

Victory in the Air

HITLER'S D-Day for the invasion of Britain was September 15, 1940. The invasion never eventuated, but the day saw the turning point in the battle for supremacy in the air. The position was so critical on that day that the Prime Minister himself drove to No. 11 Fighter Group Headquarters to learn at first hand what was happening in the skies of Britain.

In the bomb-proof operations room, 50 feet below street level, Churchill watched the flashing electric bulbs indicating which squadrons were airborne. As the enemy swarmed over—40-plus here, 60-plus there—more and more squadrons rose to meet them. The Prime Minister watched the bulbs closely. Finally, he turned to Air Vice Marshal Sir Keith Park, the New Zealander in charge of No. 22 Group: "What further reserves have we?" And the Air Vice Marshal's answer was: "We have none, sir." Every available plane was in the air.

Altogether, there were 84 days in which Britain was subjected to almost continuous aerial attack. But in its contest with the Luftwaffe, the R.A.F. scored a complete and decisive victory—achieved at a cost of 375 pilots killed and 358 wounded.

The drama and the sacrifice of this crucial period in Britain's history is vividly captured in *Salute to the Few*, a half-hour documentary programme commemorating Battle of Britain Day. It was adapted from the Air Ministry's official report of the battle and produced by Allan Sleeman at the Christchurch studios of the NZBS. At the conclusion of the programme, Air Vice Marshal Sir Keith Park voices his tribute to "the few."

Salute to the Few will be broadcast on Sunday, September 13. It will be heard from 1ZB at 4.0 p.m., 2ZB at 11.30 a.m., 3ZB at 6.30 p.m., 4ZB at 2.30 p.m., and 2ZA at 4.45 p.m.

New 2ZA Serial

VARIOUS things akin to murder have been perpetrated in fashion houses from time to time, but it's murder in the real and legal sense that takes place at the House of Rowland, in *Epitaph for Henriette*, a new Australian-produced serial at present being heard from 2ZA at 10.15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Henriette Duclos is a beautiful fashion model. Her death is brought about not, as might be expected, by an irate customer whose wardrobe has suddenly been forced out of date, but by one of three executives of the firm. They are Digby Rowland, managing director of the house, Howard Harper, general manager, and Paul Christian, chief designer. Detective-Inspector Wharton discovers evidence which seems to prove that one of them is the murderer. He is arrested, but later released. He returns to his post knowing that one of his colleagues was prepared to let him stand trial for the crime. Disregarding the danger, he announces his intention of discovering which of his co-directors is responsible.

The serial, which was written by Morris West and produced by Philip Jones, will be heard later from other Commercial stations.

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