RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL A Singh



RAF College Cadet 8 September 1938 - 21 December 1939

A Singh - "A Most Distinguished Cranwellian"

ACM Sir Michael Graydon GCB CBE

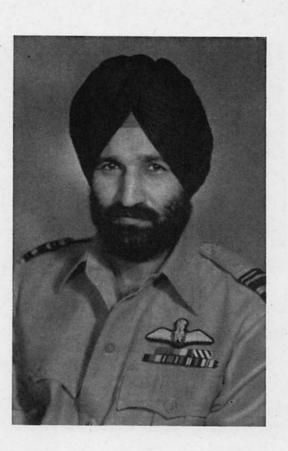
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A Singh - Tribute to his becoming MIAF in 1963



Air Vice-Marshal Arjan Singh, D.F.C.



It has just been announced that Air Vice-Marshal Arjan Singh is to be the next Chief of Air Staff of the Indian Air Force with the rank of Air Marshal.

After graduating from the Government College, Lahore, the future Air Marshal was selected for Cranwell. He joined the College in 1938 and was in "B" Squadron with the present Commandant, Air Commodore Lyne. His C.F.I. was Squadron Leader (now Marshal of the Royal Air Force) Dermot Boyle. He graduated in December 1939 and is remembered among other things as a keen swimmer and hockey player. He has always maintained his sporting interests and is still an ardent golfer.

On his return to India, he was posted to No. 1 Squadron, then equipped with Lysanders. He fought with this squadron in Burma, became a Flight Commander when it was re-equipped with Hurricanes and then commanded the same squadron against the Japanese at Imphal. His brilliant sorties during this campaign earned him the D.F.C. Since the war, he has commanded the station at Ambala and held a wide range of command and staff appointments culminating in his present appointment as V.C.A.S. While the Air Marshal was A.O.C.-in-C. Operational Command, the Indian Air Force underwent a vast programme of expansion and modernisation. He was personally responsible in large measure both for directing the Air Force's operational training and for setting up on the west coast a high level Armament Training Wing. Recently, he was in overall charge of Exercise Shiksa which was held by the Indian Air Force in conjunction with the R.A.F., the R.A.A.F., and the U.S.A.F.

The new C.A.S. has attended the R.A.F. Staff College at Andover, the Joint Services Staff College and the Imperial Defence College.

A.V.-M. Arjan Singh is married and has three children. His wife — Mrs. Teji Arjan Singh — takes a keen interest in servicemen's families and presides over a number of important welfare activities.

The Journal offers its sincere congratulations and best wishes to this distinguished Old Cranwellian.

A Singh - Commemorative Pamphlet Extract

ARJAN SINGH, DEC

Singh" got an "Average" in flying, which rose to "Above Average" on December 22, 1939. He was awarded colours in swimming, athletics and hockey and was the Vice-Captain of the teams for these sports.

When the Second World War began in Europe in September 1939, their training was cut short due to the shortage of pilots in the Air Force and they were commissioned in December, 1939. There was a shortage of pilots everywhere—in the Royal Air Force in Britain

B San Royal Air Force College, Cranwell (England) in 1939



and the Indian Air Force in India, which had only one squadron at Ambala. Prithipal Singh and Arjan Singh were the last two officers to join the squadron in January 1940. This Indian squadron had been formed on April 1, 1933 at Drigh Road, Karachi by the first batch of airmen, who were called the Hawai Sepoys and a few officers (including Subroto Mukherjee, who later



No.1 Squadron Crest. Its personnel are called 'tigers' and their motto is 'Ithad Metn Shakti'

became the first Indian Air Chief) and was commanded by an RAF officer. Originally, it had four Westland Wapitis (a fabric bomber/reconnaissance biplane, typical of the RAF aircraft during the inter-war period). The joining of these two officers brought the squadron to its full strength in 1940.





