

Winston Churchill's Speech – 20 August, 1940
House of Commons, United Kingdom
The Gratitude of Every Home

The great air battle which has been in progress over this island for the last few weeks has recently attained a high intensity. It is too soon to assign limits either to its scale or to its duration. We must certainly expect that greater efforts will be made by the enemy than any he has so far put forth.

I shall not attempt to describe in detail what is happening in this struggle in the air, but I will say that with almost every day that passes, the Royal Air Force develops a more intense and a wider offensive. It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that we have been able to send large reinforcements of aircraft and pilots to the fighting forces in the last fortnight—reinforcements which have not yet reached their full strength.

We are able to do this because our reserves are adequate and because our production is increasing. At no time since the war began have we been in greater peril than we are now. It is necessary that I should say this, because no other preparation for battle can be so effective as the knowledge that it is soon to begin.

The Threat of Invasion

The efforts of the enemy to smash our air power and break our morale by the mass bombing of London and other cities must be anticipated. It is quite certain that if they cannot dominate our airfields, they will make desperate attempts to paralyze our war industries and terrorize our civilian population.

These grim days are not yet over, and we must be prepared for worse to come. No one must be blind to the fact that a serious invasion of this island is being prepared. If this invasion is attempted, it will be the most deadly battle of all.

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour."

The Few

The fighters are winning their battles in the air magnificently. All hearts go out to the fighter pilots, whose brilliant actions we see with our own eyes day after day. But we must also think of the young bomber crews, who night after night, without rest, are driving deep into the heart of Germany and striking down targets that make the enemy's life harder. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few. All our hearts go out to the fighter pilots who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of the war by their prowess and by their devotion. Never before in the history of war have so many owed so much to so few.

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Winston Churchill's Speech – 20 August, 1940

ALEXANDER CORRY CAVELL M.A. B.Sc. F.R.I.C. 1906-1994.

Staff 1935-1966, Housemaster Fircroft 1947-1962, Trustee 1971-1976

The instigator of the expansion of science teaching at Uppingham School

In the mid-20th century, the driving force behind the construction and development of the Old Science School. Author of four books on chemistry used widely in British schools from the 1950s-1970s.

**Drawing of Corry Cavell
by Juliet Pannett, MBE, FRSA 1911-2005.**

A distinguished portrait painter with many pictures in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery. The school archive collection has one other drawing by Juliet Pannett, that of OU Lt. General Sir Brian Horrocks KCB, KBE, DSO, MC.

1909-Dec 1912 SH

DENIS PANNETT Professional Artist. Fellow of the Guild of Aviation Artists.

OU May 1953-1957 F

**Denis generously donated two iconic paintings to the
school archive collection in 2021.**

**'Hurricanes Returning Home' (on the left)
Spitfire 1X's of 611 Squadron 'Climbing Over The Coast.' (on the right)**

**Denis wished the paintings to be hung in tribute to those Uppinghamians
who flew in the Battle of Britain, and they are listed below:**

BENJAMIN HARVEY BOWRING Jan 1932-Dec 1935 B

GILBERT GRAHAM FAIRLEY DRAPER 1934-Dec 1937 WB

GUY ARTHUR FOWNES EDMISTON 1931-Dec 1935 M

SIDNEY JENKYN HILL May 1931-1935 C KIA

JACK DAVID HUMPHREYS 1933-1935 R KIA

MICHAEL ROOK 1929-1933 LH

EDWARD GEORGE TITLEY 1925-1930 WB KIA