



**David Elliott**  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Western Sydney

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **BATTLE OF BRITAIN REMEMBERED**

Today we remember the service and sacrifice of those Australians who fought with the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain, one of the pivotal Allied victories during the Second World War.

Minister for Transport, Veterans and Western Sydney David Elliott said today is a day to remember and honour those Australians who served in the battle.

“On 15 September 1940, the Royal Air Force successfully repelled what the Germans believed would be their final decisive assault on Britain. Thirty five Australians flew operational flights during the Battle of Britain, beginning on 10 July 1940. Ten Australians were killed in action, although there were hundreds of Australians serving in the RAF, and more aircrew deaths during the combat period,” Mr Elliott said.

More than 39,000 Australians died during the Second World War, with many more wounded in action and approximately 22,000 becoming prisoners of war.

“The Battle of Britain was a turning point of the Second World War, of which Australians made a significant contribution. Despite being outnumbered, the Allies, including Australian service personnel, fought with courage and determination to repel the air attack on Britain.” Mr Elliott added.

Ron Glew OAM, President of the Air Force Association NSW said today was an important day to remember the sacrifice of those Australians who served and those that lost their lives defending our country during the Second World War.

“Today’s acknowledgment ensures that those Australians who served in the Battle of Britain in 1940 are remembered. It is important to remember and honor the role of these men and women in securing the livelihood of all Australians.” Mr Glew said.

Due to the passing of our Sovereign, the commemorations scheduled for the Cenotaph in Sydney and in Newcastle have been cancelled as a token of respect.

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