

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

RHD Singh



RAF College Cadet
31 August 1933 - 26 July 1935

In its electronic form, this document contains underlined, hypertext links to additional material, including alternative supporting data and archived video/audio clips.
[To open these links in a separate browser tab and thus not lose your place in this e-document, press control+click (Windows) or command+click (Apple Mac) on the underlined word, image or icon]

INTRODUCTION

When first establishing the Cranwellian Historical Society (CHS) website, the author of its constituent albums relied initially on information he had retrieved during weekly visits to the RAF College archive. A typical example of such albums was the tribute paid to **MIAF Arjan Singh** of S38 Entry, a remarkable man who was to revisit the College on several occasions, usually as a Reviewing Officer at a Flight Cadet graduation ceremony, and who was and still is revered with great affection. His portrait hangs to this day in the College's West Wing staircase to the College HQ staff offices as a tribute to "a most distinguished Cranwellian" - *ACM Sir Michael Graydon GCB CBE*.

As the CHS website evolved further, so did its content and the promotion of special features in a series of 'Feature of the Month' (ForM) albums. For the June FotM, we completed an analysis of foreign students who have graduated at the RAF College during its first 100 years. Not only was it discovered that the College had a graduate footprint extending to 59 different countries, the unique significance of the pre-WWII Indian graduates became apparent as pioneers of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and, after 'Partition' in 1947, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). Of these graduates, **Aizad Baksh Awan** of S30 Entry deserves a special mention as it was he who captured the history of these pioneers in his booklet, **'The Winged Wagon'**. Awan's memoirs were linked to one of the June FotM albums and not only recounted the exploits of these inspirational cadets but betrayed their culture and passion as pioneers. The booklet attracted much interest in the UK and in India, being retweeted amongst a number of Indian enthusiasts who hold the RAF College in high esteem.

In September 2021, we were delighted to receive a highly complimentary email from **Jagan Pillarisetti** who, alongside his association with the popular **RAF Commands Website**, had been pursuing his own interest in the Indian graduates of the RAF College. It is through his kindness and with his support that we are now able to add a further tribute to an Indian graduate, on this occasion to **Ravinder Hari Darshan Singh** of S33 Entry.

In this particular album, we have tried to pay tribute not only to RHD Singh, but through hypertext links also to his fellow pioneers. Whilst you read this album, may we remind you that wherever a graphic and/or text is underlined, there is a hypertext link taking you to additional information on the '*Indian story*'. To open these links in a separate browser tab and thus not lose your place in this e-document, press control+click (Windows) or command+click (Apple Mac) on the underlined word, image or icon.

Read on and enjoy.

COLLEGE SEQUENCE NUMBER 818.		CHRISTIAN NAMES Ravindar Hari Darshan Singh.		SURNAME Singh.	
BORN	DATE	NATIONALITY	DATE	RELIGION	DATE
JOINED COLLEGE	28.11.14.	Indian.		Sikhism.	
LEFT COLLEGE	31.8.33	ORDER OF MERIT ON JOINING		NO. IN CLASS ON JOINING	
	26.7.35	ORDER OF MERIT ON LEAVING		NO. IN CLASS ON LEAVING	
PROMOTED		JOINED		DROPPED	
CADET CORPORAL		1ST CLASS	1.9.33.	AFTER TERM	
CADET SERGEANT		2ND CLASS	12.1.34.		
UNDER OFFICER		3RD CLASS	7.9.34.	AFTER TERM	
		4TH CLASS	11.1.35.		
COMMISSIONED IN R.A.F.		REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL IF COURSE NOT COMPLETED			
	27.7.35				

NAME OF PARENT OR NEXT OF KIN W.H. Wilkinson, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Guardian).	ADDRESS Moorelands, South Ascot.
PROFESSION OF PARENT OR NEXT OF KIN Father: Deputy Director of Agriculture, Punjab, I.C.S. Govt. at-law, Landowner (living).	CHANGE OF ADDRESS

WHERE EDUCATED
**Hitchison Chief's College, Lahore (1925-1928). Prince of Wales
 Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun (1928-1933).**