A Singh - The Swimmer



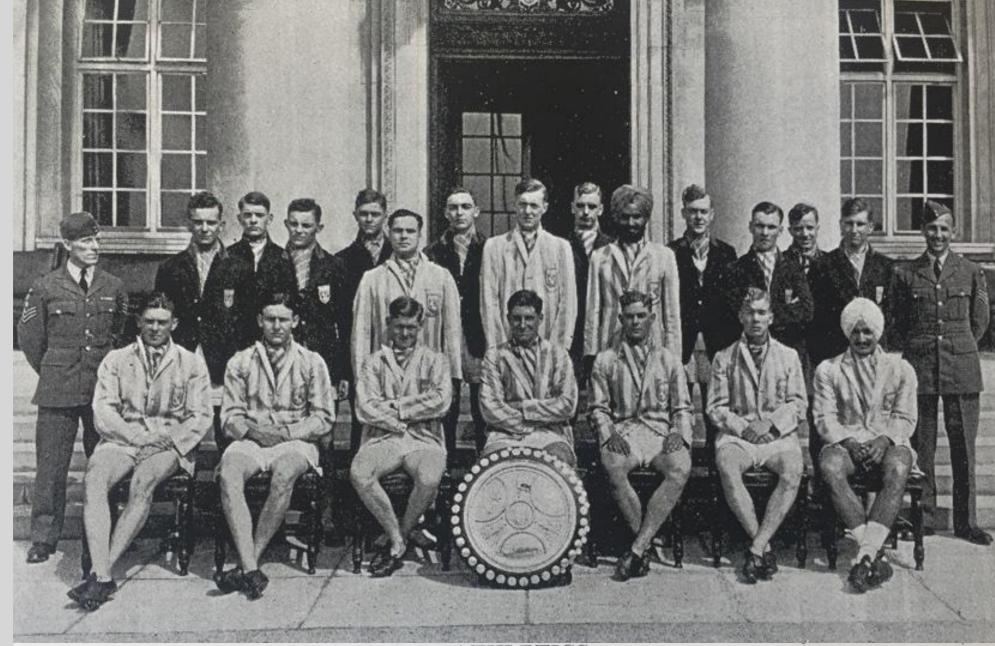
SWIMMING.

[Photos : Gale & Polden, Ltd.

Standing—F./C. J. G. Lecky. F./C. B. Howe. F./C. A. D. Livingstone. F./C. J. A. Sowrey.
F./C. P. W. Vaughan. F./C. J. H. Deas. F./C. R. Veal. F./Sgt. Marwood.
Seated—F./C. D. C. Sharman. F./C. Arjan Singh. F./C. I. N. MacDougall. F./C. R. A. L. Morant (captain)
F./C. G. E. Chandler. F./C. C. M. Burfield. F./C. J. E. Newton-Clare.

A Singh - The Athlete





ATHLETICS.

Back Row—F./C. R. C. L. Parkhouse. F./C. R. A. Macfarlane. F./C. J. T. Berryman. F./C. A. D. Livingstone. F./C. F. R. Bird. F./C. H. C. Randall.
2nd Row—F./Sgt. A. Johnstone. F./C. M. F. S. Laughton. F./C. C. Light. F./C. D. C. Sharman. F./C. M. Negus. F./C. Prithipal Singh. F./C. Cpl. J. Child. F./C. A. H. H un phrey. F./3gt. Taylor.
Front Row—F./C. P. J. M. Nettleton. F./C. D. C. Shepley. F./C. Sgt. J. Tillett. F./C. J. D. Steuart-Richardson (captain). F./C. Cpl. D. L. Wingate. F./C. D. M. Barbour. F./C. Arjan Singh.

A Singh - The Hockey Player



[Photo : Gale & Polden, Ltd

HOCKEY.

 Standing—F./C. Cpl. B. G. Mace.
 F./C. R. L. Wade.
 F./C. D. M. Barbour.
 F./C. P. E. A. Carr.
 F./C. Cpl. D. E. D. Milsom

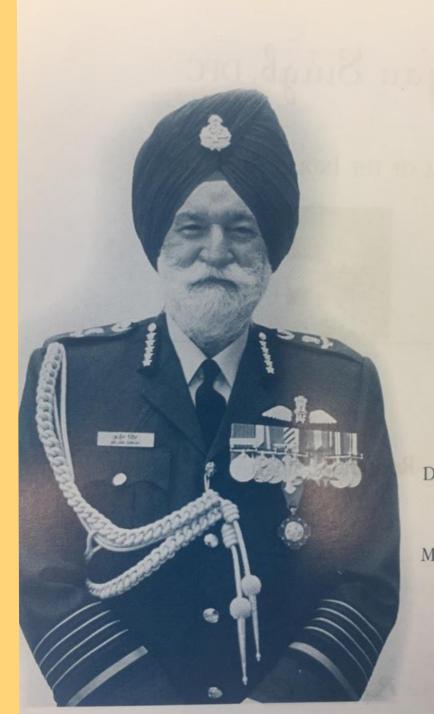
 F./C. Prithipal Singh.
 F./C. J. K. C. Ralston.
 F./C. Sgt. J. W. Carmichael.
 F./C. Sgt. J. Tillett (captain).
 F./C. Cpl. R. V. Herbert

