

# SolastEra

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## SECOND EDITION



# Battle of Britain

By Riya Patel and  
Claudia Baldry

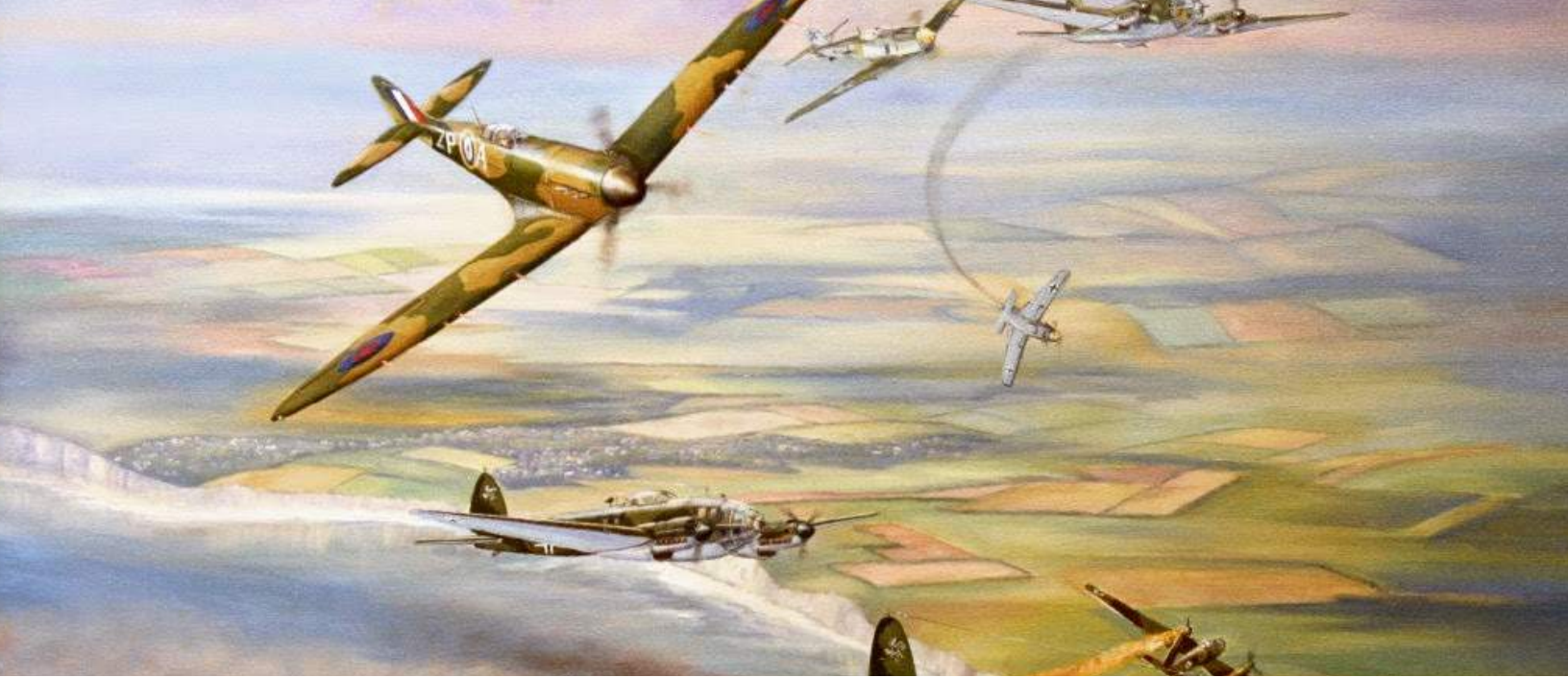
The Battle of Britain was fought during World War II from July 10th 1940 to October 31st 1940. The Germans formulated a plan called Operation Sea Lion; their aim was to invade Britain. Britain claimed victory, sending the Germans packing. How did the Brits defeat the Bosch, you ask? Well, here is the answer to your burning question.

There were several factors as to why the Germans were defeated one of which was the types of planes used by both sides. The German airforce was called the Luftwaffe which was no match for the British planes (Spitfires and Hurricanes). Although the Luftwaffe were able to drop Stuka dive bombers, Messerschmitt ME109 fighter and the Heinkel bomber, the British planes had a specific design which enabled them to fly at a high speed meaning they could out manoeuvre their enemy.

Radar technology meant that the RAF were notified when German planes crossed the English Channel. This allowed the RAF to flood the skies and settle in areas where they suspected the Luftwaffe would attack, giving them an advantage.







