

# Battle of Britain Songs:

## 1. PASTORAL ENGLAND (CD 1-2)

**ALL:**

**A sunny day, no cloud in the sky  
Kick that ball, and throw it high  
Cricket and cartwheels, all fun and play  
A sunny day that no-one can take away.**

**The fields are green, the sky is blue  
The birds are singing, and we are too.  
But over the white cliffs we suddenly hear  
A deaf'ning roar that's coming near,  
Bringing terror, bringing fear....**

**The enemy invasion is up in the sky,  
We stop and we wonder as they thunder by.  
Bombers approaching like large birds of prey.  
Hitler is coming, do we run away, or stay?**

## 2. THE FEELING OF FLYING (CD 3-4)

*NARRATOR (Charles):*

*Sense the rush of the wind whistling past you,  
Suddenly there's no ground below.*

**ALL:**

**And you're flying!  
Up in the air, free as a bird way up there.  
You're flying!  
Touching the sky, into the blue way up high.**

*NARRATOR (Charles):*

*... The engine is roaring, spirits are soaring,  
Up there on top of the world.*

**ALL:**

**When you're flying!  
Up in the air, free as a bird way up high.  
You're flying!  
Up in the clouds,  
feeling at one with that wide open sky.**

**STAGE CHOIR:**

Down below, places you know  
Look so diff'rent from here.  
Meadows like sheets, the houses like sweets,  
And people too tiny to see.

Will they look up, and see you fly over,  
Wave as they watch you fly by?  
Say hello with a dip of your wing tip,  
There's no better feeling up high.

**ALL:**

**When you're flying!  
Up in the air, free as a bird way up there.  
You're flying!  
Touching the sky, into the blue, way up high.**

*NARRATOR (Charles):*

*.. Don't think about dying, just focus on flying,  
Up there away from the crowds..*

**ALL:**

**When you're flying!  
Up in the air, free as a bird way up high.  
You're flying! Up in the clouds,  
feeling at one with that wide open sky.  
Up in the sky.... In the sky.**

## 3. EVACUEES' SONG (CD 5-6)

**STAGE CHOIR:**

It's eerily quiet as we wait for the train.  
Where are we going?  
When will we see our homes again?  
Crowded on the platform,  
there's hundreds of us here.  
Some are quite excited,  
but most of us are full of fear.

My gas mask's round my neck,  
my suitcase in my hand.  
Why must I leave my family?  
I just don't understand.  
They say it's safe in the country,  
but what about the others?  
Will they be safe in London –  
our Mums and Dads, and brothers?

**ALL:**

**I must try not to cry,  
when my Mum says 'goodbye'.  
I must try to be brave, because she's trying too.  
Though she says that she's just got some dust in  
her eye.  
I'm going far away,  
and I'll miss home ev'ry day,  
And the world feels a very strange place today.**

**SOLO BOY:**

It's a long time since breakfast  
and my tum's really rumbling.  
I'm sure I'm not the only one,  
but no-one else is grumbling.  
Mum gave me some sandwiches,  
and cocoa in a flask.  
I've got so many questions,  
but I don't know who to ask.

### **STAGE CHOIR:**

We're scared of being homesick,  
suppose our Mums don't write?  
And who will hold us close when we  
feel frightened in the night?  
Dad says it's an adventure,  
and we'll be safe from harm.  
He says it should be fun to try out living on a farm.

