

ENGLISH • EDUCATION RESOURCE

'**Scars of The Un-fought Battle**' explores military aviation crashes in Shropshire from the 1940's and was made possible by funding from Heritage Lottery Fund. During the summer of 2017, 60 young people from across Shropshire explored this relatively unknown area of local history and developed their film-making skills by creating video documentaries. The six films on this website are a record of their journey of discovery.

Inspired by the book '**Pancakes and Prangs**' written by local aviation history enthusiast Thomas Thorne, the 6 groups of young people researched details of different plane crashes from the 1940's. The book details over **700 plane crashes in Shropshire**. The locations chosen included an Airfield in the north of the county, the Shropshire Hills, and South Shropshire too.

This project gave participants the opportunity to visit the beautiful Shropshire countryside, meet wonderful people, learn incredible facts, and experience film making and drone-flying. Please watch the films for their own worth, and think about them in relation to the following activities.

During the 1940's Shropshire was full of Airfields: Attingham Park, Condover, Sleaf and many more. Whilst some still exist today others have vanished. Aircrew, from many different nationalities were based in Shropshire learning to fly and to support the aircrew who took to the skies. 'Pancakes and Prangs' by Thomas Thorne looks at over 700 crashes in Shropshire and from the details and names of those who had accidents it is clear to see that the pilots came from far and wide.



Activity 1: Pretend you're an 18 year old Canadian man, you've been stationed in Shropshire with others from your unit and you're learning to fly. Write a letter to your parents about your life here. Include some hopes and fears. Remember, as training pilots, seeing crashes was not un-common.

Activity 2: Inspired by one of the short films, write a poem describing the crash in question.

Activity 3: Write a newspaper report detailing a specific crash.

Activity 4: From a child's point of view produce a piece of creative writing about witnessing a crash.