The 'Few' were a group of airmen from the RAF who fought against the Germans. They had to fly their planes for long periods of time as they risked their lives for the greater good of their country. Even though many of their men died whilst in the planes, the Few kept fighting to the best of their ability. Their courage and bravery led to one of Britain's greatest victories.

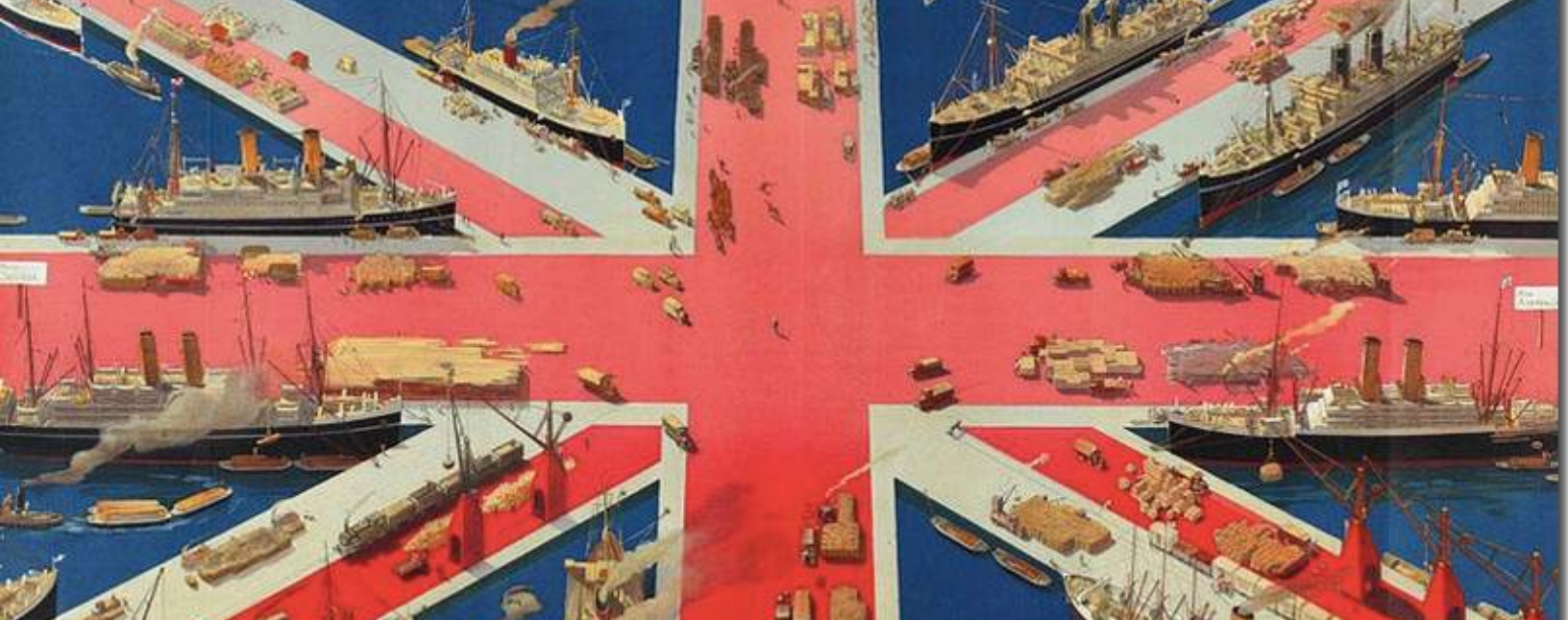
During the Battle of Britain, the Germans made many costly mistakes. Hitler's plan would only be successful if Britain surrendered then joined the Germans to fight against the USSR. The Germans underestimated the British as they thought it would be easy to defeat the RAF and they viewed Britain as "amateurs". The most fatal mistake of the Germans is when they allowed the British soldiers to escape from Dunkirk because Hitler thought his air force was stronger and thought Britain would join his side. However, Britain were not fooled by Hitler and were not going to surrender let alone join the Germans in attacking the USSR.



Overall, the Germans miscalculated the ability of the RAF because they were able to detect when the Luftwaffe were coming nearer and out manoeuvre the enemy planes.







