



Media Release

5 ways to commemorate the Battle of Britain

6 September 2021

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our communities and our commemorations, we encourage members of the public to remember those Australians who served for us in the Battle of Britain.

With the current restrictions and lockdowns, the Air Force Association of NSW and the Spitfire Association have had to make the difficult decision of cancelling this year's Battle of Britain Ceremony at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park. The occasion was to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Spitfire Association with a flyover of two World War II Spitfires and current fast jets, in honour of the service and sacrifice of our servicemen and women.

We plan, that in the not too distant future, we will commemorate our past and present Air Force defence personnel in the Battle of Britain.

The Battle of Britain fought over the skies of southern England in 1940, was the first and largest battle in history fought solely in the air. It was a battle in which the Royal Air Force and the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy defended the United Kingdom against large-scale attacks by Nazi Germany's air force, the Luftwaffe. More than 100 Australian airmen fought with the RAF during the Battle of Britain in 1940, including over 30 fighter pilots.

While we can't get together to commemorate in public gatherings or extended groups, we can still remember the few who gave so many of us the security and prosperity we experience today during the 81st Anniversary of the Battle of Britain to honour the service and sacrifice of servicemen and women.

Ways you can Commemorate the 81st Anniversary of the Battle of Britain 2021;

1. Tune in for the live stream of the St Cathedral Church service held on Saturday 11th September at 1.45 pm (AEST) via the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cathedralhobart>. An event hosted by the Air Force Association Tasmania Division.
2. Reach out to a veteran -During these unprecedented times, there are many veterans alone or doing it tough. Call and check in on them and lend a helping hand.
3. Tag a veteran on our Facebook page under the BOB post and, 'Thank them for their service'.



Media Release

4. Donate to the AFA NSW or Spitfire Association – all funds donated go directly towards providing services and support to veterans and their families, and to helping keep Australia resilient.

To donate or join AFA NSW visit www.raafansw.org.au

To join the Spitfire Association visit www.spitfireassociation.com/membership.php

Or for donations, make contact with: president@spitfireassociation.com

5. Share a story of a veteran you know, or a family member who served, and tag AFA NSW and Spitfire Association with the hashtags #AFANSW, #SpitfireAssociation60 and #BBMF #BattleofBritain21.

“ While we couldn’t commemorate in our usual form, the Air Force Association of NSW ongoing commitment remains strong in supporting and commemorating veterans and we hope to bring a bigger and better ceremony in 2022 to honour those who fought for our nation in the Battle of Britain.

Our collaboration with the Spitfire Association highlights the importance of work done by the Air Force Association to support veterans - **Then**;

Contemporarily the Air Force Association and Spitfire Association to help keep our defence forces strong **Now**;

Into the future by the Spitfire Association with its Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowships and other activities to help keep Australia resilient – **Always**” - Ron Glew- President Air Force Association NSW

“The Spitfire Association has always worked to help Australia remain a resilient and strong nation. Our founders, the RAAF Spitfire pilots, were prepared to put their lives on the line in the defence of Australia. Just as our Spitfire pilots, ground crews and their families had to face the uncertainty of war during those dark days of World War II, so today, we are facing the challenges of living with COVID and a less certain world.

There are many things we can learn from the service of our Spitfire crews. One that stands out for me is their support of each other, fellow Australians and unshakeable belief in Australia. We commend the Air Force Association and their work in supporting past and present members of the ADF and are honoured to be part of the Battle of Britain commemoration.

The Spitfire Association marks the 60th year since its founding by pilots of 457 Squadron RAAF. Our contemporary focus remains on the resilience of Australians from all walks of life and those who came to Australia from other countries. Our veterans’ profiles and family memories are stories of those people who provided the foundation for our efforts into the future.



Media Release

We focus now on what we can do to help keep Australia resilient, with our support of research into activities that can make a step-change to our abilities as a defence force and as a nation. We achieve this both through the Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship and our other fund-raising efforts” - Geoff Zuber President Spitfire Association.

The AFA NSW and the Spitfire Association’s commitment to honouring our previous and contemporary veterans service organisations, coming together ‘working as ONE for a greater cause’ and sacrifice, will continue.

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