

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

AIR MARSHAL SHIVDEV SINGH

Air Marshal Shivdev Singh joined the Indian Air Force in 1941 and took part in several bombing raids over Germany and occupied France during World War II, while on a tour of training and operational duty with the RAF Bomber Command. He saw service with an RAF Squadron in England and later took part in the Arakan and Burma Campaigns.

Air Marshal Shivdev Singh has commanded a transport squadron and has been the Station Commander of Air Force Stations Agra and Jalhalli. He was also the Air Adviser for India in the UK

from 1948-1950. Promoted to the rank of Air Vice Marshal in January 1963, he as the AOC-in-C Central Air Command, taking over his present appointment on March 4, 1966. He was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal on Republic Day this year. Air Marshal Shivdev Singh has flown more than 35 types of aircraft and has 3,000 hours on fighter, bomber and transport aircraft.

AIR MARSHAL M.M. ENGINEER

Air Marshal Minoo Merwan Engineer joined the Indian Air Force in 1940. During the war he saw active service on the Burma front and was awarded the DFC for his part in the Arakan operations. In 1946 he went to Japan with the occupation forces as the Commanding Officer of No.4 Squadron. On the Kashmir front, Air Marshal Engineer (then Wing Commander) served as in-charge of all Air Force operations in 1948 and was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra.

In the succeeding years he held the appointments of Senior Air Staff Officer Training Command, Station Commander Poona and Senior Air Staff Officer Operational Command. During the Chinese aggression of 1962, Air Marshal Engineer commanded a Group in the Eastern Sector and later took over as the A.O.C.-in-C Eastern Air Command on August 5, 1963, in the rank of Air Vice Marshal. He was appointed the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff on October 1, 1964. Air Marshal Engineer was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal for his services in the Eastern Sector.

AIR MARSHAL H.N. CHATTERJEE

Air Marshal H.N. Chatterjee also joined the Indian Air Force in 1940. He saw active service with Nos.1 and 3 IAF Squadrons in the Burma operations and was awarded the DFC. A graduate of the Staff College in the U.K., Air Marshal Chatterjee was primarily responsible for formulating the 'All Through' flying training scheme which was introduced in the IAF in 1949. In 1953 he took over the command of the Air Force Station Palam and a year later was appointed Senior Air Staff Officer at Training Command. He has also held the appointments of the Air Officer-in-Charge Administration and Air Officer Policy and Plans at Air Headquarters. On his return from the UK as Air Adviser in January 1964, he was promoted Air Vice Marshal and was appointed Air Officer -in-Charge Maintenance at Air Headquarters. He took over his present appointment as A.O.C.-in-C Maintenance Command in February 1961.

AIR MARSHAL O.P. MEHRA

Air Marshal O.P. Mehra, who is 49 years old was educated at Government College Lahore obtaining his Master's degree in History in 1940. The same year he joined the Indian Air Force and served for a considerable period in the NWFP and then saw action on the Arakan Front in Burma during World War II. In early 1947 he returned from Australia where he was the IAF representative on the Chiefs of staff, to take over as the Chief Ground Instructor at Air Force Flying College, Jodhpur. On the partition of the country

and withdrawal of all British personnel, Air Marshal Mehra was appointed the Commandant of the Air Force Academy at Jodhpur. Later he commanded No.2 Ground Training School at Tanbram and then the Armament Training Wing at Jamnagar. In 1960 he was posted to Air Headquarters, as Air Officer-in-Charge Policy and Plans. He also served in a Senior Staff Appointment at the Operational Command, (now Western Air Command) for over three and a half years. Promoted Air Vice Marshal in August 1963, Air Marshal Mehra took over as Air Officer Commanding in Chief Maintenance Command. He was appointed Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance at Air Headquarters on February 1, 1967.

NRB/MSS(1144)

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