

# [From Prototype to Defender of the Skies: The Story of the Spitfire](#)

The British Spitfire – the iconic, high performance aircraft, celebrated for its maneuverability, speed and fire power – helped the RAF turn the tide of the Second World War (1939-1945) in the Allies' favour. Here we tell the Spitfire story and commemorate the 85th anniversary of its prototype K5054's maiden flight at the former Southampton Municipal Airport (now Southampton Airport) on 5 March 1936. The first spitfires The Spitfire had its genesis in the 1930s at the Supermarine Aviation Works [Read more](#)