

WHY I LEARNED TO FLY ... D/Edinburgh

In the Grocers' Hall the Guild of Air Pilots installed the Duke of Edinburgh as Grand Master.

Awards were presented for good work in the past year.

The scroll for reliability went to Sir Miles Thomas.

SECTION OF DUKE EDINBURGH'S SPEECH
AT GUILD OF AIR PILOTS' MEET

TOGETHER

I CAN IMAGINE NO MORE SUITABLE ORGANIZATION TO BRING ALL THOSE WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PROFESSION OF AIR PILOTS AND AIR NAVIGATORS AT HEART.

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[LAST YEAR I BEGAN TO LEARN TO FLY - ~~WHICH WAS THE MAIN REASON FOR MY INTEREST IN THE GUILD.~~

~~WHICH~~, LIKE SOME SMALL BOYS WHO WANT TO DRIVE RAILWAY ENGINES, I WANTED TO LEARN TO FLY, AND LAST YEAR WITH THE UNSTINTED HELP OF THE AIR MINISTER ^{AND A DOUTLESS INSTRUCTOR} I SET ABOUT TO ACHIEVE THIS AMBITION. **SURELY** BECAUSE I REALISE, AS CAPT. BRICE HAS PUT IT, WHEREVER MEN ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY A COMMON TASK OR PROFESSION THERE DEVELOPS A CERTAIN SYMPATHY BETWEEN THEM, AND PARTICULARLY IS THIS TRUE OF AIRMEN. I FEEL THAT IF I KNEW HOW TO FLY I MIGHT BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE DEMANDS ON, AND SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF, PILOTS WITH A SERVICE OR AIRLINE. IT WAS TO TRY TO DEVELOP THAT SYMPATHY THAT THE MEN WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE METHOD OF TRANSPORT AND WELFARE WHICH, I BELIEVE, IS RAPIDLY ACHIEVING AN ALMOST OVER-RIDING IMPORTANCE IN WORLD AFFAIRS, AND I HAVE NOT BEEN DISAPPOINTED.

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[I AM AFRAID I SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS I SHOULD LIKE HELPING THE AFFAIRS OF THIS GUILD, BUT IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE IMPORTANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS GUILD WILL GROW AND FLOURISH WHILE I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE YOUR GRAND MASTER. (APPLAUSE)