PRIZES, ETC., ON JOINING	PRIZES, ETC., ON LEAVING


REMARKS AND FURTHER HISTORY
**Indian Government Student. Posted to No. 16 (A.C.) Squadron,
 R.A.F., Old Sarum, W. of 27.7.35.**

COLLEGE SEQUENCE NUMBER 818.	CHRISTIAN NAMES Ravindar Hari Darshan Singh.	SURNAME Singh.
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RHD SINGH S33 ENTRY

SEPTEMBER 1933 ENTRY

NAME & INITIALS	INTAKE DATE	GRAD DATE	PRIZES GAINED	REMARKS
ARNEY J W	31 AUG 33	26 JUL 35		
BALDEN D W	"	"		
BAYLEY J W	"	"		
BERESFORD T. B de la P.	"	"		
BOXER H E C	"	"		S of H.
BROMLEY N. B. R.	"	"		
BUCHANAN T. M.	"	"		
CLARK A W J	"	"		H.S.P.
COOPER C S	"	"		
CROCE E E	"	"		
de FREITAS W A A	"	"		
DICKSON F O	"	"		
HACKETT C D	"	"		
HALL N M	"	"		
JONES R I	"	"		
KELLY D P D G	"	"		
KHAN H U	"	"		INDIAN
MASON A J	"	"		K.M., A.G.F.M.P., A.E.P., J.A.C.M.P.
MENVIN J. D.	"	"		
MILLER A W D	"	"		
PHILPHOTT P T	"	"		R.M.G.M.P & K
SCOTT-MALKIRDY M E W	"	"		
SHARMA G R	"	"		INDIAN
SINGH R H D	"	26 JUL 35		INDIAN
SLATER J H	"	"		
SOWTER A B	"	"		
STEWART L R	"	"		
THOMPSON J. G.	"	13 DEC 35		
THORNEWILL E W	"	26 JUL 35		
TOWNSEND P W	"	"		
WALLACE G E	"	"		
WESTON J. W.	"	"		

