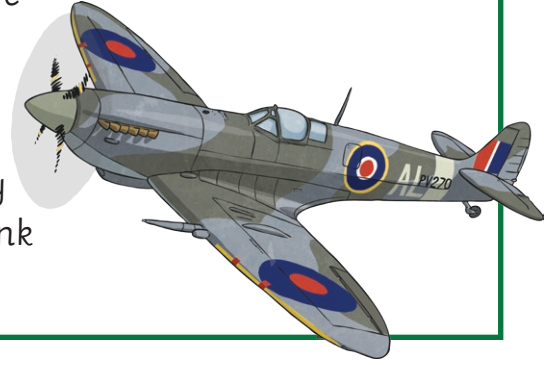


The Second World War Diary of George Bramwell, aged 14

I'm feeling really confused tonight. We listened to another broadcast yesterday by Charles Gardner who was describing a dog fight near Dover. I thought it sounded brilliant; we could hear the bombing going on in the background as Gardner described what was happening and I couldn't help but cheer along with him as he reported what he could see '...and there he goes. Smash!' A lot of people have been complaining about it though. Elsie said Emmie was crying and shouting, 'It's not a football match!' at the wireless. I know people are losing their lives but it is hard not to get caught up in all the excitement too. Sometimes it feels like this war is all just a big game but I suppose if we were the players it wouldn't be so entertaining. I feel very guilty now for enjoying listening to the broadcast. I don't think I'll be able to sleep tonight.



1. What does the phrase '**dog fight**' mean?



2. **Compare** how the two characters, George (the narrator) and Emmie, react differently to the broadcast?



3. '*Sometimes it feels like this war is just a big game but I suppose if we were the players it wouldn't be so entertaining.*'

Explain George's mixed feelings when he wrote this sentence in his diary.



4. **Find** and **copy** the word that was used in the 1940s for 'radio'.

The Diary of George Bramwell Answers

1. What does the phrase 'dog fight' mean?

'Dog fights' were the nickname given to close range fighter jet battles during the war.

2. **Compare** how the two characters, George (the narrator) and Emmie react differently to the broadcast?

George thought that the broadcast sounded 'brilliant' and cheered along as the reporter discussed the bombings. Emmie reacted in the complete opposite way and began to cry as she realised that the bombing meant the loss of life.

3. *'Sometimes it feels like this war is just a big game but I suppose if we were the players it wouldn't be so entertaining.'*

Explain George's mixed feelings when he wrote this sentence in his diary.

George was feeling very confused as he felt guilty for getting excited at the broadcast earlier in the night and cheering along to it as though it were a football match. He had now realised that if he were a fighter pilot (a player) then he would probably not find these sorts of battles so appealing.

4. **Find and copy** the word that was used in the 1940s for 'radio'.
wireless