# The British Empire

By Jake Zimmatore

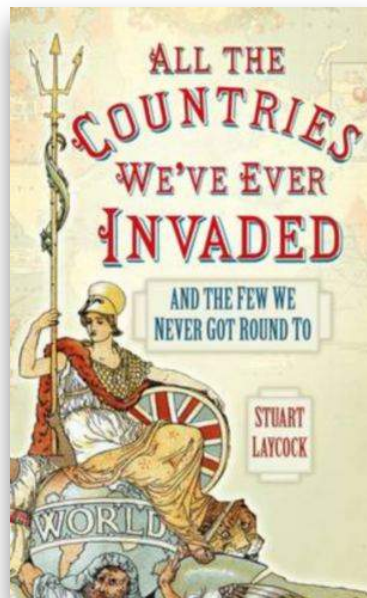
## First British Empire 1497-1783:

New lands discovered in Canada

First English colonies formed in North America and West Indies

Small empire of trading posts established in India. 1700s- Britain take over French colonies after defeating them in numerous wars 1783- Empire consisted of colonies in Canada, America and the West Indies, trading posts in India and naval bases in Gibraltar and Menorca.

BUT: Britain's defeat in the American War of Independence meant the loss of the American colonies and brought the end of the first empire.



The British Empire included Britain (the Mother country) and the colonies which were countries ruled to some degree by Britain.

Britain began to gain overseas colonies in the 16th century and by 1783 had a very large empire consisting of colonies in America and the West Indies. This 'First British Empire' ceased after the American Revolution.



Later on in the 19th century Britain began building a second empire that included colonies in Africa and India as a result of their naval forces.

Some historians saw the Empire as Britain's technological and moral superiority. On the other hand, more modern historians have criticised Britain suggesting it was based on Nationalism and racism.



### Second British Empire 1783-1924:

1815-1914- 10 million square miles of territory and 400 million people added to the empire. By 1924- Britain was the 'Mother Country' of a worldwide empire covering a fifth of the world's land and Britannia ruled the waves!

After 1924 Britain could no longer afford an empire and didn't have the right to rule people who did not want to be ruled by Britain and realised the Royal Navy was not strong enough to protect the empire all over the world.

In 1926 Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were given independence.

In 1947 India and Pakistan also given independence.

1960s- Most of African and Caribbean colonies achieved independence.

1997- Britain formally handed Hong Kong back to China. 2015- British Empire consists of 14 small colonies across the world including Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. e}



# This Day in History

By Ellis Brown

18th December 2015

1961 - Britain's EMI Records rejected the Beatles. They later signed them..



1979 - The sound barrier was broken on land for the first time by Stanley Barrett when he drove at 739.6 mph.



1989 : The British Labour Party which for many years has been financed and controlled by the British trade unions has abandoned its policy on trade union closed shops in line with European legislation.



**Labour**

# William the Conqueror

William was crowned king on Christmas day in 1066. To get this role he had to fight against all the other men who wanted to be king. An interesting fact about William was that he never spoke English and was illiterate. He invaded England in September 1066. He killed Harold Godwinson on 14th October 1066 in the Battle of Hastings. Unfortunately on September 9th 1087 he died in France.

By Deepa Patel and  
Hannah Barry



## Who was he battling?

Three main competitors to claim throne was:

William Duke of Normandy, Harold Godwinson and Harald Hardrada. He did not have much reason to fight against Harald Hardrada because Harold killed him at Stamford Bridge, so William only fought against Harold Godwinson in the Battle of Hastings.

## What advantages did William have?

William's army had time to rest before the battle. Harold Godwinson's army did not have time to prepare properly for the battle.

William also had stronger men on his side. His side included cavalry (men on horses), and archers (men with bows and arrows) but Harold didn't have them. He had Fyrd (anglo-saxons) and Infantry (men on foot). Harold and his army were also were tired and restless from the earlier battle and marching 50 miles to Hastings made them tired!





# Harald Hardrada

By Zara Naghibi

In January 1066 a shooting star was spotted in the sky. People regarded this as a bad omen- a sign that England could expect trouble.

Sure enough, on January 5th 1066 the King of England (Edward the Confessor) died. He had no heir to the throne as he had no children.

Harald Hardrada claimed that he had the right to the throne as he was related to King Canute, who was the King of England from 1016-1032. Harald said that this gave him the right to take the throne.



Harald Hardrada was the King of Norway and a descendent of King Canute. He was frequently at war and usually won. He was very unpopular but extremely powerful and collected lots of taxes from his people to pay for wars.

However Harald's claim to the throne was not very strong so he relied on his Viking reputation of being fierce to take over England and gain the throne by force.



