

Well, it was like this. One day the king of England heard that some nasty people in Germany might be thinking about coming over to the United Kingdom and causing Trouble. So, he asked his ministers what to do.

They put him in touch with a chap called Mr Mitchell, who had made a racing Aeroplane that had done quite well and another gentleman called Mr Camm.

Mr Mitchell and Mr Camm said they'd have a go at making a special aeroplane to help stop bad people from coming over and causing Trouble. They also mentioned that it would need a special engine to make it go extra fast.

So... The ministers had a word with Mr Royce and asked him if he'd make a special engine to make Mr Mitchell and Mr Camm's aeroplanes go extra fast. Mr Royce, a kindly and accommodating man, said he'd take a short break from making fancy cars to knock something together.

Then the King realised they needed some chaps to fly these special aeroplanes so he asked the 'World's Best Flying Club' if they knew anyone.

As it happened, they did. They also knew a few brave men in Poland, India, America, Canada and a few other places...

And so a few good men, boys really, in a few amazing aeroplanes, built by ordinary British men and women in workshops and factories all over the country, took off from their grass air strips and showed the world's most sophisticated mechanised force that they couldn't just fly over our green and pleasant land without there being a bit of a reaction.