OBITUARY NOTICES

Mr. E.T. Quayle B.A.

Mr. E. T. Quayle, one of the pioneers of Australian Meteorology, died in his 94th year on 21st October, 1955.

An arts graduate, he was a school teacher in the 1880's and in 1890 he was appointed to the Victorian State Observatory as Assistant Forecaster and Astronomical Assistant. When the Commonwealth Government assumed control of meteorological services in 1908, Mr. Quayle was one of a group of officers who, by transferring from the Victorian Observatory, formed the nucleus of the Central Office of the, then, Meteorological Branch. He remained with the Branch until his retirement in 1925.

Mr. Quayle's published works indicate the wide range of subjects that interested him, most of them having a bearing on day to day weather forecasting. Together with H.A. Hunt, the Commonwealth Meteorologist of that time, and Griffith Taylor he published in 1913 the first textbook on Australian meteorology entitled "Climate and Weather of Australia".

In the years before pilot balloon observations he developed the practice of observing cirrus clouds as an indication of the airflow aloft. His publications show that, as early as 1910, he recognised that the motion and development of surface pressure systems were related to the upper flow pattern.

In 1910 he purchased property and devoted much of his spare time to agricultural pursuits. It is not surprising therefore that he was interested in seasonal forecasting and the amelioration of climate by human agency. He dealt with the modification of climate due to increased cultivation of the Mallee and Wimmera wheat lands. The effect on climate of the alternate filling and drying of Lake Eyre also attracted his attention. His seasonal forecasting studies were devoted mainly to the wheat growing districts of Victoria having a bias towards application to agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Quayle was an indefatigable weather observer. After retirement from official duties he continued his meteorological work and made regular visits to the Bureau. It was only due to failing health in the past few years that he gave up the work of making official weather
observations at Essendon. These observations, which Mr. Quayle commenced almost 60 years ago, are still maintained by his family.

Mr. J. W. Riley

Officers of the Bureau regretted to learn of the death on 11th September, 1955, in his 46th year, of Pat Riley who had been in poor health for some time.

After serving during the war as a Meteorologist in the Royal Australian Navy with the rank of Lieutenant, he joined the Bureau in 1946 as Marine Meteorological Officer. With the resumption of ships' weather reports after the war Mr. Riley was responsible for the early recruitment of Australian Weather Observing Ships and the subsequent liaison between selected ships and the Bureau.

From 1950 onwards he was employed in the Aviation Meteorological Services as a Weather Officer at Essendon, Cambridge and Western Junction.

Mr. J. Walpole

B.A.(Hon.)-B.Sc.-Dip.Ed.

The sudden and untimely death of Joe Walpole in his 48th year on 2nd January, 1956, came as a considerable shock to meteorologists throughout the Bureau. Before joining the Bureau of Meteorology in 1937 Mr. Walpole, a science graduate of the University of Tasmania, an honours arts graduate and diplomate of education of the University of Melbourne, was a research worker in the Department of Natural Philosophy University of Melbourne where he made a special study of the propagation of elastic waves in solids.

Prior to the last war Mr. Walpole was a forecaster in the Central Office of the Bureau. During the war he enlisted in the A.I.F. to work on the mathematical and practical aspects of ballistics. After his return from service in England and U.S.A. he was regarded as the leading authority in Australia on ballistics theory.

Mr. Walpole rejoined the Bureau after the war but soon transferred to the Department of Immigration in London. He however maintained his interest in meteorology and found time to attend lectures in meteorology at the
Imperial College and statistics at London University.

After his return to the Bureau in 1950 he was climatologist in the Central Office and later at Hobart. In these years he produced several climatic analyses and a paper on "The Maximum possible rainfall in Australia", which was the first paper published in Australia on this subject and became a source of reference for other local workers in this field. He also collected a vast amount of data on the climate of Hobart which he had been preparing for publication.

As secretary of the Climatological Consultative Committee in Hobart and through his daily contacts as climatologist he did much to foster among the community an appreciation of the value of climatology to primary and secondary industry. He did much to improve the network and the standard of climatological reports in Tasmania and was always ready with encouragement for the voluntary weather observers many of whom he knew personally. He was also interested in the affairs of the Professional Officers' Association and had been a member of the Tasmanian committee for the past two years.

Mr. A. C. White M.C.

The death of Arthur White on 27th March at the age of 61 years was a shock to his colleagues and friends throughout the Bureau and the aviation industry. There have been very few officers of the Bureau who have made such a valuable practical contribution to aviation meteorology in Australia.

Arthur White matriculated at Sydney University in 1913 and discontinued a medical course to enlist in the Australian Expeditionary Force at the outbreak of World War I. He had a distinguished military career and in 1917 was awarded the Military Cross as a Lieutenant of the 30th Battalion "for conspicuous gallantry, devotion to duty, coolness and courage on every occasion his command was under fire" in various separate actions in France. He was promoted Captain in 1917 and discharged in 1919.

He was appointed a Meteorological Assistant in the Sydney Weather Bureau in May 1928 and after promotion to Assistant Meteorologist in August 1937 was given the task of establishing the Meteorological Office at
Mascot Aerodrome, as its first O.I.C. He became a Weather Officer in 1938 and in October 1940 was transferred to R.A.A.F. Richmond to open the new Meteorological office there. Arthur enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in April 1941 and commenced his World War II service as a Flight Lieutenant. He was soon promoted Squadron Leader and posted to North East Area Combined H/Qrs. in November 1941 as the first Area Meteorological Officer. In this capacity he moved widely throughout his own and adjacent commands and became well known to the various Met. units of the Allied Forces in this Theatre. He was A.Met. O. Eastern Area for a period before his discharge in July 1946 and thereafter continued in this position until his death.

Arthur White was occasionally allotted special inspection and liaison tasks requiring tact and initiative all of which he fulfilled with his characteristic common sense and directness in approach. The post-war years were extremely busy for him due to the enormous growth in international and domestic aviation and he became widely known and respected for his judgment with the operational officers of operating companies. Probably his greatest contribution to aviation meteorology was the confidence in aviation forecasting his work and character engendered in the minds of pilots during the early days of the service. He never tired of insisting upon those under his charge realising the value of the thermal wind. His loss, practically in harness to the last although a sick man, was again characteristic of an outstanding officer imbued with a true spirit of service. He will be kindly remembered by his colleagues for many years to come. W.A.D.