Harold Godwinson and William Duke of Normandy were the other two men who wanted to claim the throne. Harold Godwinson became King which caused Harald Hardrada to invade England. He landed his army near York and met Harold Godwinson at The Battle of Stamford Bridge (25th September 1066). Harald Hardrada lost.







# Edgar Atheling

By Taylor Bees

Edgar Atheling, or Edgar the Atheling was Edward the Confessors brother. When Edward the Confessor died in 1066, Edgar was next in line to the throne but was over seen as at the time he was only 10. After The Battle of Hastings, and the death of Harold Godwinson, Edgar was given the job as King but is was short lived as William the Conqueror forced Edgar to abdicate and so he was crowned King William the first. Edgar went on to live a long life which only very rarely discussed in which he spent as a prisoner of King Williams, but escaped and went to Scotland with his sister. He gathered an army in the attempt to support the rebellious Northern Earls against the Normans and they tried to invade Northern England. During one of these attempts he was captured by Normans and had his life spared. He then spent years captive of the Norman royal family.





# 7 Facts People Didn't Know About Bloody Mary

**She was the first ever woman to be crowned Queen of England !**

By Zara Naghibi

**Mary was engaged to be married, aged 2 and a half years old, to a French dauphin !**

**Mary was quite short sighted !**

**She was a fan of strawberries and cream!**

**She was an accomplished and talented musician !**

**Her Father (Henry VIII) called her his little pearl !**

**Mary was not allowed to attend her mother's funeral !**



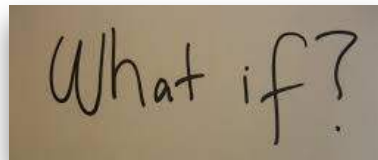


# What if?...

By Victoria Woolmer

## What if the Battle of Hastings had never occurred?

Well, firstly, the English language would have much less of a Latin influence due to them not being exposed to the French. If that had happened Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and other inspirational writers may not have written their infamous novels, plays and poems! However, that's not definite as it is highly likely that the French Empire would have been significantly larger and, consequently, Britain would have been invaded by them and perhaps even become part of the ever growing French Empire. Having said that, Great Britain certainly wouldn't be the superpower that they are today, they would likely be split with England and Wales together and Scotland being an independent country. That would solve all of the problems about the Scottish Referendum but would cause an extreme problem in tennis for England and Wales...



## What if Bloody Mary wasn't actually as bad as we envisioned her?

To be perfectly frank, she wasn't as cruel or bad as we have her put down for. During her reign (5 years) she actually only killed 284 people. If you divide this figure by 5 you see that she killed around 56.8 people per year. However, you then take a look at Edward VI, who reigned for 6 years and killed approximately 5,500 people over that time. Dividing it in the same way as we did with Mary you get an average of him killing 916.66 people per year. I know that you will still think that some of her ways of killing, such as burning, boiling and other tortuous ways to die, were inhumane and unnecessary but does that detract from the fact that she still killed considerably less people than Edward VI, despite it being for religious reasons and not the so called "criminals" that were killed by Edward VI. Bloody Edward, Bloody Edward, Bloody Edward...



