

WW2 - was Britain alone?

It is often thought and said that Britain was alone in WW2. This cartoon appeared in the *Evening Standard* Newspaper on 18 June 1940. It shows a British Soldier shaking his fist at a squadron of German bombers. The soldier is supposed to represent Britain.



VERY WELL, ALONE

Question one:

Why do you think the soldier is shown on a small rock in stormy seas?
(Answer this in full sentences before moving on). Then scroll down to the next page.

Some facts about 1940:

- France had just surrendered to the Nazis.
- The British soldiers who had gone to fight the Germans in France had been forced to escape from Dunkirk with many casualties.
- America, yet to join the war, was prevented from resupplying Britain because of the Neutrality Act.
- Russia had agreed not to fight against Germany.
- In 1940, Britain still had an Empire.
- On the same day Britain declared war both Australia and New Zealand issued their own declarations.
- Three days later South Africa entered the conflict and, the day after that, Canada.
- By the end of the war, 2.25 million Indian soldiers (the largest volunteer army on earth) and a third of a million African servicemen fought in the British Army.
- By the end of the war, almost 7,000 men from the Caribbean joined the RAF
- This cartoon appeared in *Punch* magazine in July 1940



- In 1943, the Daily Express printed, “We frequently say that in the Battle of Britain we stood alone. But we were never just these little islands entirely by themselves. Canadian troops were among us. Australian troops were here. From all parts of the Empire aid flowed to us in men and goods.”

Question two:

How accurate do you think the “Very well, alone” cartoon is? Explain your answer with evidence from the facts on this page.