### **ALL:**

**I must try not to cry  
when my mum says 'goodbye'.  
I must try to be brave, because she's trying too.  
Though she says that she's just got some dust in  
her eye.  
I'm going far away,  
and I'll miss home ev'ry day,  
And the world feels a very strange place today**

### **4. THE RULES OF FIGHTING (CD 7-8)**

#### **ALL:**

**When you see the enemy up in the skies,  
Wait 'til you see the whites of his eyes,  
then fire!... Fire!  
When you're shooting think of nothing else;  
Brace your body and concentrate,  
then fire!....Fly higher!**

**Height's an advantage if you want to stay alive.  
But have some protection from above when you  
dive, and fire!**

**Never fly straight for more than half a minute.  
Face the attack and believe you can win it,  
and fire!....Fire!  
Discipline and team work,  
they're what really matter.  
Go in quick, punch hard! Then scatter!**

### **5. DIG FOR VICTORY (CD 9-10)**

#### **ALL:**

**Dig, dig, dig for victory,  
Plant some veg'tables, sow some seeds.  
Dig, dig, dig for victory,  
Let's get rid of those weeds!**

**Plant, plant, plant the food we need,  
Do some gardening all day long.  
Plant, plant, healthy veg'tables,  
That way we'll grow strong!**

#### *NARRATOR (Charles):*

*...So many people and cattle to feed,*

#### **ALL:**

**Come and give a hand on the land.**

#### *NARRATOR (Mary):*

*Grow all the greens that are good for you.  
When you have spare time what do you do?*

**ALL: Come and give a hand on the land.  
(divided into Choirs 1 & 2 now sing as a round):**

**Dig, dig, dig for victory  
Plant some veg'tables, sow some seeds.  
Dig, dig, dig for victory,  
let's get rid of those weeds!**

**Plant, plant, plant the food we need,  
Do some gardening all day long.  
Plant, plant, healthy veg'tables,  
That way we'll grow strong!**

#### **ALL:**

**Dig, dig, dig for victory,  
Plant some veg'tables, sow some seeds.  
Dig, dig, dig for victory,  
Let's get rid of those weeds!**

### **6. HUNTING FOR SPIES (CD 11-12, 13-14)**

#### *NARRATOR (Charles):*

*...Then tell a grown-up whatever you saw.  
It could be important for the war.*

#### **ALL:**

**Hunting for spies is such a favourite pastime,  
Hunting for spies is always fun.  
You see that man with glasses sitting opposite  
you,  
Is that beard real or just stuck on with glue?  
Yes, hunting for spies is an important mission,  
Keep a look out for that nun!**

**Hunting for spies, a very serious business.**

**Looking for people in disguise.**

**You see someone look shifty while you wait for  
the bus-**

**Could he be a spy or is he just one of us?**

**That silly moustache looks just a bit like Hitler!**

**Keep your eyes peeled for those spies.**

*NARRATOR (Mary):*

*... Be quick and stealthy, and watch where she goes. She might be a Nazi, who knows?*

**ALL:**

**Hunting for spies is such a favourite pastime,  
Looking for people in disguise.  
You see someone look shifty as you wait for the bus-  
Could he be a spy or is he just one of us?  
That silly moustache looks just a bit like Hitler!  
Keep a look out for those spies.**

**Hunting for spies is fun,  
Hunting for spies is great,  
Keep your eyes peeled for those spies!**

## **7. MAKE THE CHILDREN SAFE** (CD 15-16)

*NARRATOR (Mary):*

*.....They had no childhood at all.*

**STAGE CHOIR:**

Hin-eh mah tov. U-mah nay-im,  
she-vet ahim gam ya-had.

*NARRATOR (Mary):*

*.....These children got to safety just in time.*

**ALL:** *(with occasional stage choir harmony)*

**Do what you can to make them safe from harm,  
Open your heart and give them peace and calm.  
(Give them a...) Give them a home, a refuge,  
A safe haven where children learn and play,  
without fear and alarm.**

**Robbed of their childhood,  
bewildered and alone.  
Far from their homes  
and all that they have known.**

*(A cold wind blows)* **A cold wind blows in Europe.  
Let them live here, to grow up safe and strong,  
In a place they feel is home.**

## **8. CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES** (CD 17-18)

**ALL:**

**Never tell a soul, even your brother.  
Careless talk costs lives.  
Always keeping mum, even from your mother.  
Careless talk costs lives.  
The person who keeps secrets is the person who survives  
Don't tell a soul, except your commander,  
Careless talk costs lives.  
(Repeat this chorus after narration.)**