 F./C. Arjan Singh.
 F./C. Sgt. J. W. Carmichael.
 F./C. Sgt. J. Tillett (captain).
 F./C. Cpl. R. V. Herbert

MIAF Arjan Singh DFC - The Airman (1)

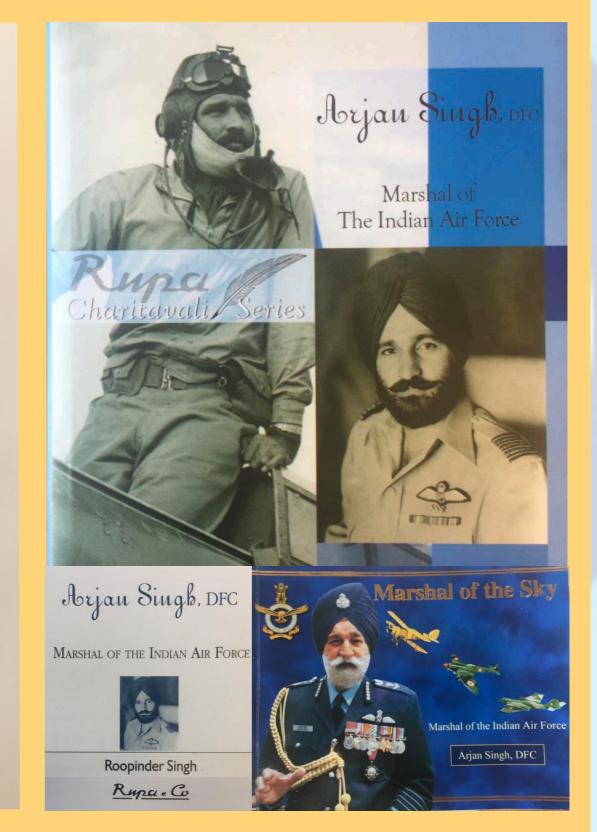


MIAF Arjan Singh DFC - The Airman (2)



CHAPTER ONE The Ceremony 14 CHAPTER TWO Pre-flight 24 CHAPTER THREE Top-Gun 40 CHAPTER FOUR Top Brass 70 CHAPTER FIVE **Diplomatic Sorties** 80 CHAPTER SIX Marshal of the IAF 86 Reactions 88 Milestones

CONTENTS



MIAF Arjan Singh DFC - The Airman (3)

Legend of

the Indian Air Force

By Air Marshal KC Cariappa (Retd) PVSM VM

Officers. On joining the Squadron we were told that we lowest of the low,' and were neither to be seen nor heard! For all practical purposes, other than doing Orderly Officer duties, Boards of Officers and Pay Parades, we did not exist. Thus, it was a bolt from the blue when I was told that The Boss wanted to see me. Now what had I done? Off I went to his office with some nagging fear of either

having done something I should not have, or that I did not do something I should have. I entered the lion's den to be given some even more disturbing orders. I was to report the following morning to the Station t was mid-1958 and I was Commander's office. This was terrible, worse posted in Poona, one of four than I expected. All kinds of questions, to still-wet-behind-the-ears Pilot which there were no answers, raged through my head.

At the appointed hour I was in the Station Adjutant's office where even he, the one person privy to all the Station Commander's thoughts was not sure why I had been summoned. A little later I marched into the Station's sanctum sanctorum. There was our rather avuncular Gp Capt MM Engineer, DFC who said he was detailing me for liaison duties with the AOCinC

MIAF Arjan Singh DFC - The Airman (4)

because he was feeling expansive, he actually asked for a glass of sherry! Sherry! Now where on earth could one get something like that, especially in a relatively 'back of beyond' Air Force station? But, one such bottle was found. And then as time passed, he even asked for a second glass! I cannot recall this ever being repeated during any of his visits.

