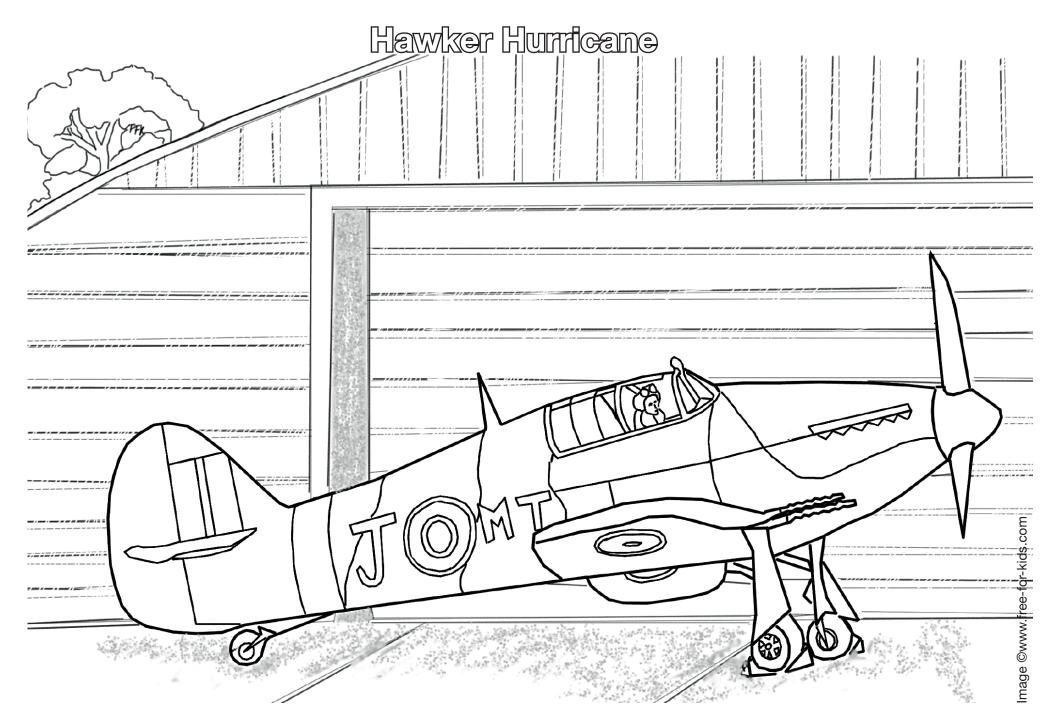




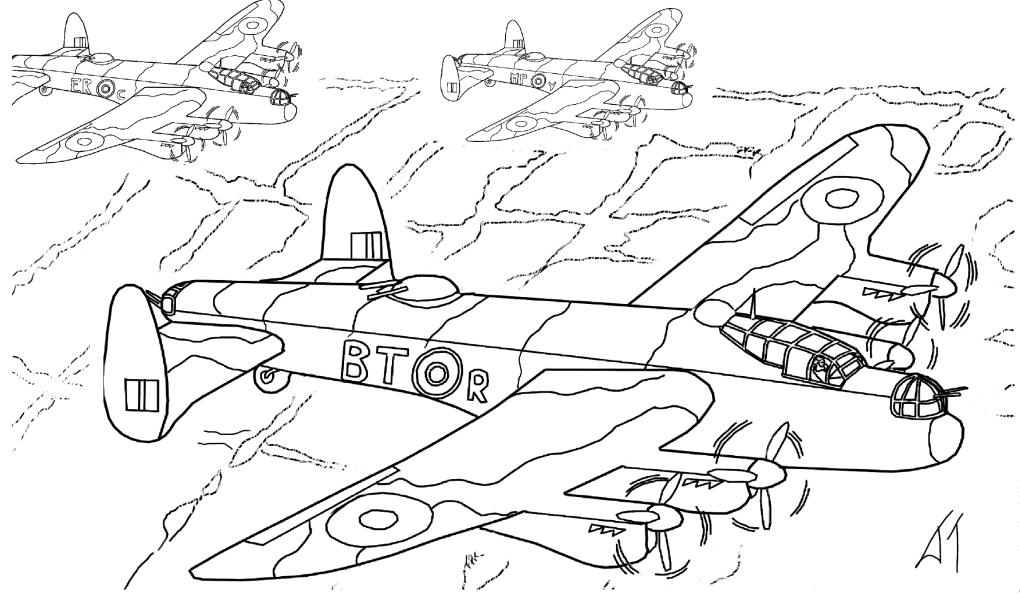
The B17 Flying Fortress was developed for USAAF during the 1930s, it had four engines and became known as Flying Fortress because of its multiple gun defences and ability to survive significant battle damage. In this picture the plane is returning to its base. There were bases at RAF Kimbolton, Bassingbourne and Alconbury near to Ely.





