

Sir Winston Churchill: The greatest Briton?

1940 We shall never surrender: video transcript

Our own fate and the fate of the world depended upon our victory in the air. "If we can keep command of the air over our island", he told the French government at Briare, when they were begging us to send them more fighter support, "we will win it all back for you". On the 10th of July the Battle of Britain opened. September the 15th was the climax. It was touch and go. But as we left the headquarters of number 11 Fighter Group late that evening we felt sure somehow that a great victory had been won.

Churchill sat silent in his car for a few minutes and then almost to himself he uttered the words he later repeated and which will live forever:

Churchill's voice:

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

Dimbleby's voice:

As we now know Churchill's voice broadcast from London in our darkest hour gave hope and comfort to millions under the Nazi yoke throughout Europe.

Extract from BBC obituary of Churchill narrated by Richard Dimbleby