The other incident that will always remain etched in my memory is that he never ever 'lost his cool' (in today's parlance). The one occasion that stands out vividly in my memory involved me and I deserved a 'kick in the pants'. The Chief was the President of the Swimming Federation of India. It was during his stewardship that Indo-Sri Lanka swimming ties received a great fillip. He was responsible for initiating the Palk Straits Swim and for the once-in-two-years swimming competition. On the first such meet, Sri Lanka made a clean sweep of the women's events and the Indian men won the team championship and the water polo trophies. The second Meet was conducted in Bombay. A few days before the event, the Secretary of the Federation confirmed all was in order, and

that he would meet us at the venue. I should have I expected to be 'hung and quartered', banished to checked out what I was told but I obviously had not some unheard of location never to be heard of or done so, as unfolding events would prove. We seen again. I delayed the moment of truth till we arrived at Santa Cruz late one evening and whilst were on our way to the Shivaji Park swimming pool the CAS proceeded to the MES Inspection and then blurted my confession. Till then, CAS Bungalow, I checked on the luggage. Bajaj, the and Mrs Arjan Singh were talking at the back. Secretary came to the airport and as the luggage was What followed my disclosure was an uncomfortable, being unloaded, he noticed that some items that and for me, ominous silence. It was broken a few should have been there, were not! These were the seconds later by a single terse "silly ass'. That was it! trophies for the events of the following evening. Disaster! The sky came tumbling down upon me but none followed. even as the earth opened out to swallow me. What was to be done? Here 'Commn Squadron' came to stated very simply that the Men's trophies were not my rescue to say that the aircraft would be returning to Delhi and would re-position the following the Indian Men's team would win the swimming afternoon. The crew said they would check with events and the water polo that he told his Staff CAS's Secretariat and would return with the not to bother about bringing all that valuable missing Silver. Somewhat mollified, I knew I had silver along to Bomhay. Once more I squirmed been saved. But, had I? There was no trace of the and hoped for the earth to swallow me. trophies; it was then that Bajaj realised they were still in the SFI office. What on earth was I to tell greatness of the man who forgot all about the Chief? How could I possibly 'pass the buck'? It the incident on the drive back after the was the end of the road where I was concerned and Meet?

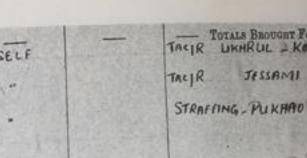
Nothing else! I waited for the deluge of invective

At the Prize distribution ceremony the Chief there that evening. He said he was so confident that

Need I say any more about the

MIAF Arjan Singh DFC - The Airman (5)

SELF 403 HURRICANE



ARJAN SINGH, DIC

A Flying Logbook entry, showing air attack casualities of Japanese troops, 1944

TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD UKHRUL - KOHIMA ARIA

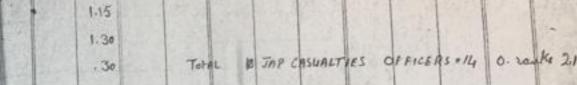
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remembers the Marshal. "It did not come as a complete surprise. He gave us about two hours notice, we gathered some officers and airmen of the squadron, but we did not stop the operations even then. For a young man to get such a medal in front of his own squadron is a great satisfaction. I was a part of the squadron, at Imphal and they were a part of me.

DFC - Distinguished Flying Cross

Even now, I am in touch with at least five of the people who were with me in Imphal, three of them are Airmen and two are officers."

Pilots depend on ground technical staff to keep the planes in good condition. Arjan Singh fondly recollects the contribution of the technical wizard who looked after the planes-Group Captain Ram



Singh, MBE (Member of the British Empire). He belonged to Sansarpur village, near Jalandhar in Punjab, which is famous for producing legendary hockey players. He was the first person to join as Hawai Sepoy.

In all, his squadron got nine DFCs-which is quite a record. No other squadron, whether Indian or British, got so many DFCs on the Burma Front. But the cost was sadly high-out of the 21 pilots who originally went from Kohat to Imphal, only five returned. Two of the DFC-winners, Air Vice-Marshal A. R. (Nifty) Pandit and Group Captain (Nanu) Shitoley were among the first to congratulate the Marshal of the Indian Air Force when his new rank was announced. Following such a long stint on the front, the squadron was moved and its chief given a peace-time posting.