The Hawker Hurricane was another fighter plane that played a critical role in the Battle of Britain. This single seat fighter plane was also adapted to perform bombing missions - Hurribombers and to be catapulted from the decks of battle ships - Hurricats. A Hurricane belonging to 310 Sqn RAF crashed near to Ely on Oct 16 1940.

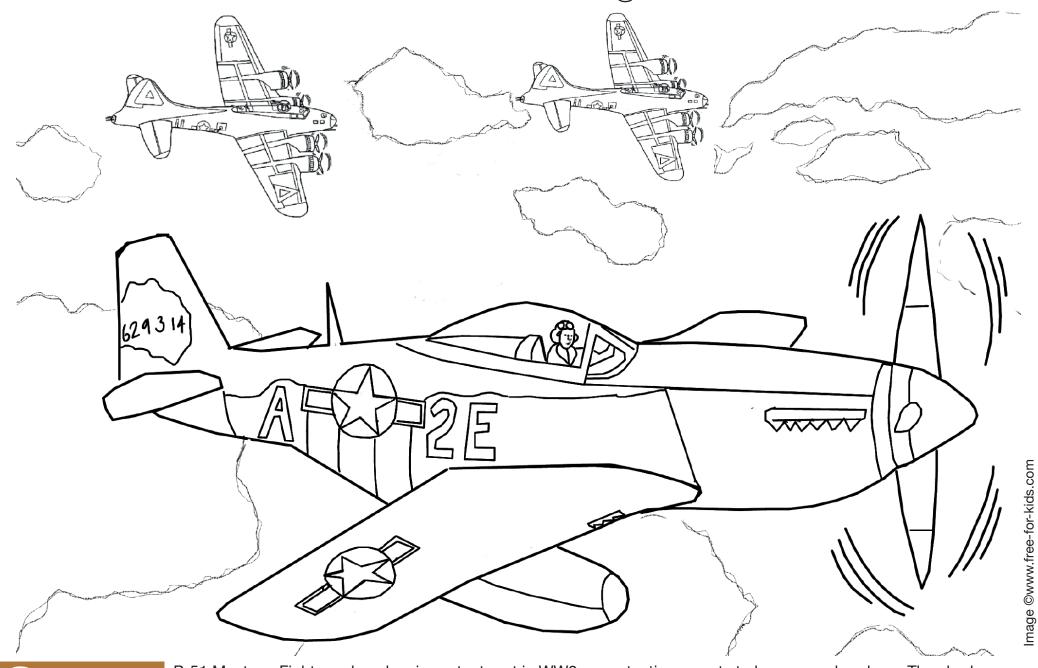
Lancaster Bomber





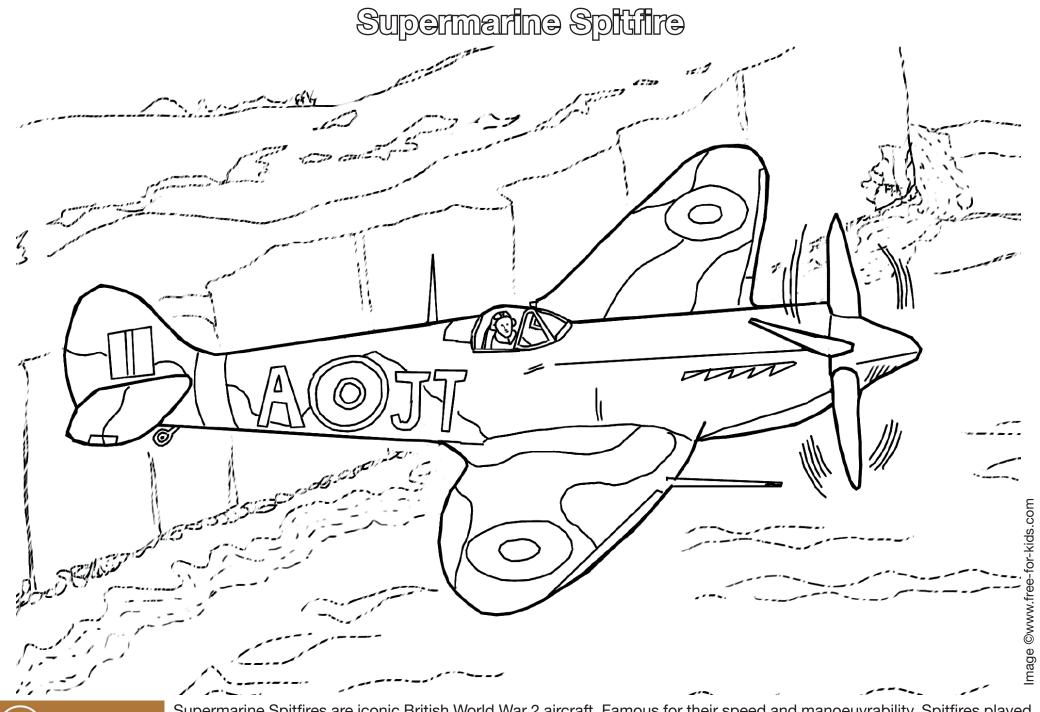
The Lancaster Bomber came into service in 1942. The long four engines and was famous for long range heavy bombing missions under the cover of darkness with some of the heaviest WW2 bombs available. There was a Lancaster base at RAF Mepal and Witchford near to Ely. Both planes feature in a memorial stained glass window in Ely Cathedral.