# Puzzle Pages

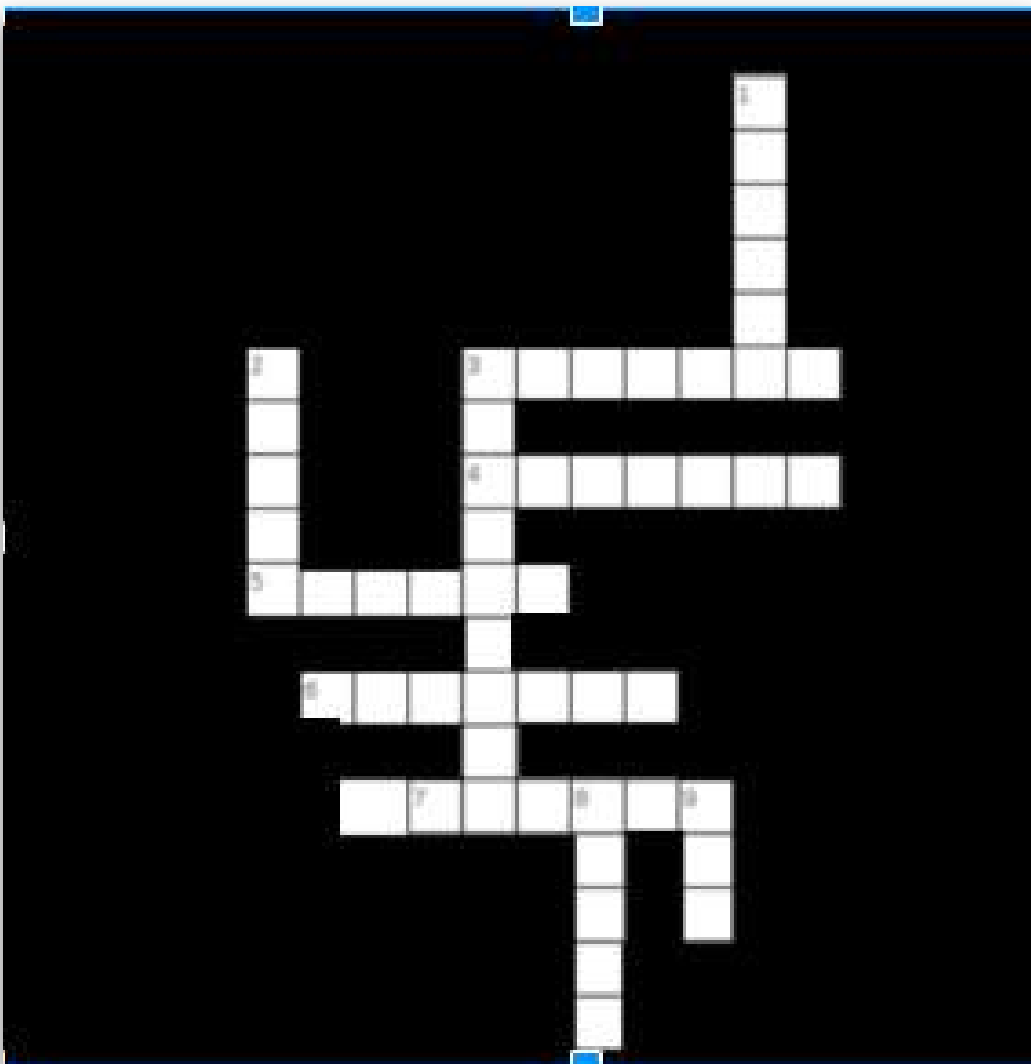
By Katie Sharp and Rebecca Ward



Catholic  
Counter  
Mary  
Burning  
Henry  
Cramner  
Spain  
Catherine  
France  
Elizabeth

Fun Fact: During the battle both sides took a break for lunch.





Fun Fact: The first man recorded to be killed in the battle was William the Conqueror's jester, Taillefer.

Fun fact: The battle was fought and won in a day, starting around 9am and closing at dusk.

### Across

- 3 The slave trade act was passed to ----- (7)
- 4 Something that was abolished in 1833 (7)
- 5 British ----- (6)
- 6 The language that would help the slaves if they knew it (7)
- 7 Many white people were this to their black slaves (6)



### Down

- 1 Things put in meals to make them taste nicer that come from the empire (6)
- 2 Slave ----- (5)
- 3 A place in the British Empire furthest away from Britain (9)
- 8 The first place in the British Empire to demand (but fail to get) independency (5)
- 9 A drink that came from India (3)







# The Beastly Bs in History

By Daisy Olyett

## The Battle of Britain

During this momentous battle that proved victorious many lives were lost and gruesome injuries were made. More than 1700 *Luftwaffe* (German air force) planes were destroyed. The 2662 German casualties included many experienced aircrew, and the *Luftwaffe* never fully recovered from the reverse it suffered in August-October 1940. The Royal Air Force (RAF) lost 1250 planes with 1017 fighters and 520 serving with fighter command.

Some were a little more lucky and escaped with injuries mostly because if their plane was shot down it could burst into flames burning who is ever with in it before using their ejector seat. Many of these badly burned men ended up in the plastic and jaw injury centre at Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, Sussex.



## The Battle of Hastings

It is fair to say that Britain has been through the wars, Europe has been constantly been fighting over us for almost a millennium which nasty consequences. In fact, during the Battle Of Hastings it is said that Harold Godwinson was shot in the eye by an arrow! It is even said that he pulled the arrow out of his eye, snapped it in half and stayed on the battlefield. How British!





