



**Doug Parkinson, MLC**

Leader for the Government in the  
Legislative Council

Sunday, 17 September 2006

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### **66th Commemoration of Battle of Britain**

Government Leader in the Legislative Council Doug Parkinson today laid a wreath on behalf of the Tasmanian people at a ceremony marking the 66th commemoration of the Battle of Britain.

Mr Parkinson joined His Excellency, the Governor of Tasmania, the Hon. William Cox, at the Hobart Cenotaph ceremony, which was preceded by an ecumenical church service at St David's Cathedral yesterday afternoon.

Mr Parkinson said the Battle of Britain, in the summer and autumn of 1940, saw the Royal Air Force (RAF) face a large and experienced German air force.

"It was not only British pilots who took to the skies in defence of Britain," Mr Parkinson said.

"Pilots also came from countries such as Canada, South Africa, Rhodesia, New Zealand, France, the United States, and our own Australian men and women also joined the fight."

Mr Parkinson said that 24 Australians, including 14 fighter pilots, lost their lives during the battle.

“The fighting spirit of those involved in the Battle of Britain was eloquently captured by then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who said: ‘Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few’.

“It is fitting that we pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

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