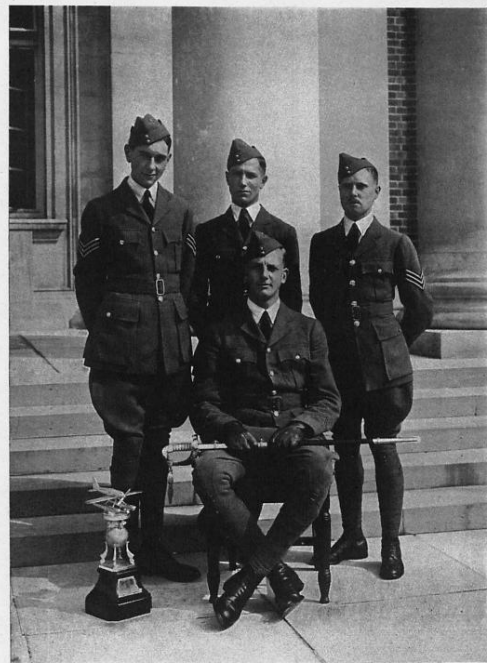


RHD Singh

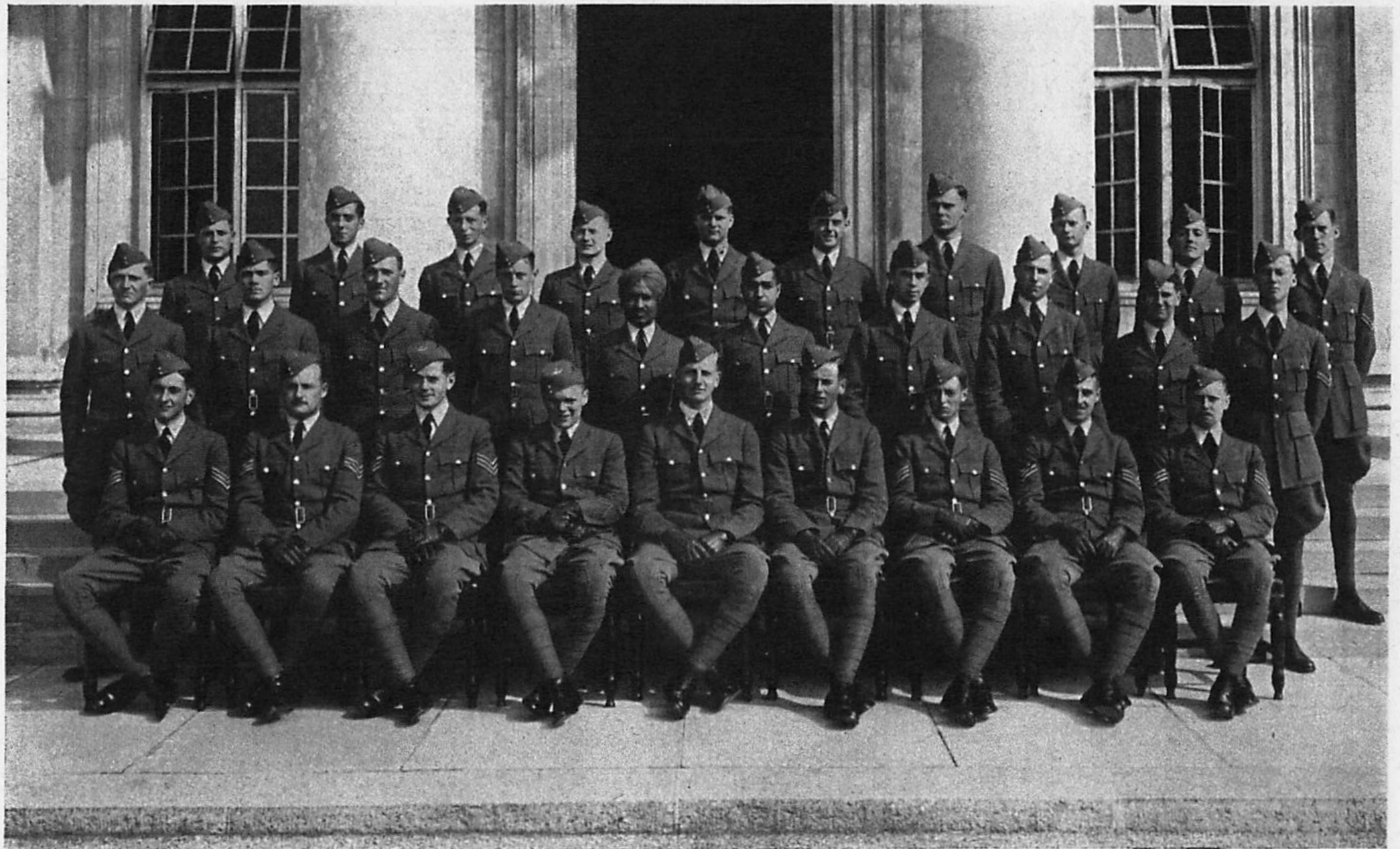
WITHDRAWN 17-1-35 - UNLIKELY TO MAKE A SATISFACTORY OFFICER

 WITHDRAWN 18-5-34 - UNLIKELY TO BECOME A SAFE & EFF. PILOT.

July 1935 Prizewinners & Graduation



PRIZE-WINNERS, SUMMER, 1935. [Photo: Gale & Polden, Ltd.]
 F./C. Sergt. P. T. Philpott (Flying). F./C. A. W. J. Clark (King's Medal, Science, Engineering, Service Subjects). F./C. Sergt. A. J. Mason (Sword of Honour).
 F./C. U./O. H. E. C. Boxer (Sword of Honour).



[Photo: Gale & Polden, Ltd.]

THE PASSING-OUT TERM, SUMMER, 1935.