A Singh - A Cranwellian Returns 1967

INDIAN FLIGHT CADETS TRAINED AT THE ROYAL AIR FORCE COLLEGE CRANWELL 1930 - 1945

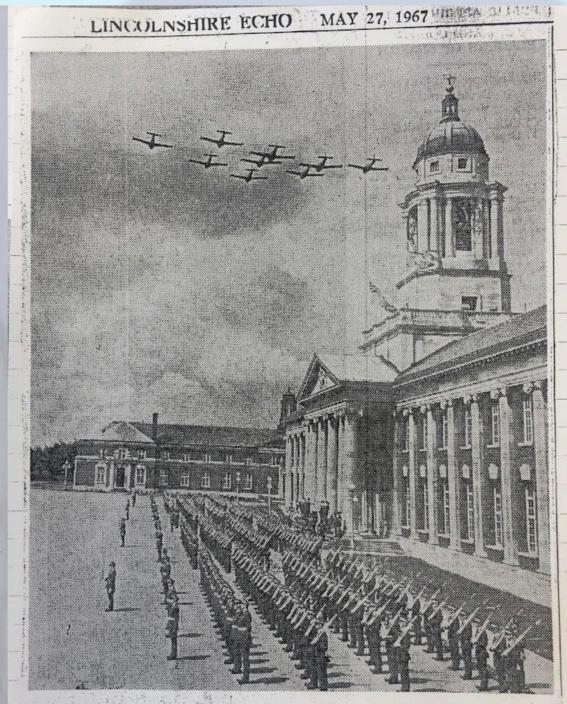
SEPTEMBER 1930 ENTRY. 4 SEPTEMBER 1930 TO 22 JULY 1932

AB	AWAN	the sets silet						
S	MUKERJEE	Withdrawn 2 April 1931. Unlikely to make a safe pilot.						
A	SINGH							
B	SINGH							
HC	SIRCAR	Withdrawn 29 June 1931. Unlikely to make a safe pilot.						
JN	TANDON	Withdrawn 29 Julie 1951. Onlinely to mano a safe part						
SEPTEM	PTEMBER 1931 ENTRY. 3 SEPTEMBER 1931 TO 14 July 1933							
AM	ENGINEER							
JANUAR	NUARY 1932 ENTRY. 1 FEBRUARY 1932 TO 15 DECEMBER 1933							
КК	MAJUMDAR							
	NAHRENDRA							
D	SINGH							
SEPTEM	BER 1932 ENTRY	1 SEPTEMBER 1932 TO 14 DECEMBER 1934						
RN	BATRA							
MK	KHANNA	Withdrawn 21 October 1932 at own request.						
H	RUNGANADHA							
SEPTEM	BER 1933 ENTRY	. 31 AUGUST 1933 TO 26 JULY 1935						
HU	KHAN							
	SHARMA SINGH	Withdrawn 17 January 1935. Unlikely to make an officer.						
RHD	SINGH							
SEPTEM	BER 1934 ENTRY	6 SEPTEMBER 1934 TO 31 JULY 1936						
A	GUPTA	Withdrawn 4 September 1935. Ill Health.						
M	SINGH							
SEPTEM	BER 1936 ENTRY	10 SEPTEMBER 1936 TO 29 JULY 1938						
~	001/41							
SN BIK	GOYAL	Transferred 9 September 1937 to Equipment Branch						
DBK	MANDA	through inability to fly.						
		anough manning to hy.						
SEPTEM	8 SEPTEMBER 1938 TO 22 DECEMBER 1939							
КМ	BAHL	Withdrawn 31 July 1939. Unlikely to become a safe pilot.						
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SINGH

