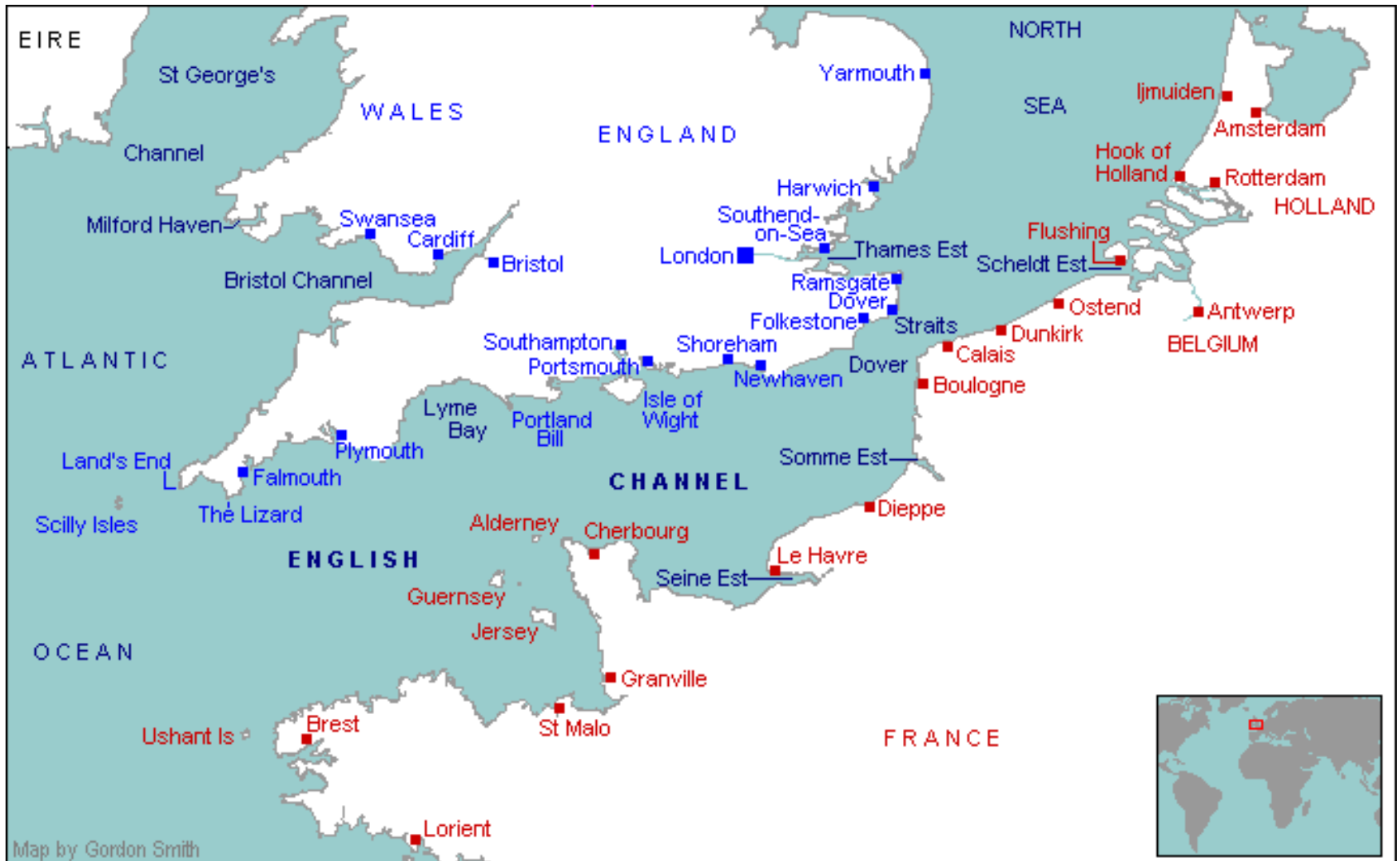


The Battle of Britain

Once the German army had pushed back the British and occupied France, the operation to bomb Britain by the German Luftwaffe began. The Original intention Was to destroy most of the major cities and the moral of the British people. These air attacks would then be followed by a German invasion and a possible German victory and an end to World War II. What the Germans did not take into consideration was the will of the British people to never surrender

Map of England and France showing Dunkirk



On their way to Dunkirk



During the early stages of World War II the British and the French attempted to hold off the German invasion of France. Due to blitzkrieg and a superior German army, the British troops who were sent over were pushed backwards. This picture shows the British troops on their way to France to fight the Germans

The evacuation of Dunkirk



The Battle of Britain

- **What General Weygand called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us.**
- **Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this Island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science.**
- **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.'**
- **Winston Churchill - June 18, 1940**

Barrage balloons were used hoping to entangle enemy planes. However, most of the time, they deflated and fell down into the streets



German bombers on their way to London



Gas masks were required at all times



Many young children were evacuated from the cities, some to the British countryside, others as far as Canada, Australia and New Zealand



Air Raid Wardens were constantly on their guard for new waves of German bombers. Many were civilians, especially women, or veterans of World War I



Collection of London Transport Museum

Despite the German bombs, St. Paul's Cathedral still stood, untouched among the smoke and flames



For those children who stayed, the rubble became an exciting and adventurous playground. However, unexploded bombs were always found





After the “All-Clear” life tried to continue as normal as possible



During the raids on London many lived
in the Underground stations



“scramble” became part of daily life



A British Spitfire engaging a German ME-109 over the White Cliffs of Dover



Even though vastly outnumbered, the Spitfire and the Hurricane shot down so many German bombers that the plan for the invasion of Britain was postponed



Lance Russwurm

**"NEVER WAS SO MUCH
OWED BY SO MANY
TO SO FEW"** *THE PRIME MINISTER*