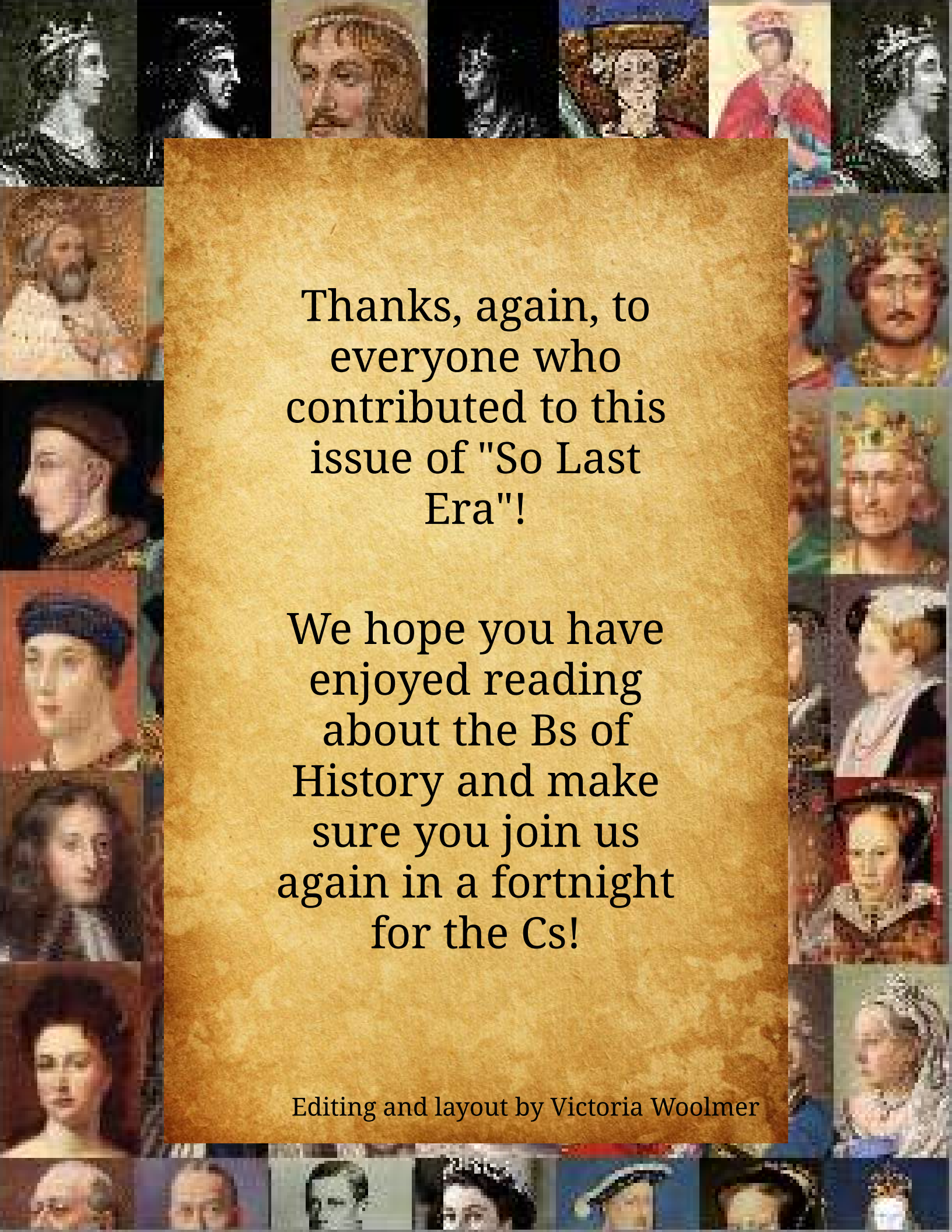


## The British Empire

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “concentration camp”? You may say Nazis but they were not the only ones who used this method. In fact whilst the British Empire was expanding to South Africa they thought that they only way to keep the native Africans under control was keep them in concentration camps. 10% Of the entire Boer population was lost to such camps including 22,000 children. But the atrocity didn’t stop there. While rounding up the Boers, the British also decided to detain any black Africans they encountered, 20,000 of whom were worked to death in slave labor camps. All told, British policy in the war killed 48,000 civilians. That’s 18,000 more than the number of soldiers lost on both sides.







Thanks, again, to  
everyone who  
contributed to this  
issue of "So Last  
Era"!

We hope you have  
enjoyed reading  
about the Bs of  
History and make  
sure you join us  
again in a fortnight  
for the Cs!

Editing and layout by Victoria Woolmer