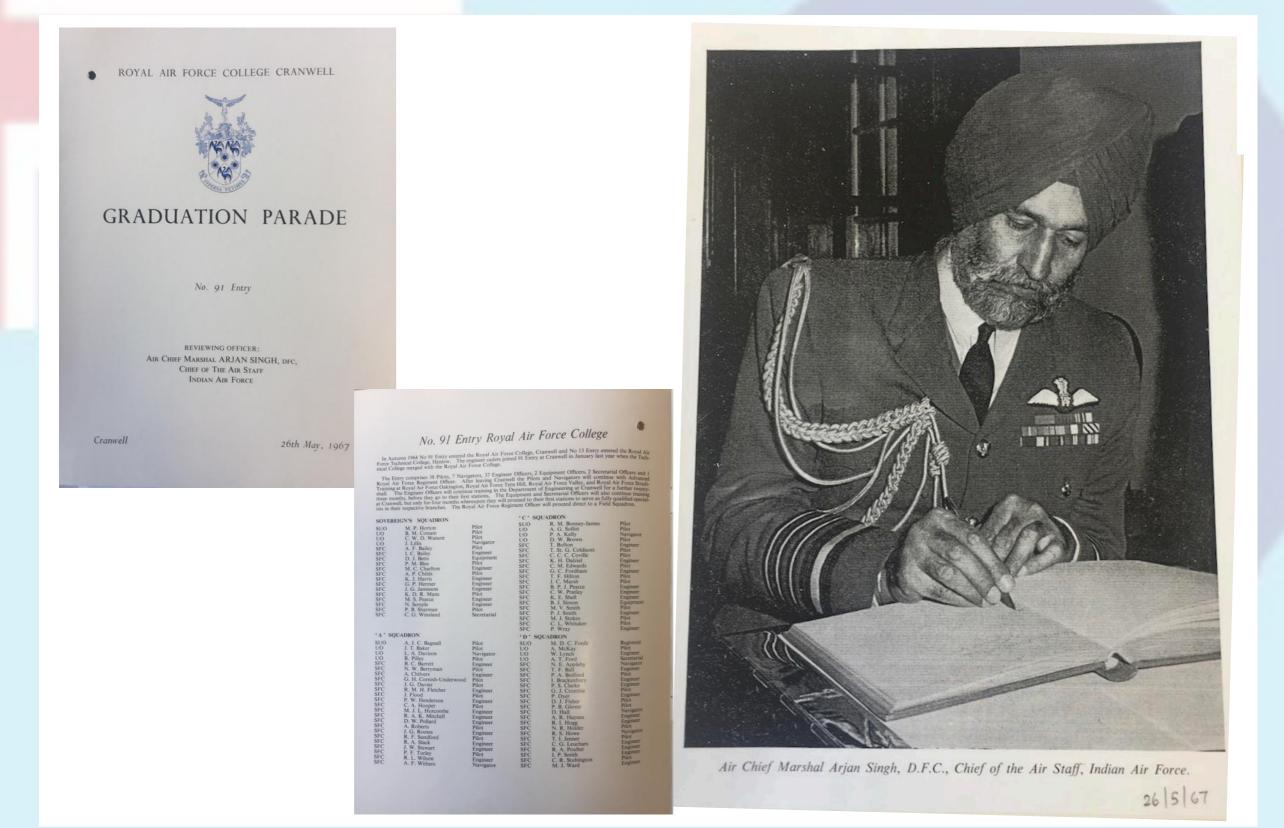
SINGH

RA



With spot-on precision timing, the fly past of Jet Provosts of the Flying Training Wing swoop low over the parade ground at R.A.F. College, Cranwell, as the reviewing officer for the graduation parade of No. 91 entry, Air Chief Marshal Arpan Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian 'Air Force, arrives for the start of the ceremony.

A Singh - As The Reviewing Officer 1967



A Singh - Reviewing 91 Entry May 1967



A Singh - 91 Entry Passing Out Parade

The Ceremonial

THE PARADE MARCHES ON

At 11.10 hours the four Squadrons will march on Parade and form up in line. Band—" THE ROYAL AIR FORCE COLLEGE QUICK MARCH "-Sims.

THE QUEEN'S COLOUR IS MARCHED ON

With the Parade in Review Order and at the "Present" the Queen's Colour will be marched on.

Spectators stand and salute or uncover.

Band- "THE POINT OF WAR" "POACHER FANFARE" "THE LINCOLNSHIRE POACHER"

Spectators sit after the Parade slopes arms.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE REVIEWING OFFICER

At 11.29 hours, the Reviewing Officer, accompanied by the Air Officer Commandingin-Chief, Flying Training Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Davis, KCB, OBE, and the Commandant, Air Vice-Marshal T. N. Stack, CVO, CBE, AFC, will be met at the right flank of the Parade Ground by the Assistant Commandant (Cadets), Air Commodore R. G. Wakeford, MVO, OBE, AFC. The Reviewing Officer will then be escorted to the Saluting Base by the Commandant.

THE FLY PAST

Jet Provosts of the Flying Training Wing will fly past as the Reviewing Officer proceeds to the Saluting Base.

