

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Minister for Juvenile Justice  
Minister for Youth  
Minister for Volunteering  
Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs  
The Hon. Graham West MP**



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**Tuesday, 15 September 2009**

### **MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGES BATTLE OF BRITAIN**

Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Graham West, has today attended the Battle of Britain commemoration service at Sydney's Martin Place Cenotaph.

The Battle of Britain began on the 10 July 1940 and involved an estimated 25 Australians who made operational flights during this air campaign.

Mr West said the 15<sup>th</sup> of September marks the day that the Royal Air Force (RAF) decisively prevailed against the relentless German assault on Britain in 1940.

"This was an important turning point in World War Two, one in which Australians made a significant contribution," Mr West said.

"Despite being greatly outnumbered, the Allies, Australians included, fought with courage and determination to repel the air attack on Britain.

"Ten Australians were killed in action, although there were hundreds of other Australians serving in the RAF, and more aircrew deaths during the combat period.

"Today's commemoration ensures that those Australians who served in the Battle of Britain in 1940 are remembered.

"It is important to acknowledge the role of these men and women in securing the livelihood of all Australians", said Mr West.

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