Back Row.—F./C. Cpl. R. I. Jones. F./C. Cpl. G. E. Wallace. F./C. J. D. Melvin. F./C. T. M. Buchanan. F./C. Cpl. J. H. Slater. F./C. L. R. Stewart. F./C. A. B. Sowter.
 F./C. J. W. Arney. F./C. W. A. A. de Freitas. F./C. Cpl. N. B. R. Bromley.
Middle Row.—F./C. M. E. W. Scott-MacKirdy. F./C. Cpl. F. E. Croce. F./C. C. S. Cooper. F./C. F. O. Dickson. F./C. R. H. D. Singh. F./C. H. Khan. F./C. D. P. D. G. Kelly.
 F./C. A. W. J. Clark. F./C. Cpl. N. M. Hall. F./C. Cpl. E. W. Thornewill.
Seated.—F./C. Sergt. P. T. Philpott. F./C. Sergt. J. W. Bayley. F./C. Sergt. T. B. de la P. Beresford. F./C. U./O. D. W. Balden. F./C. U./O. H. E. C. Boxer.
 F./C. U./O. P. W. Townsend. F./C. Sergt. A. W. D. Miller. F./C. Sergt. C. D. Hackett. F./C. Sergt. A. J. Mason.

YouTube - FILM OF RAF TRAINING 1935

“Produced about four years before the outbreak of WWII. It covers RAF training. Pilots, mechanics and the like.”
Drawn to our attention by Jagan Pillarisetti, featuring RHD Singh



RHD SINGH - CAREER SUMMARY

Extracts taken with thanks from [Bharat Rakshak](#)

Air Commodore Ravinder Hari Darshan Singh

Service No & Branch 1558 GD(P)

Date of Birth: 28 Nov 1914 **Commissioned:** 27 Jul 1935

Service End: Retired on 30 Sep 1960 *Superannuated* / Died on 01 Dec 1999 (85 Years age)

Qualifications Held :

Remarks : seconded to CGDP

Course:
5 IAF Cranwell



Promotions Gazetted

Fg Offr : 27 Jan 1938

Flt Lt : 22 Apr 1943

Acting Sqn Ldr : 01 Oct 1944

Wg Cdr : 15 Aug 1948

Acting Gp Capt : 15 Aug 1947

Gp Capt : 15 Aug 1949

Acting Air Cmde : 15 Nov 1948

Air Cmde : 01 Oct 1952

Google the Bharat Rakshak Website for : **RHD Singh**



Plt Offr



Sqn Ldr



Air Cmde

Notes:1)Branch is at retirement and may not match with branch at Commission 2)Notional seniority is reflected in dates of substantive rank.

Appointments, Postings & Other Service Particulars

Dates	Rank	Unit	Location	Appointment	Photo
01 Jan 1936 -	Plt Offr	No.1 Squadron, RIAF	Drigh Road		
02 Jun 1942 - 30 Jun 1942	Flt Lt	No.2 Flight (Coastal Defence)	Juhu	To GHQ Bangalore	
22 Dec 1944 - 15 Dec 1945	Sqn Ldr	RAF Station Kohat	Kohat	S/L Flying To AirHQ	
- 14 Aug 1947	Wg Cdr	Air Head Quarters	Delhi	Org-1	
01 Jan 1946 - 01 Dec 1946	Wg Cdr	Air Head Quarters	Delhi	DD (Trg)	
15 Aug 1947 - 15 Aug 1948	Gp Capt	Air Head Quarters	Delhi	Director, Organisation	
16 Aug 1948 - 15 Nov 1948	Gp Capt	Advanced Flying School (India)	Ambala	Commanding Officer	
29 Nov 1948 - 21 Jul 1949	Air Cmde	No.2 Training Group	Bangalore	Air Officer Commanding	
22 Jul 1949 - 03 Dec 1952	Air Cmde	Training Command	Bangalore	Air Officer Commanding	
17 Dec 1952 - 08 Dec 1955	Air Cmde	Air Head Quarters	Delhi	Air Officer-in-Charge Technical & Equipment Services	
09 Dec 1955 - 11 May 1958	Air Cmde	Air Head Quarters	Delhi	Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel & Organisation	
02 May 1958 - 30 Sep 1960	Air Cmde	MoD	Delhi	Director (R&D)	