The Trumpeters of the Royal Air Force College-FANFARE-" ASTRAL PRIDE "-D. G. Robinson.

Spectators stand.

THE GENERAL SALUTE

The Parade receives the Reviewing Officer with a General Salute. Band-" GENERAL SALUTE

Spectators stand.

THE INSPECTION

The Reviewing Officer inspects the Parade. Band--"TRUMPET PIECE FOR A CEREMONIAL OCCASION"-H.T. Scull.

Spectators sit during the inspection.

THE MARCH PAST

The Parade, with the Queen's Colour, marches past in Review in slow and quick time.

Slow March Past-" RIENZI "-Wagner. Quick March Past-" THE HIGH SCHOOL CADETS "-J. P. Sousa.

Spectators to stand and salute or uncover only when the Queen's Colour passes immediately in front of them.

THE HAND OVER OF THE OUEEN'S COLOUR

The Queen's Colour is handed over from the Old Colour Party to the New Colour Party,

Band-" BRITISH GRENADIERS "-Traditional. Band-" MILANOLLO "-Hamm.

Spectators to stand and salute when the order " Present Arms " is given.

THE ADVANCE IN REVIEW ORDER

Having reformed line the Parade advances in Review Order, halts and presents arms in a General Salute.

At the General Salute spectators stand.

Band-" THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ADVANCE "-Sims. Band-" GENERAL SALUTE '

THE PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Reviewing Officer presents : THE SWORD OF HONOUR : THE QUEEN'S MEDAL : THE KINKEAD TROPHY :

To Senior Under Officer M. D. C. FONFE To Senior Flight Cadet A. CHILVERS To Under Officer C. W. D. WATSON

Spectators sit during the Presentation.

THE REVIEWING OFFICER'S ADDRESS

THE QUEEN'S COLOUR AND THE GRADUATING ENTRY MARCH OFF

The Parade Commander obtains permission to march off The Queen's Colour and the Graduating Entry.

The Parade presents arms. The Graduating Entry marches off parade in slow time following The Queen's Colour up the steps of the College in their last ceremonial act as Flight Cadets.

Spectators stand and salute or uncover.

Band-" AULD LANG SYNE "

THE DISMISSAL OF THE PARADE

Under the command of the new Senior Under Officer of the Sovereign's Squadron the parade marches off to dismiss on the Squadron Parade Grounds. Band-" THE ROYAL AIR FORCE MARCH PAST "-Walford Davies.

THE REVIEWING OFFICER ENTERS THE COLLEGE

Escorted by the Commandant, The Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Flying Training Command, and the Assistant Commandant (Cadets), the Reviewing Officer enters the College.

Spectators stand.

INCIDENTAL MUSIC

During the Assembly of Spectators incidental music will be played by the No. 1 Regional Band, RAF Swinderby. Director of Music ... Squadron Leader V. H. HUTCHINSON, LRAM, ARCM.

A Singh - A Cranwellian Returns Again 1989

In April 2002, one of the legends of the Indian Air Force was honoured with the first five star rank of Marshal of the Indian Air Force. No one has deserved the honour more than the famous flyer, Arjan Singh.

When Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh strode up to the dais to receive the Marshal's baton from the President of India, it was the crowning glory of a brilliant career. From facing the Japanese during World War II, to leading the Indian Air Force during the war of 1965 — Arjan Singh and his men always ruled the skies. Then followed years of distinguished service as a diplomat and L.G. Delhi.



The Reviewing Officer 28 September 1989: Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh DFC (Sep 38 Entry) with Prizewinners of 119 Initial Officer Training Course, from left: Flying Officer P Wilkins, Flying Officer E Dobinson, Flying Officer R E Wotton and Pilot Officer A J Gillespie.

A Singh - Fond Memories 2002

Arjan Singh, DFC

MARSHAL OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE

The Commandant, Staff and Flight Cadets of the RAF College, With my best mishes to you All and CRANWELL Where I mas trained to be a proper Air Force officer and a human. being. God Bless. Dyain Lingh 28.8.2002

With my best winter to the Commandant steff and condets of the RAF College CRANWELL, where I have spent much happy time. Hyan Lingh 15th April, 2002 COLLEGE HALL EIBRARY COMPUTER BOOK No. Book ... 920 No SIN

A Singh - RAF College Trophy

