The Phantom Airman

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Put the events in the order they happen in the story. The first is 1.

1  Frankie and Regan visit Florrie Skinner and find out the pilot was her boyfriend.

•  Frankie, Regan, Jack and Tom are standing in the middle of Lychford Green airfield.

2  Frankie’s gran tells Frankie and Regan that the crash happened in 1940.

3  Jack and Tom visit the museum and find out about a diary written in code.

4  Regan wakes up in the night and visits the airfield again. She sees the pilot and the burning plane.

5  The four friends visit the airfield. They see the ghost of the pilot and find a piece of metal.

6  The children go to the airfield with a metal detector and find the entrance to the old Ops Room.

7  The children go to the Bowles’ house and Jack goes inside to get the diary and discovers who the traitor was.

8  The children hide and see Terry Bowles come in and open the safe. He sees a ghost and drops a bag from the safe.

9  The children tell their friend Darryl what they saw and he tells them about the Psychic Stain Theory.

10 The piece of metal scratches the word ‘TRAITOR’ on a table and later that night it scratches more words on Regan’s desk.

11 There is a storm and the children see a plane crash into a building.

12 Tom and Jack tell the girls what they found out from the newspaper office.
Read the sentences and circle true (T) or false (F).

13. The crash happened on 24th August 1940.   T / F
14. The pilot was called Darryl Pepper. He was Canadian.  T / F
15. Frankie’s gran is called Florrie Skinner.    T / F
16. Florrie has a photo of Glen before he died.      T / F
17. The Ops Room was bombed on 28th August 1940.  T / F
18. Nobody died when the Ops Room was bombed.      T / F
19. Terry Bowles promises to help the children with their project. T / F
20. The Squadron Leader was a traitor.           T / F

Match the words in the box to the correct definitions.

airfield     code     crash     evacuee     explosion     flames     phantom     pilot     ruin     traitor

21. a small airport for military or private planes
22. the parts of a building that remain after it has been badly damaged
23. the spirit of a dead person that someone sees / ghost
24. someone who flies an aeroplane
25. an accident that happens when a vehicle (like a plane) hits something
26. someone who is sent away from their home to live somewhere else because of a dangerous situation like a war
27. the brightly burning gas that you see coming from a fire
28. a system of words, numbers or signs used for sending secret messages
29. someone who is not loyal to their country, friends or family
30. an occasion when something like a bomb goes off

Dictionary definitions adapted from the Macmillan Essential Dictionary © 2005
Circle the correct verb forms to complete the text.

Four young people – two girls and two boys – were / have been standing in the long grass in the middle of Lychford Green airfield. The airfield wasn’t / hadn’t been used any more and all the buildings were in ruins. Their roofs fell / had fallen and their walls were broke / broken. Grass and weeds grew / were grown in the concrete runways. The airfield’s gates shut / were shut. They hadn’t / hadn’t been opened for many years. But the wire fence around the airfield was broke / broken in many places. The kids walk / had walked through one of the broken places. It was raining / rained, and the kids were wet and cold.

___ / 10

Total: ___ / 40

Extra: Exam Practice

Choose two events in the story to describe. Talk about what happens, the atmosphere and how the characters are feeling. Say why the events are important. Write between 60 and 80 words.