

11th. February, 1958

Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park,  
P.O. Box 2340,  
Auckland,  
New Zealand.

My dear Sir Keith:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 9th. of January. It was so pleasant hearing from you again, and I am sorry to hear that you did not receive my earlier letter. I sent off a copy of "Night Fighter" to you a few days ago, and I hope that you receive it safely. I should naturally be most interested in hearing what you think of it.

Two important books were published a short time ago in both of which you play an important part. They are both by Basil Collier, one of the Air Ministry official historians. You may know about them, but if you do not, the first is "Leader of the Few", a biography of Lord Dowding, and the second is the official "The Defense of the United Kingdom", covering the war years and, in particular, the Battle of Britain.

As I think you know, I was Lord Dowding's P.A. during the latter part of the Battle of Britain. I reviewed for "The Sunday Times" the Collier biography. I did not think much of it, a view shared with me by quite a number of people. I should very much like to know what you thought of the book, if you have read it.

Jack Slessor wrote and broadcast a most interesting review of the second book, and he finished with the comment that he thought that Collier had not done you full justice. I should also like to know very much what you think of that book.

I don't know if I ever told you that I was in New Zealand for a while. After leaving school I went there



and for two and a half years I was a journalist on the staff of that excellent newspaper "The Evening Post", in Wellington. It was all very good experience, and I loved the country. From there I went to the United States.

My wife, who was in the A.T.S. - A.A. Command - during the war, visited New Zealand on a trip around the world in 1947, and she also loved the country. We have, by the way, been married nearly eight years, and we have three children, a girl of six, and twins, a boy and a girl, of three.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Robert Wright