## **9. SCRAMBLE** (CD 19-20)

**(reprise of Feeling of Flying)**

*NARRATOR (Charles):*

*.. Feel the thud of your heart in your ribcage,  
In seconds you'll take off again*

**ALL:**

**And you're flying!  
Up in the air, exposed like a bird way up there.  
You're flying!  
Touching the sky,  
but danger is always nearby.**

*NARRATOR (Charles):*

*I have a choice – climb sharply to get above them,  
dive underneath, or fly straight through their line.*

**STAGE CHOIR:**

Feel no fear, tho' the enemy is near,  
When the call comes to 'scramble'.  
Hold your nerve, you dive and you swerve,  
Your mind is as clear as the air.

Hear the orders come through in your headphones,  
Watch for the planes to appear.  
See the Messerschmitts zooming towards you,  
The moment you've trained for is here.

**ALL:**

**And you're flying!  
Up in the air, exposed like a bird way up there.  
You're flying!  
Touching the sky, but danger is always nearby.**

## **10. LISTENING IN** (CD 21-24)

*(& Stage Choir: Keep the Home Fires Burning)*

*NARRATOR (Mary):*

*We even tell their air speed and the shape of their formation.*

**ALL:**

**List'ning in, list'ning in,  
We're Churchill's secret weapon,  
we've got Hitler in a spin.  
We know each plane's position,  
though no-one knows we're there.  
We're helping all our pilots fight the battle in  
the air.  
List'ning in, list'ning in,  
With radar we can help our airmen win.**

*NARRATOR (Charles):*

*.....Now we could get our planes back up in the air again.*

**ALL:** *(second verse)*

**List'ning in, list'ning in,  
We're Churchill's secret weapon,  
we've got Hitler in a spin.  
We don't crack under pressure,  
we're cool and we are smart,  
We're radar operators and we're going to play  
our part.  
List'ning in, list'ning in.  
With radar we can help our pilots win.**

*NARRATOR (Mary):*

*..... We wrapped ourselves up in blankets and sang  
to keep our spirits up.*

**STAGE CHOIR AND MARY:**

Keep the home fires burning,  
While your hearts are yearning.  
Though your lads are far away  
They dream of home.

There's a silver lining,  
Through the dark clouds shining.  
Turn the dark cloud inside out  
'til the boys come home.

**11. THE DECISIVE BATTLE** (CD 25-28)

*(reprise of Rules of Fighting)*

**ALL:**

**When you see the enemy up in the skies  
Wait 'til you see the whites of his eyes,  
then fire!....Fire!  
When you're shooting think of nothing else,  
Brace your body and concentrate,  
then fire!....Fly higher!**

*NARRATOR (Charles):*

*.....and the Spitfires and Hurricanes were up in the air again.*

**ALL:**

**Never fly straight for more than half a minute  
Face the attack and believe you can win it,  
and fire!.... Fire!  
Discipline and team work, they're what really  
matter.  
Go in quick, punch hard! Then scatter!**

**12. PEACE SONG** (CD 29-30)

*NARRATOR:*

*.....The war was not over yet- but that's another  
story.*

**ALL:**

**We beg for peace in our world,  
A prayer for peace in the future.  
A place where children are safe  
and war is no more,  
We can be at ease, as we were before.  
A prayer for love in our lives,  
danger is past for us at last,  
if not for ev'ryone.**

**We pray that war will be no more,  
And peace will soon be near.  
To make all Europe safe at last,  
So that our loved ones can live without fear.**

**We beg for peace in our world,  
A prayer of hope for the future.  
A country free from the threat of invasion and  
strife,  
To enjoy at last our ev'ryday life.**

**A prayer for hope in our lives,  
Conflict is past.  
Let peace at last prevail for ev'ryone.  
Let peace at last prevail for ev'ryone.**

**END**