P51 - Mustang





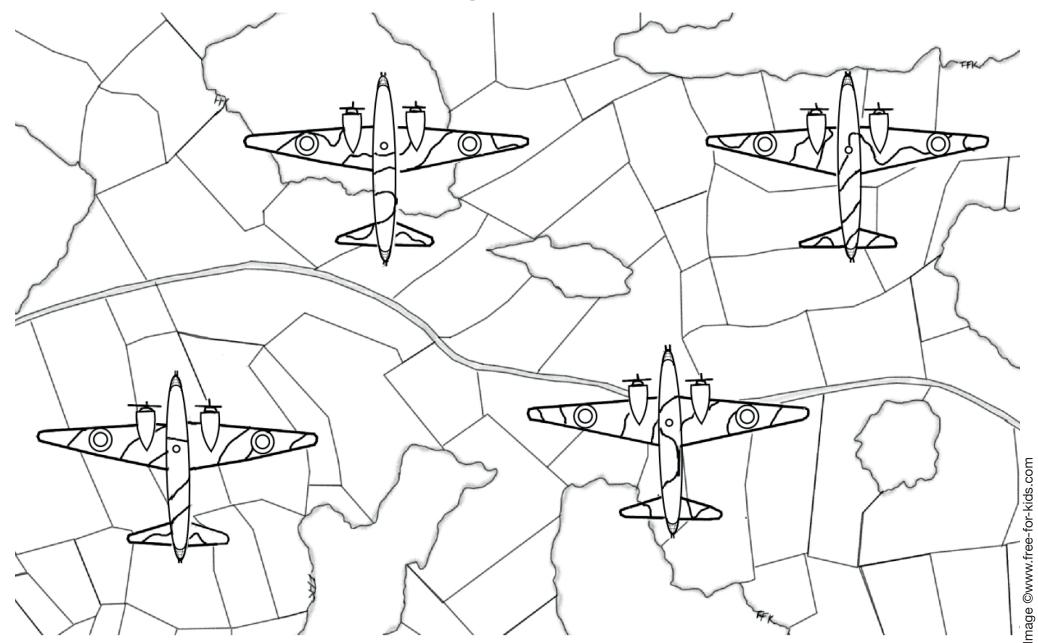
P-51 Mustang Fighters played an important part in WW2 as protective escorts to long range bombers. They had a range of over 1000 miles and was armed with six Browning M2 machine guns. This picture shows a Mustang escourting a formation of B17 Bombers. There were Mustangs based at RAF Boltisham in Cambridgeshire.



Visit Ely Supe

Supermarine Spitfires are iconic British World War 2 aircraft. Famous for their speed and manoeuvrability, Spitfires played a vital role in winning the Battle of Britain. This picture shows a Spitfire flying near to the White Cliffs of Dover. Spitfires were based at RAF Duxford, Cambridgeshire during the Battle of Britain

Wellington Bomber





The Wellington Bomber was used for bombing runs at the start of World War 2 but the aircraft was quickly became too vulnerable to attack by fighter planes. Other large bombers took its place but the Wellington carried on flying less hazardous missions. There was a Wellington base at Raf Witchford and Mepal near to Ely.