Main Common

Western Front

Hilltop

Perimeter Paddock

Fuel dump

You are standing on a huge tank that was full of fuel and used to fill up the tanks of RAF vehicles on the airfield. You can still see bits of old pipes and equipment; lots of interesting things have been found on the airfield including leather wallets, shoes, milk bottles and cigar cases!

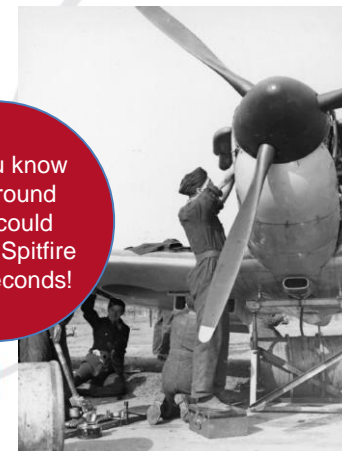
Blast pen

Bunker Bank

Whyteleafe Bank

Fuel dump

Did you know that ground crew could refuel a Spitfire in 15 seconds!





Tribute

Kenley would have been very busy, noisy and scary – but also exciting! Look at the tribute and count how many countries are mentioned. Lots of countries coming together to help defend Britain was an important reason why we won the Battle of Britain and made sure that we weren't invaded!



How many countries can you find on the Tribute?

Fuel dump

Unfortunately, due to the nature of our site, not all our routes are accessible for wheelchair users or visitors with limited mobility. Please contact us at kenleyrevival.org for more information or alternative routes to see our heritage and natural features.

RAF Kenley tribute

Old Officers' Mess
No access – private land

Portcullis Club
No access – private land

Rifle range

Hangers

Rifle range

Can you see the brick damage created by RAF servicemen testing their ammunition and aligning the guns on their planes correctly? Many WW2 artefacts have been found here.

Why do you think some holes are bigger than others?



Did you know that a Hurricane could be rearmed and refueled in 9 minutes.

The official name for the planned German invasion was Operation Sealion. What kind of animal is a sealion?



0 100m 200m 300m

- Airfield perimeter
- Heritage feature
- Private land – no access
- Parking
- Path
- Public bridleway
- Access

Plant spotting guide



Stone crop
You might find this growing on the blast pens.



Sainfoin
This flower likes the chalky ground the airfield is built on.



Birds-foot-trefoil
This plant has many other funny names it is known by such as 'Granny's toenails' or 'Eggs and Bacon'! If you could make up a name for this flower; what would you call it?



Sneezewort
This plant was used to help people sneeze not stop them.

Can you find any other plants growing on the airfield that are not on this list?

Play our 'Dogfight' card game



Download our Kenley 'dogfight' card game at www.kenleyrevival.org

Our Wall

Read this poem written by BOB pilot William Walker who was stationed at Kenley during his time in the RAF.

Here inscribed the names of friends we knew,
Young men with whom we often flew.
Scrambled to many angels high,
They knew that they or friends might die.
Many were very scarcely trained,
And many badly burnt or maimed.
Behind each name a story lies
Of bravery in summer skies;
Though many brave unwritten tales
Were simply told in vapour trails.
Many now lie in sacred graves
And many rest beneath the waves.
Outnumbered every day they flew

"The Few" is a name we give to the pilots who served in the Battle of Britain and refers to a speech by Churchill where he thanked them.



Learn More

The Kenley Revival Project aims to conserve and protect Britain's most intact WW2 fighter airfield. As well as our Education programme for schools and family groups we provide; annual archaeology digs on site, a project website and online archive, regular events, an established volunteering programme and an oral history project. If you would like to take part or learn more please visit kenleyrevival.org for more information and to join our monthly newsletter for project updates, events and opportunities.

How you can help

Want to get involved? Our fantastic volunteers help to run our project by undertaking oral history interviews, running school workshops, writing blog posts for our websites and much more! Visit kenleyrevival.org/volunteering to find out more information and how to get involved.

