

19th October 1957.

My dear Aspy,

Of all the letters and messages I have received on the occasion of the twentyfifth anniversary of the birth of India's first airline, none pleased me more or brought back more pleasant memories than yours. Those days were fun, weren't they? We were both so much younger, particularly yourself! Although you were only seventeen or eighteen at the time, I, at least, did not under-estimate you in the Aga Khan competition! Your flight to England with Chawia left me in no doubt about the capabilities of Parsee boys in Karachi. May be that was itself partly responsible for my defeat. I took you so seriously as a competitor that I spent at least a day more than I need have in checking everything on the plane and everything else connected with the trip!

Actually, I was glad I lost to you and not to that crazy fellow Manmohan Singh who brought discredit rather than kudos to our country by his antics and his getting lost all along the way. Our friendship ever since has been much more worthwhile than winning the competition would have been.

I must say I enjoyed every moment of that adventure as I am sure you did too. Incidentally, one of the highlights that remains imprinted on my memory was my arrival at Karachi by Imperial Airways on my return to India when, to my embarrassment, you met me with a platoon of scouts and presented me with a medal. That was terribly nice of you and so undeserved.

While thanking you again for your felicitations, may I point out that you and Subrotto and others, some of whom like Jumbo Mazumdar have gone, did just as much, and in fact more, for Indian military aviation than I did for civil aviation. If the I. A. F. today

is a service of which we are all proud, it is because of the high standards that you and your colleagues set from the start and have maintained ever since.

With affectionate wishes to you and Ruby,

Yours ever,

Jeh.

P. S. I envy you because you can still fly while I have had to give it up since the Air Force bought our VT/CFY !

Jeh.

Air Vice-Marshal A. M. Engineer,
6, King George's Avenue,
NEW DELHI.