

From AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR KEITH PARK, G.C.B., K.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., D.C.I.

P. O. Box 2340,
AUCKLAND N.Z.,
February 24th, 1958.

Robert Wright Esq., D.F.C.,
Merrydown Cottage,
EAST ASHLING,
CHICHESTER, England.

Dear Robert,

Thank you very much for your letter of February 11th and for your kind thought in sending me a copy of your book "Night Fighter." I look forward very much to reading your book, when I shall write and give you my comments.

In answer to your question, I did not find Basil Collier's book on Dowding very exciting or very accurate in its facts. For example, he states that if Dowding had personally known about the lack of support given by 12 Group to No. 11 Group he would have put matters right. In point of fact, when North Weald was badly bombed for the first time because 12 Group had failed to send a couple of Squadrons to cover this V.P., I reported the matter to Dowding verbally and confirmed it in writing. I took the same action when 12 Group failed to cover Hornchurch but allowed the Duxford Wing to go off on a roving commission over Kent, after the enemy raids had been heavily engaged by Squadrons of 11 Group. *There were many similar incidents.*

Now that you tell me that Basil Collier is one of the Air Ministry Official Historians, I can understand why such an inaccurate account of the above happenings has been included in the R.A.F. Official History. Considering that Slessor was never a friend of mine, it is interesting to read his comments about Collier's book and his criticism of Collier.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely
Keith Park

BY AIR MAIL

AEROGRAMME

If anything is enclosed,
this form will be surcharged
at rate for Air Mail Letters.



Robert Wright Esq., D.F.C.,

Merrydown Cottage,

EAST ASHLING,

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SENDER'S NAME Sir Keith Park,
AND ADDRESS P. O Box 2340,
AUCKLAND N. Z.

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