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Caption

Image of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, and the Patrouille De France are both seen here flying over Paris in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of a speech by Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French Forces. Known as the Appeal of 18 June, the speech is often considered to be the origin of the French Resistance to Nazi occupation during the Second World War.

De Gaulle spoke to the French people from London after the fall of France and was broadcast live by BBC radio. He stressed France was not alone and reminded those listening that Great Britain would support the French to retake their country. It is regarded as one of the most important speeches in French history.

Following the Patrouille De France over Paris, past monuments such as Arc de Triompe and the Eiffel Tower on this 80th anniversary reinforces the bond between our nation, it is a great honour.

The flypast was then mirrored over London, this time with the Red Arrows leading the 18 jet formation over historic buildings such as Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards and Number 10 Downing Street.

Officially known as the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows showcase the excellence of the RAF and represent the United Kingdom both at home and overseas. The team consists of 11 pilots, nine of whom fly in the display, and more than 100 support personnel and technicians. © MOD Crown Copyright / eyevine

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