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# Benalla No.11 Elementary Flying Training School



b6757 RAAF Base Benalla

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## Location

Samaria & Kalfeera Roads, BENALLA VIC 3672 - Property No B6757

## Municipality

BENALLA RURAL CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 15, 2005

The former No.11 Elementary Flying Training School is considered to be important at the State level as one of only two such facilities established in Victoria (the other being at Essendon) as part of the WW2 Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS). This scheme was devised to build up the Empire's air power sufficiently to overwhelm Germany's Luftwaffe, and it demonstrates cultural values in Australia's strategic thinking, in the defence of the Empire, and in Australia's contribution to the war in Europe and the Pacific.

RAAF Benalla compares with a total of 12 similar schools established throughout Australia (the first was at Parafield, SA, established late in 1939). They were the result of the EATS agreement signed on 17 December 1939 between Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which was recognised at the time as a document unique in military history. Southern Rhodesia was a later contributor.

The Benalla EFTS played an important part in the EATS plan which purported to have an Australian input of 432

trainees and an output of 306 pilots every four weeks of the war. It thus serves to commemorate the many RAAF personnel who were trained here and their contribution to the war effort, and especially those who gave their lives in serving this country during the 1939-45 conflict. The former EFTS is of historic significance in all these respects, while its subsequent role as the Benalla Migrant Accommodation Centre is of social importance for its part in housing migrant families, including many from the Baltic States, some of whom were to settle in the Benalla district.

Other Names Benalla Migrant Accommodation Centre,

Hermes Number 125972

Property Number

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## Veterans Description for Public

The former No.11 RAAF Elementary Flying Training School, on Samaria and Kalfeera Roads in Benalla, compares with a total of twelve similar schools established throughout Australia (the first was at Parafield, SA, established late in 1939). They were the result of the EATS agreement signed on December 17th 1939 between Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which was recognised at the time as a document unique in military history. Southern Rhodesia was a later contributor.

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*