



Canberra B.6s of R.A.F. Bomber Command lined up at R.N.A.S. Hal Far, Malta, during the Port Said operations.

Port Said Commemorated

THE flag flown in H.M.S. *Eagle* when Fleet Air Arm aircraft supported the landing at Port Said on November 5 of the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group has been presented by Vice-Admiral M. L. Power to Brigadier M. A. H. Butler, the Brigade Commander. The carrier squadron included *Eagle*, *Bulwark* and *Albion*.

In a covering letter Admiral Power says "I would be pleased if you would accept this flag as a token of my personal admiration for the great gallantry and superb fighting ability displayed by your officers and men in this historic operation."

In his reply, Brigadier Butler said "I hope to have the privilege of visiting you shortly to convey my thanks for the magnificent support you gave us, which enabled us to achieve our objectives so quickly, and with so few casualties. Without it we could not have undertaken the operation at all, and in the event it surpassed all our expectations."

The flag will be displayed in the Airborne Forces' Museum at Aldershot.

Last Spitfires Grounded

THE last four Spitfires flying regularly under Air Ministry contract are being grounded, leaving only Spitfire Mk 16, SL542, to be maintained in flying condition by the R.A.F. for its annual appearance in the Battle of Britain fly-past.

A Mk 16 flying from Hornchurch with No. 1 Civil Anti-aircraft Co-operation Unit was withdrawn on December 3 and three P.R. Mk 19s which have been flown on high-altitude weather reconnaissances from Woodvale by Short Brothers and Harland, Ltd., are similarly being withdrawn. The Mk 19s will be replaced early this year by modified Mosquito T.T.35s, one of which has already made trial flights. The three Mk 19s being withdrawn are PM631, PS853 and PS915.

A.V.-M. Braithwaite

WE regret to record the death, in a flying accident on December 21, of A.V.-M. F. J. St. G. Braithwaite, C.B.E., Chief of Staff, F.E.A.F. He was flying a Meteor from R.A.F. Changi when the weather deteriorated and he came down on the island of Palau Batam, south of Singapore. The Indonesian authorities, to whom the island belongs, gave permission for an R.A.F. Whirlwind to land near the scene of the accident.

A.V.-M. Braithwaite joined the R.A.F. with a permanent commission from Cambridge University Air Squadron in 1929 and had a distinguished record of service with Coastal Command strike units during World War 2.

SERVICE AVIATION

Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm News

Cannon's Recoil

THE one-ton ornamental cannon which men from R.A.F. Oldenburg, Germany, seized from the Dutch base at Eindhoven several weeks ago has now been returned to its owners. The cannon had originally been taken to Oldenburg, but was captured a second time by men from Ahlhorn, who took it back to their station, set it in concrete and surrounded it with electric alarm systems. These "moorings" did not, however, deter Anglo-Dutch avenging forces from Sundern, who recaptured the cannon and returned it to Eindhoven.

R.C.A.F. Farewell

THE last 88 Mustangs and 29 Vampires in the R.C.A.F. are to be demobilized. Except for one example of each type, to be stored at Lethbridge, Alberta, they will be handed over to the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation. Most of the Mustangs and all the Vampires were on the

strength of the Canadian Auxiliaries. The Vampires were replaced as R.C.A.F. front-line fighters in 1951 when Canadair Sabres became available. Mustangs have been flown by the Auxiliaries since the end of World War 2.

Research Rewarded

IT is announced that the Research Board for the Correlation of Medical Science and Physical Education has given the 1956 William Hyde Award of £300 to S/L. C. B. Wynn Parry in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study of physical medicine in the R.A.F.

Cyprus Flamingoes

EACH year, between December and April, flamingoes from the Danubian basin come to two salt-water lakes on Cyprus. One of the lakes is on the edge of Akrotiri airfield and it was feared that flying there would drive the flamingoes away. But this year, despite intensive activity during the Port Said operation, the birds returned and now seem quite happy to share the sky with jet aircraft and helicopters.

Squadron History

THE history of No. 72 Sqn. is being brought up to date, and F/O. D. Donaldson-Davidson would like information and photographs from past members. He states that any material forwarded to him at No. 72 Sqn., R.A.F. Church Fenton, Tadcaster, Yorks, will be treated carefully and returned if requested.

Sea Hawks being rearmed on the deck of H.M.S. "Eagle." These aircraft each have two under-wing fuel tanks and eight Mk12 rocket launcher rails. The Naval mechanic (centre) is carrying belt-feed mechanisms and belts for the 20 mm cannon.