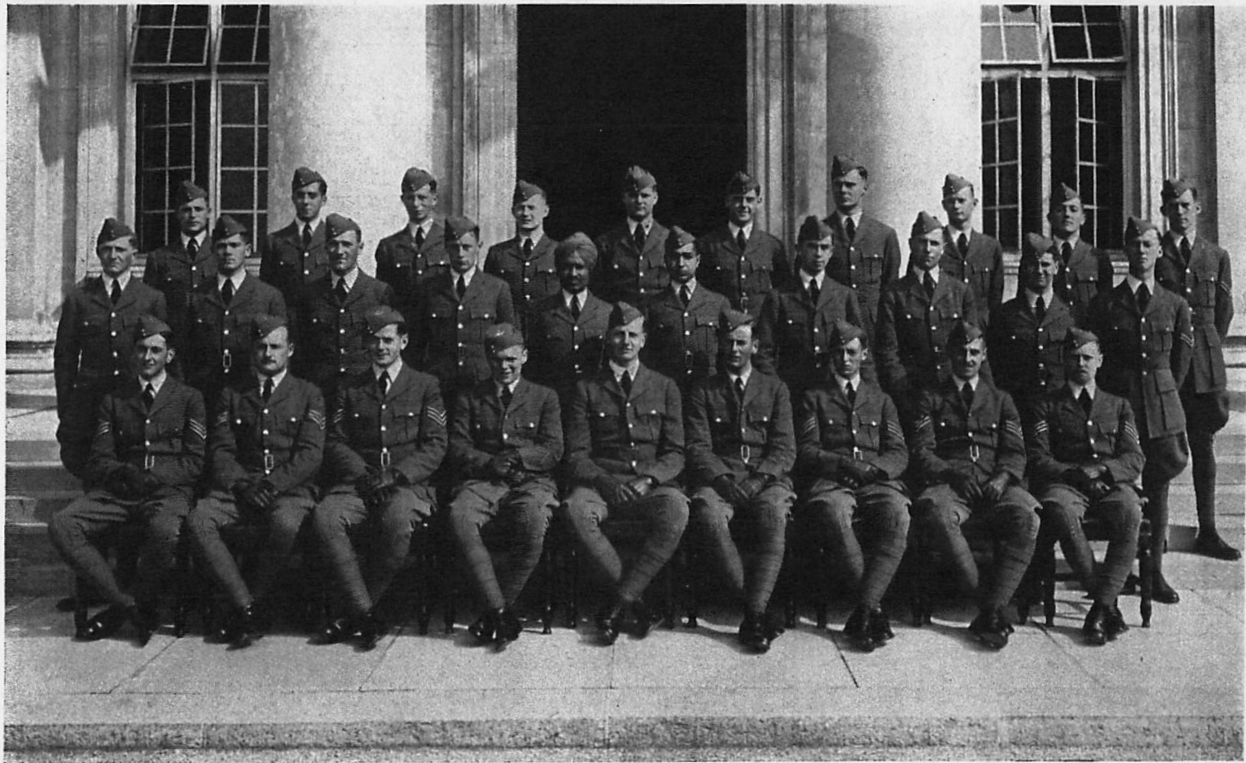
RHD SINGH - CRANWELLIAN PIONEER



PRIZE-WINNERS, SUMMER, 1935. [Photo: Gale & Polden, Ltd.]
 F./C. Sergt. P. T. Philpott (Flying).
 F./C. A. W. J. Clark (English and History).
 F./C. Sergt. A. J. Mason (King's Medal, Science, Engineering, Service Subjects).
 F./C. U./O. H. E. C. Boxer (Sword of Honour).



RHD Singh



THE PASSING-OUT TERM, SUMMER, 1935. [Photo: Gale & Polden, Ltd.]
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 F./C. J. W. Arney. F./C. W. A. A. de Freitas. F./C. Cpl. N. B. R. Bromley.
 Middle Row.—F./C. M. E. W. Scott-MacKirdy. F./C. Cpl. F. E. Croce. F./C. C. S. Cooper. F./C. F. O. Dickson. F./C. R. H. D. Singh. F./C. H. Khan. F./C. D. P. D. G. Kelly.
 F./C. A. W. J. Clark. F./C. Cpl. N. M. Hall. F./C. Cpl. E. W. Thornewill.
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